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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 Irgittuq
(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

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(South Baffin)
*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance; Minister Responsible for
the Nunavut Housing
Corporation; Government House
Leader*

Donald Haviyok
(Kugluktuk)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Baker Lake, Nunavut
Friday June 6, 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*

Assent to Bills

Bill 34 – An Act to Amend the International Sales of Goods Act – Assent

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Capital) No 1. 2003/2004 – Assent

Bill 39 – An Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - Assent

Speaker: Good morning, Members, Mr. Premier, staff, and people in the Gallery. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day, I wish to read the following communication from the Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following Bills: Bill 34, an Act to Amend the International Sale of Goods Act, Bill 38, Supplementary Appropriations (Capital) Act #1, 2003 – 2004, Bill 39, an Act to Amend the Supplementary Retirement Allowances Act

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to extend the very best wishes for a safe and rewarding summer in your communities. Sincerely, Peter Irniq, Commissioner.

>>*Applause*

Item 2. Minister's Statement. Minister's Statements. Minister Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 177 – 1(6): Gasoline Compensation Program

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to update Members of the Assembly on the Government of Nunavut Compensation Program for Gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, we have received 2,279 claims from individuals who may have been impacted by the gasoline supply from 2001. Of these claims, 83% have been for snowmobiles, 11% have been for outboard motors, and 5% have been for ATVs. The remainder have been for other engines, such as automobile engines.

All snowmobile claims are finalized, Mr. Speaker. We currently are working on approximately 240 claims for two-stroke outboards and adjustors are inspecting these engines in an ongoing basis. This is to ensure that two-stroke outboard engine owners, who have submitted claims, receive their compensation before the boating season begins.

Mr. Speaker, all four-stroke engine claims, including claims for automobiles, ATVs, and outboards have been forwarded to our Insurance Company for consideration. The process for these types of engines is different than that of two-strokes as extensive testing have found no indication that the problems found with two-stroke engines were evident for four-stroke engines.

The Department of Finance has also received 13 claims for loss of income associated with the gasoline supply. To date, we have finalized two of these claims and four more are ready to be settled, pending the acceptance of offers that have been made to the claimants.

Mr. Speaker, so far the compensation program has cost the Government of Nunavut approximately \$4 million dollars. There are also costs associated with completely removing the gasoline from the affected communities, as well as losses connected with selling the gasoline totalling approximately \$2 million dollars.

We have recovered approximately \$1.5 million dollars from our Insurance Company, and hope that we will achieve a satisfactory settlement with the supplier of the gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, the compensation program is now closed. Any further requests for compensation will be handled directly by the Government of Nunavut's Insurance Company.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank owners for their patience in this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 178 – 1(6): NNI Contracting Appeals Board Update

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Members on the status of NNI Contracting and Appeals Board. Section 18.0 of the NNI Policy provides for the creation of an Appeals Board comprised of appointees of the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce, to resolve issues surrounding the terms of reference for the Board.

The Government of Nunavut and NTI have agreed to appoint a party of advisors on the mandate, scope, and procedures of the contracting of Appeals Board. Ten people have applied for this position. A selection of a panel from the Government of Nunavut and NTI representatives will review the applications. This just a part of the major review of the NNI Policy.

I will look forward to providing future updates when the Board wants for this position to be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 2. Minister's Statements. Are there any further Minister's Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 579 – 1(6): Celebration of Nunavut Day in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to remind all the Members and all of Nunavut, we will be celebrating Nunavut Day in July 9 in Kugluktuk. There are going to be some people coming in from the NWT, and also from Alaska. So there is going to be a big celebration going on in July. I encourage each and every one of you to come over and participate and enjoy the celebration in July 9. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 580 – 1(6): Polar Bear Ban to be Lifted at the M'Clintock Channel

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all this is our last Session in Baker Lake, and I thank the people of Baker Lake. My cousin, the MLA for Baker Lake has made us feel very welcome while we were here and had some activities for us.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say how pleased I am of the recent news that the McClintock Polar Bear hunting ban may be lifted. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost two years since the people of Gjoa Haven and Cambridge Bay have been banned from hunting bears in the McClintock Channel.

In the past, Mr. Speaker, the people of Gjoa Haven, used Polar Bear Sports Hunting largely for income, and I am sure that they will be pleased that this ban will be lifted, even though the quota of three Polar Bears will most likely not be for the purpose of Sport Hunting.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important for the hunters to share their knowledge of hunting and tracking bears as well as how to use and prepare Polar Bear meat and skins.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this topic. On behalf of my constituents, I thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 581 – 1(6): Igloodik to Arctic Bay Dog Team Race

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say thank you to the people of Baker Lake for welcoming us and treating us very well. In regards to the Nunavut Quest, that recently happened in the Baffin region.

They went from Igloodik to Arctic Bay. I would like to congratulate the dog team that raced from Igloodik to Arctic Bay. Sampson Kango was the winner of that Quest. There was also a person from Repulse Bay who came in the second place, David Turturjuq. And Tieman Avingaq, from Igloodik, came in third, and also Peter Siakuluk from Hall Beach came in fourth.

These are the first four winners that won during the Nunavut Quest. I am happy to say that NTI was able to support them financially. I would like to inform the Members that the Nunavut Quest will happen again next year, and they try to use the traditional Inuit dogs. If you want to enter and they want to promote the growth of the Inuit Traditional Dogs. I am sorry to say though that one of them had a mishap. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 582 – 1(6): Appreciate and Thank the People of Baker Lake

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, today is our last day of our Session in Baker Lake, and I would also like to show my appreciation to the people of Baker Lake for welcoming us.

Last night, I danced at a Square Dance, and it was a lot of fun. I also beat Mr. Speaker, when we played the traditional game. And I would like to say thank you very much to the elders of Baker Lake for welcoming us here, as well as the young people. I would also like to thank the Member from Baker Lake for the use his vehicle last night, and I thank him for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 583 – 1(6): Resolute Bay Meeting in September

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give my appreciation to the Members. The Members had agreed that they would go to Resolute Bay in September. The people of Resolute Bay are expecting us, and I would like to welcome all the members.

Perhaps they will see things that they have not seen before in Resolute Bay in September. I am not sure what the weather is going to be like, but I would like to extend my welcome to the Members of the Legislative Assembly to Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement 584 – 1(6): Thank the People of Baker Lake

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too wish to, on this last day in Baker Lake, thank all the people, the elders, the youth, everybody, for their warmth and hospitality in greeting us right from the minute we got off the plane, and of course, to our colleague, Mr. McLean, for being a gracious host and looking after all of our needs over the course of the week, and running us ragged with all the events that took place while we were here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 585 – 1(6): Congratulate the Graduates

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the people of Baker Lake for the warm welcome that we received while we were here. I would like to congratulate the recent Management Studies graduates in Rankin Inlet just this past school year; Tracy Uqatsiaq, Puuvala Tuutannuaq, Tracy Aqatsiaq, from Pond Inlet, Puuvala Tuutannuaq from Rankin Inlet.

The ones that received a certificate; Mariah Aliyaq and Melia Angalak. Rankin Inlet. Lindsay Angutialuk, Coral Harbour, Ron Bailey from Rankin Inlet. Charlotte Hickers, from Rankin Inlet. Sheldon Katlak, from Baker Lake. Angie Kublittuq, from Rankin Inlet. Karen McLardy, from Rankin Inlet. Stacy Paneok, from Coral Harbour, and Sarah Tapartie.

Charlotte Hickers and Karen McLardy received recognition for outstanding achievement from the Arctic College of Rankin Inlet for Management Studies. I would like to congratulate those individuals. We know that they will have a future in the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 586 – 1(6): Seven New Co-op Members Elected

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like some of my colleagues have already mentioned that it is no secret, as my colleague from Baker Lake would say that this is our last day sitting here in Baker Lake and I would like to take this opportunity before I get into my Statement to thank the Member for doing a great job hosting us here in Baker Lake, as well as the people of Baker Lake and a special thanks to my uncle Jack, who is sitting back here for making sure that we had some fish to take home. So I would like to thank him for taking the time off his work and taking us out.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share some good news with the Members of this House. On May 22nd, 2003 seven good people were elected to the Iqaluit Co-op Board of Directors. They are Mary Ellen Thomas, Elisapee Sheutiapik, Rebecca Mike, Moses Kilabuk, Mike Irniq, Nash Sagiatook, and Cam McGregor.

Mr. Speaker, this brings Iqaluit a step closer of opening a new Co-op Store. As Members know that Arctic Co-operatives share a vision of people working together to improve the social and economic well-being.

Mr. Speaker, Iqalummiut have been working and planning for a Co-op for years and there are already around three hundred members. Mr. Speaker, I believe that a Co-op Store is an important step on the road to development.

Competition between retailers can only benefit the consumers in Iqaluit with providing more choice, and lower prices. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to being present when the new Co-op opens its doors, and I would like to invite Members to join me in congratulating the new Board of Directors and wishing luck in their endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 587 – 1(6): Appreciate the Support of Construction in Nanulik Riding

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to this opportunity to thank the people from Baker Lake, I am glad to see them again, especially Mr. McLean and Joe Neigo, the Mayor of Baker Lake. I thank them very much for their warm welcome. We have been kept busy since our arrival. We have been going to the feasts and other activities.

I would like to make my Statement today and I am very happy that St. Theresa in Chesterfield Inlet will be constructed this summer. The garage and the terminal in Coral Harbour will be constructed and I would like to thank the Government for that.

I also would like to make everyone aware that, especially the Government, that the Coral Harbour residents, through their own initiative, have been working to develop the Commercial Caribou Harvest, such as the caribou skins and the antlers, and we would like to get assistance and support from the Government, when they are making plans to market the skins and the antlers.

The community of Coral Harbour will require assistance whether by way of planning or by way of finances. I would like the Government to be open to this. I also would like the Government to expect that the Coral Harbour Company will be running to continue this. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 588 – 1(6): Kugaaruk Celebrations

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say goodbye to the Baker Lake residents and also would like to thank them for their warm welcome and the country food here is delicious and I thank the people for feeding us.

Mr. Speaker, last winter in Kugaaruk there was an celebration such as dancing and drum dancing and we celebrate that and we do want to see more activities such as this one.

The residents of Kuugarjuk arrived visitors from Tikiraarjuaq, Kangirliniq, Naujaaq, Qamanittuaq, Iqaluttuutsiaq, Uqsuqtuuq, Taloyoak, those are the communities where people came from to celebrate with the Elders and to celebrate the traditions and values of the Inuit.

We were very happy to see that and I am sure that there is going to be another drum dancing celebration next year and they selected one of the other communities and we were very pleased to see our Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit being visible. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 589 – 1(6): Thank the People of Baker Lake - Nunavut Quest, Travelling by Dog Team

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone from Baker Lake. They have made us feel very welcome and Mr. McLean, the Member for Baker Lake has been of tremendous help us and helping us very much during our stay here.

The rest of the Members here have been supportive of Nunavut and I am very proud of that. I know that the Nunavummiut are proud of us and we are proud of them, that way we can cooperatively work with each other.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment on the issue, Isa Piungatuk, who attended the Nunavut Quest, started running his dogs from Igloolik, went to Arctic Bay and from Arctic Bay, went to Pond Inlet by dog team and from Pond Inlet went to Clyde River by dog team.

That is how we used to travel and that is how the RCMP people used to travel. And today, the young person had gone through the same route we used long time ago by using traditional means of travel. I will be making Members' Statement on this issue.

There is another Elder from Pond Inlet who travelled by dog team with an RCMP officer from Igloolik and Arctic Bay and went to Pond Inlet or rather through Arctic Bay, Igloolik and Hall Beach and returned to Pond Inlet. So, I will be making a statement on this issue next fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 590 – 1(6): Thank Everyone for a Smooth Sitting in Baker Lake

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start my statement by thanking our Colleague, Mr. McLean, for being a great host that he is and also, the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the staff here with us.

I would also like to take this time to say a big hello and also thank the hard work of our interpreters and also translators. And also, the backroom workers at Innirvik.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my sister works at the Innirvik office and also my namesake and I want to thank them and also the rest of the people in Innirvik. As well as the people of Baker Lake, thank you.

The reception here was very warm ever since we got off the plane, my Colleague said, "Since we got off the plane, the reception has not changed since, we have felt welcome".

I would especially like to thank my wife Rosie, and my children, my daughter Lynn, Jenna, and Joseph, for being supportive and for being patient. It is evident that with the support of our spouses, we can achieve our goal a lot faster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 591 – 1(6): First RCMP Detachment in Whale Cove

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people of Baker Lake for their warm reception. I caught a fish. I was not about to leave the community without catching a fish.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I say hello to my husband Tom, and also my son Buddy, and my little dog, Tango. And my son in Coral Harbour, Kusagaat, and all of his friends. And say hello to all of them and also to my mother and my father and some of my relatives in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a Statement on my constituency development, especially in the community of Whale Cove, they will now have the RCMP in that community. The RCMP Office will be moving to that community. I want to thank the Premier for working on this.

It is the first time that they will have an RCMP Detachment in that community. They have been waiting very patiently for that. And also, Mr. Speaker, although the daycare had been constructed, and because the Daycare Committee has not been formed, it has taken a while to open a daycare. It will open sometime in the future in Whale Cove and that daycare is very beautiful.

Mr. Speaker, there is hardly any space in the Whale Cove School. There isn't even any room for adult education. The extension of the School will have a gymnasium, and will also have a Community Hall. The design has been completed and will be constructed.

On behalf of the people of Whale Cove, I would like to say that we are happy about this. Mr. Speaker, in Rankin Inlet the Hospital will be constructed, and as the Government said that they would take on the construction of the Hospital and we are very pleased about it.

Mr. Speaker, we are now planning to move from Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet. I just want my constituents to be informed about it. I am just going to continue working. As a mother, Mr. Speaker, it is better for me to live in Rankin Inlet, and I have relatives there.

I will continue to work as I do here, and my parents are pretty old so, Mr. Speaker, it is very hard to travel from Iqaluit to Rankin Inlet. The route and the scheduling of the flight is not as good.

I will be living in Rankin Inlet even though I hold a ministerial portfolio for the Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 592 – 1(6): Thank and Appreciate the People of Baker Lake

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say hello to my grandchild. I do not believe that people are watching the proceedings on television because usually camping in the spring. For those people who are watching, I say hello to them.

I think that I have gained weight in Baker Lake while my stay here. I think I have gained weight a bit. If I weighed myself I am sure that I have gained weight, because the reception has been very good.

. I would like to thank Mr. McLean for being a gracious host very much. I just want to take this opportunity to thank the people of Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Member's Statement 593 – 1(6): Thank the People of Baker Lake

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank to the people of Baker Lake and my son in Kuujuaraapik, I love you and my father and my family, I say hi to them.

I would like tell the people of Baker Lake that Haumitnaao is okay, she is originally from here living in Sanikiluaq and she feels welcome in my community and his family is okay.

The Ministers will be traveling to Sanikiluaq and I extend my welcome to them. There were graduates from the teacher education program and Minister Thompson was able to attend the convocation and I thank her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 594 – 1(6): Successes of Government of Nunavut Services and Projects

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I guess I would just like to thank the good people of Baker Lake, also Mr. McLean, for demonstrating and showing so much hospitality over the last few days.

And I would like to thank Mr. David Simailak, who is on our Nunavut Power Corporation Board of Directors, who I had a chance to meet with over the last few days and took me on a tour of the Elders' Hospice.

As well as the Mayor, Mr. Niego and the good people of Baker Lake and I think also the audio/visual and the technical crew, George and Philip and the boys, who have done an excellent job and the little fire we had yesterday afternoon provided a little bit of excitement here in the gym. It was nice to see the translators and the interpreters.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few days we have had a chance, here in Baker Lake, to see and meet with many residents. We have had also, an opportunity to see some of the successes, Mr. Speaker, some of the successes since April 1st, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, not only has Baker Lake saw infrastructure grow, but the people have taken on a greater role. In example of this, is what I just spoke about, the Elders' Hospice where there are five elderly residents taken care of 24-hours, 7-days a week, 365 days a year and there are over twenty two local employees.

Mr. Speaker, running that centre is not the Government, running that centre are a committee, Mr. Simailak I believe is the Chairperson of the Committee are people from Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, earlier, Mr. Arvaluk stated that Chesterfield will be receiving a long-term care facility, which will replace St. Theresa's home. Mr. Speaker, that project, too, will see a local group operate and run the facility for the residents of Chesterfield by the residents of Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Elders' Committee in Iqaluit operate and run the Elders' Home, the Boarding Home and now Mr. Speaker, the new Akausissarvik Mental Health Home. Mr. Speaker, those are successes since April 1st, 1999 for all residents.

Mr. Speaker, there had been setbacks with the Government of Nunavut since April 1st, 1999, but there have also been successes. Communities, people, have taken on more control over program services and opportunities and Mr. Speaker, that was and is the promise of Nunavut and here in this week in Baker Lake, I think we saw that dream unfolded. Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Just to remind the Members that or Ministers that there is a difference between a Members' Statement and a Ministers' Statement and Mr. Picco I think you were straddling the line there. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Last but not least, Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 595 – 1(6): Thank the Community, the School and Individuals of Baker Lake for Hospitality

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a little sad today as I do my last Member Statement in my home community because I think that it is going to be a few years before we go back. I am eagerly waiting to go to Resolute Bay to visit my colleague's constituency and meet the people there.

Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the community for their hospitality, the school staff, and the children for giving up their gym time so that we could host this event.

I would like to especially thank Winnie Owingayak, who pretty well did everything for me. I would like to thank Winnie for being tireless in her organization of things and she called me and she says if there is anything more we can do? Anything more we can do?

I think by the activities this week, I think that we had a full agenda of social activities, so I would really like to thank Winnie.

>>Applause

I would also like to thank David Simailik last night, for organizing the Canadian North function; I did not attend because I was helping other MLAs around town showing them stuff. I apologize to my community for not showing up. If I had shown up I would have won the tickets, and David Aksawnee would have been mad at me, so that is why I did not go to the function last night.

Most of all, I want to thank the Clerk and all of his staff, because I was here when they came in to set this place up and the organizing. I did not realize the tremendous amount of work and the logistics in setting something like this up. It is just incredible so I want to thank the Clerk and all of his staff for their hard work.

The other thing is the media as usual said, 'Glenn is it a waste of money coming out of Iqaluit?' And I says, 'Well, on whose perception?' I can say that the Canadian Government is a waste of money. I can say this is a waste of money, that is a waste of money, but at the end of the day I think us as MLAs, have made the right decision by the people who elected us by moving this Assembly to various communities in Nunavut.

>> *Applause*

I encourage the next Assembly to move it to other communities also because the happiness, and our young people yesterday, that really hit a note with me, was the school kids yesterday, and I will be the first one to admit, some of those questions that they asked were better than ours.

Seeing those young people doing their Assembly here to other day, that was probably the highlight of my week, was watching these young people participate in the legislative process.

I would encourage future generations, whether the media thinks that it is a waste of money or not, to move this Assembly as the Members elected by the people of Nunavut, see fit.

I would also like to agree with Mr. Picco, on the infrastructure around Baker Lake, but my travels around Nunavut, I have seen infrastructure in every community. People are starting to take control of their own destiny in Nunavut, and I have seen here in this community, along with the Hospice, David Simailik chairs. It is Inuit taking care of Inuit. Inuit making decisions for Inuit.

I will be the first one to say, as a southerner and that is what I am called. I have lived here for thirty-two years in the north, and I am still a southerner. I have seen the development as a businessman, as a politician, as a parent, whatever, that Nunavut in the last five or six years, contrary to what the people out there say, is a better place than it was five or six years ago, in my humble little opinion.

So keep up the good work Members and make everybody accountable. What I am saying today is yes Mr. Picco, I do agree with you occasionally. But I would also like to thank all of my colleagues because we know that in Standing Committees, behind closed doors, when Capital Projects come up, we might not all agree with it, but at the end of the day the consensus that is said we are doing it for Nunavut.

I would like to say that we have our differences about who is getting something but at the end of the day we all agree that it is for the community, it is for Nunavut.

I would like to thank Cabinet, sometimes I am brutal on them, but at the end of the day, if you have a good argument, they would listen. I do not think that we get that in other jurisdictions in Canada.

I would like to say that I am very proud of my colleagues for bringing this Assembly here. I have been very proud of their support on everything in infrastructure, jobs, and just listening within the confines of the money that we have.

I would like to say thank you to all the Members of the Assembly for helping me over the last four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some relatives that I have in the Gallery. First off, as I had mentioned earlier I'd like to recognize my uncle Jack who is sitting back here and I would like to thank him for taking us fishing and that.

And I would like to give him this sweatshirt that we got from Sport Nunavut and the Department of Community Government and Transportation to thank him for the all time he did to make us feel welcome and taking us fishing for some us anyway. And some of us did not have that much luck catching fish, but it was a great time and we all really appreciated it very much.

And I would also like to recognize Frank Tootoo, the director for Sport Nunavut and my uncle and his partner Becky Iyago, back there is the principal here at the school and to thank them for couple meals that I had over at their place and letting me use their snowmobile to go fishing.

So, again, I would like to ask all Members to join me and recognize them and thanking them for making us feel at home here in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I would also like to recognize first of all, David Simailak, I thank him. While we were here, he gave us warm welcome and his parents and Team Tootoo, it is to show our support to Jordin Tootoo, I said Jordin Tootoo.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize and thank my fellow Colleagues and on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank the Director of Sport Nunavut, Frank Tootoo. Thank you, very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of our interpreters, John Ajaruaq, he is my Constituency assistant in Qikiqtarjuaq and the Nunavut Government has stolen him for the time being, I would like to thank him for helping us out this week, he is from Qikiqtarjuaq and he is my Constituency Assistant.

I apologize to the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq as the ice conditions are not adequate, it is a very different situation this year with the ice than last year and I am sure it is because of the climate change.

For the last couple of years, the icebergs that go through there have been breaking up because the ice breaks up so much earlier and so, perhaps they will be around again in the next season.

So, I would like to recognize the people of Nunavut and in my Constituency. David Simailak, as well, I have known him for many years and I did not recognize him, but I would like to thank him and the Director of Sport Nunavut, I recognize him, for their hard work this week. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize David Simailak. I think in 1985, we started in Guy Alaruk and Joanna Qingujaq and family. So, I am glad that they have their own company, Piruqsaijiit Corporation.

We went to school in Churchill together and David has done a lot work and his parents are always very nice. So, I wanted to recognize David, my good friend. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. As well, David Simailak and Winnie, whom I went to school with. Ever since we were in Churchill vocational centre, David is still very humble and quiet and he always seems to be thinking up stuff.

There is a commercial that my kids watch that reminds me of him ever since we were in Churchill going to school. The strong silent type, that little child eating French fries, that is who reminds me of him.

(interpretation ends) I'd also like to recognise an old friend, Emily Qaumak. We started together with the CHFC in Churchill. Old gang and with Emily, Peter Mansbridge, Marcel and Ron, we call him Ziggy, so I would like to recognize Emily and that he is still with the CBC and has done very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not really know who I should be recognizing, but I recognize the residents of Baker Lake, especially Leena Taapatai, I would like to recognize her. Her husband is also known as Super Shamoo and he is a very popular children's programming and he became more of a star in Nunavut and so, Leena Taapatai, probably known as Leena Super Shamoo. I am sure the kids would like that.

I would also like to thank David Simailak for the hard work and as well, the Government of the Northwest Territories, there was a regional council that met in Cambridge Bay, I was appointed to represent the Kitikmeot Region on that council, on the Legal Services Board, whom I work with, Nora Sanders, who is on the Board with me at that time and I have known her for many years. I would also like to recognize Nora Sanders and thank you for welcoming us, myself and my wife, when we go to Yellowknife, she takes care of my wife as if they were sisters and so, thank you, very much, Nora Sanders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I would like to recognize the Speaker, former Member of the Legislative Assembly for Baker Lake and I would like to officially

welcome you back to the community, but I would like to recognize a friend of mine for many years and I forgot about him the other day and I apologize to the man behind the camera, Martin Kreelak. I would also like to recognize Salomonie Pootoogoo, he has been living here a long time from Cape Dorset and a well known carver.

I pretty well recognized everybody yesterday, but I want to recognize Mrs. Kunangat, Basil Tiktaalaaq, I would like to thank Becky for using the school, Becky Iyago, the principal.

And I would like to recognize Richard Aksawnee, Harold Etegooyuk and my Constituency Assistant, Leena Taapatai, Aksawnee, again, Winnie and last, but not least, this is a little secret that I have known for a long time and I did not really want to bring it up in the House, but David Simailak's nickname for years, according to Tagak Curly, was Sammy Davis Junior. So, if you look at him, you could probably see the resemblance. I would also like to recognize Davidee Simailak. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 7. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 572 – 1(6): Update on the New Baffin General Hospital

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that the people of Iqaluit and the people of the Baffin would soon see a sign, a sign indicating that progress on the Baffin General Hospital was moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the sign board at the possible future location of this facility still does not have any writing on it, it remains blank and is looking increasingly weathered. I hope that is not a sign of what is happening with the project.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he could provide an update on the status of the new Qikiqtani General Hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I look around the room there was, I do not think there is anyone here that was with us when we put the sign up in 1996. It was unveiled by myself and Mr. Mark Evaluarjuk on top of that site.

At that time, the plan was to build the facility and the financing under the public partnership program known as P3, it did not go through and it was a big history there. Mr.

Speaker, I am happy to say that progress has been made on many fronts with the program for the new hospital.

The Qikiqtaaluk Corporation have been involved from day one. That program is moving forward. Right now, there is a small delay because of lot 541, the remediation of that lot has to take place before we can do any site work.

Lot 541 used to contain oil tanks, there is contamination of petroleum products in the soil, that lot has to be remediated. Mr. Speaker, that lot 541 is owned by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and we, under the current rules and so long and so forth, DIAND is supposed to cover the cost of remediating that site.

However, Mr. Speaker, if we cannot get something done over the next few weeks, maybe we will have to do that ourselves.

At the end of the day, the hospital facility needs to move forward and all of the preparatory work has been done and we would hope this summer, Mr. Speaker, to see access roads being built, the Power Corporation polls being moved and the remediation of lot 541. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the Capital Budget Session last November, the Minister stated that approximately \$17 million dollars in the current fiscal year would be dedicated to the new Baffin facility with the projected total \$45 million dollars over five years.

Can the Minister confirm whether these financial projections are on target or whether there had been some adjustments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through the good work of the Department of Finance and the recognition of the Auditor General for Canada, that these facilities need to be booked off in the Capital Plan, and then the monies were put forward in the Capital Estimates.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that right at the present time, work has not taken place, but that will proceed with this summer as outlined and then we will be in the position to have a better cost benefit analysis of what the actual cost will be.

And as the Members know, each year that you slip, then you are actually adding more money to the cost of the project because of inflationary factors and so on.

So, there may be a couple of percentage point moves, but I am not, at this time, sure of what those amounts are because they have not been presented to myself as the Minister in

a formal or indeed to the Cabinet through the Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister indicated, the site work was going to begin this fall and that the work on the new facility would have begun in 2002, as what he had indicated last year with the construction and 2003 and have the facility open in late 2004 or early 2005.

Can the Minister update this House as to current timeline projections for this facility other than the site work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, last year, we were in the process of doing all of the site work and so on. And then on a surface review, an environmental assessment had to be done on the lot and it turned out that the lot adjacent to where the new hospital is to be constructed, lot 541 was contaminated.

Mr. Speaker, then we could not do any work in that condition. The same thing happened with Arviat when we went forward with the new health centre there and being that we had to delay that project one year so we could actually remediate the site.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, the land is owned by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs through Canada and they have the responsibility for removing the contaminations or remediating the site and that is the work that is going on right now.

We would hope this year, Mr. Speaker, to be able to do the site work and that is the goal and I think we are going to meet that goal and that means putting in all of the access roads, removing the Power Corporation poles that are on the site, doing all of the fill and so on.

Mr. Speaker, if that happens this year in 2003, the material for the envelope of the building, the piles and so on would be in 2004 and you would have I think is a two year construction period.

So, you would be looking at between 2006 and 2007. So, we have slipped about a year because of the remediation, but that is something that we have said over the last several months. This is not something new.

What is new, Mr. Speaker, is that the Cabinet has set up a working Committee of several different departments including Health, Public Works, Finance, to coordinate the project. This is a huge project, over \$45 million dollars and that working group is also helping expedite the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Just a reminder to Members that we want to get everybody in today during question period, it is our last day. So, Members keep your preambles short and Ministers if you would try to be a little more precise with your answers. Mr. Tootoo. Supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, hopefully the Minister remembers the invitation he sent to me last May 7th to be there when they put up a new sign. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide some information on the negotiations with the final ownership of this facility and whether it will be arranged through some sort of leasing agreement or for building ownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, the leasing and financing arrangements are carried out to the offices of Minister Ng in Finance.

What I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier has made it very strong and very well known that at the end of the day, the Government of Nunavut wants to own these buildings and there should be any leasing arrangements and so on, an option for the Government to buy these facilities.

Mr. Speaker, that is still in place. At the same time, we are still on the parallel course of having the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, as well as for example, in the Kitikmeot, the Kitikmeot Corporation moving forward on construction and lease backs.

But there is money in the Capital Budget as the Members know for that option to buy the facilities as the Premier has been very strong on saying that we want to own these facilities for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 573 – 1(6): Update on the Issue of Translation of Health Benefit Consent Forms

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that the Federal Government has placed English and French language advertisements in the media regarding consent forms that will need to be signed before Inuit can obtain certain health benefits.

I am very pleased to hear that our Minister of Health express his concerns over the proposal, not only because the informational consent forms are not available in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, but also because this initiative will certainly not improve the situation for our already over-burdened health system.

Can the Minister update this House on this any discussions he had had with federal representatives, or organizations such as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, regarding this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government, nationally, for all aboriginal Canadians receive a benefit under the Non-insured Health Benefits Program, have asked me to sign this consent form. Mr. Speaker, in our case here in Nunavut, we are the only jurisdiction in the country where 85 % of our population are aboriginal, which means that 85 % of our population receives the benefits under NHIB.

The forms are not in Inuktitut, as the Member had said. They are not in Inuinnaqtun. I have to have Health Centre staff and so on, explain the forms. We do not see the reason for it. It does not make logistic sense, it does not make administrative sense, it does not make financial sense.

So I wrote the Minister. The latest communication is I wrote Minister McLennan last week indicating our disfavour with these forms. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that it seems that the Gun Registry Bureaucrats in the Federal Government have moved to Health Canada. That is what a boondoggle this has turned out to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the reply that the Minister had already talked about on a news release back in May 23rd. My second question, Mr. Speaker, is that what assurances can the Minister provide the clients will not be denied any services that are provided through the Non-insured Health Benefits Programs, as a result of not having these four page consent forms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that has been a concern that had been voiced by many people across Nunavut. As Minister of Health and Social Services we will not refuse to provide the services that we are mandated to do under the Canadian Health Act, as a territory.

So that means that all medical services that were in place before September 1st, will be in place after September 1st, and all residents in Nunavut will enjoy those benefits. Mr. Speaker, we will have to go back to the Federal Government and negotiate with them using the same system that we have in place today, which is under our own healthcare card. Our healthcare card indicates an aboriginal Canadian and a non-aboriginal Canadian. We do not need a consent form from the Federal Government to tell us that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the residents in Nunavut do not feel that they are going to be denied in Nunavut Hospitals or Nursing Stations. Can the Minister tell us that if they do not fill out those consent forms, would they still be able to get services in Ottawa, Winnipeg, or Edmonton? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. Mr. Speaker, what this consent form does is allows the Federal Government to say you are aboriginal Canadian, and therefore and thus the Nunavut Government in this case is providing a service then we can bill them back.

So, Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, they will still receive those services. The concern would be on our side when we bill the Federal Government back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 574 – 1(6): Update on the New Air Terminal

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week, June 2nd, I made a presentation to my community in regards to the Airport Terminal expansion in my community of Gjoa Haven and that the money was not adequate.

Mr. Speaker, June 2nd and now it is June 6th, I just wanted to find out from the Minister of Community Government & Transportation what the stage of the air terminal in Gjoa Haven is at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned to the Member that I did not have the information about the air terminal expansion project in Gjoa Haven.

And the question that that Member had at that time in regards to that, after the project has been completed and it has to be extended, there has not been any other money set aside, but we have to, there has been a plan to or design for the expansion of it after it has been renovated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Transportation were in my community and they explained about the design of the air terminal in Gjoa Haven.

The money that is going to be used would cost about \$200 thousand, there is a shortage of \$200 thousand dollars for the future expansion of that air terminal in Gjoa Haven, but I would like to ask the Minister of Community Government & Transportation by representing the people of the Hamlet Council, the Hamlet Council would like to participate in the funding because there is not enough money.

Can the Minister, say for instance, if the Hamlet Council was going to contribute \$100 thousand dollars, would the projects start this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. I believe the Minister took that question as notice on June 2nd, but if the Minister wishes to update, please proceed.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is to be an expansion of that terminal that has been planned already. What they are doing is right now is they are doing the renovation or the expansion, but there is a future plan for the expansion of that terminal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I have heard during the Transportation Officials visit to my community, I have heard something totally different because if the design, the Hamlet Council can contribute financially so that they could purchase the material, but I have heard from the Minister that once they get funding that they could build the expansion.

Will the Minister respond to me if the Economic Council contribute financially of \$2 thousand dollars, will they be able to complete the project this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that my Colleagues understand that Community Government & Transportation has limited resources to fund the projects.

I would like to inform the Member that once the air terminal has been constructed in the future, we can look into the fact that whether it could be expanded or not, but at this time, I know that through the Capital Estimates before they have been approved, it is very difficult to explain to him before approving the Capital Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): As Member of the Legislative Assembly, we have to represent our Constituents, especially when they ask questions and I have to respond to my Constituents in regards to this issue.

Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying no or does he expect to see the Hamlet Council contributing or is he flatly denying the request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying yes and I am not saying no. I am willing to look into this with him and with the officials and to look at the plans, whether it is adequate or not before it is constructed. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I understand. Although I understand, ...

Speaker: ...Mr. Puqiqnak you have run out of supplementary questions. But I will put you on the list for a second to go around. This is highly unlikely given the time. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 575 - 1(6): Shortage of Naphtha Fuel

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask this question to the Minister of Public Works. During the springtime, a lot of people go out camping and the good gasoline is finished. Perhaps in the future, are we going to be getting adequate amounts gas for next year?

But sometimes a lot of people want to go out camping, but due to bad gas, they are hesitant to go out camping because of the bad gasoline. I would like to ask the Minister, are we going to get a better gas for next year?

We are having a naphtha shortage in our communities. Are we going to get more naphtha for the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think I understood the question. Perhaps I could ask the Member. Is he talking about naphtha? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Yes, I am talking about the naphtha gasoline. We always have a shortage of naphtha gasoline in our communities. I am asking, are we going to get sufficient naphtha gas for next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On May 14th, there were six barrels that were sent to the community and also on May 21st, there were six barrels that were sent to the community of Kugluktuk. So, the community does not need to worry about this. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for answering my question. On the 14th and 20th, the price of naphtha must have gone up because they have to fly them in from out of town, but maybe for the future, if you should consider getting more naphtha so that we do not run out next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will do so. Thank you.

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

Question 576 - 1(6): Options or Plans to Maintain Caribou Hunt in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member I would like to ask is not present. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. In Rankin Inlet, they prepare the caribou meat and they are sent to other places and they receive caribou from Coral Harbour for processing.

The staff at the meat plant are hunters and they can prepare the food and they can process the food, but due to mad cow disease in Alberta, we are unable to export our caribou meat to the United States and they banned caribou meat from being shipped or exported down there.

If the ban is not lifted, what kind of plans does the Department of Sustainable Development have so that these jobs are not lost at the meat plant and so that the Coral Harbour can maintain their commercial caribou hunt? That is what I wanted to ask. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been dealing with this issue and we will keep on lobbying to lift the ban on export of caribou meat to the United States.

Next week, I will be meeting with representative from the United States on that and I will advise them because this has no connection to the mad cow disease at all because we have no cows in Nunavut.

So, we are going to work hard to lift the ban on the export of caribou meat and our representative in Ottawa, we have been working with the Member of Parliament for Nunavut and we will work diligently on dealing with this issue.

It is evident we are going to feel the impact if the ban is not lifted, but I believe that the ban could be lifted. So, I personally will be working on the lifting of the ban. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for working diligently for trying to lift the ban on export of caribou meat.

One thing that I am concerned about that there was only one mad cow, if the ban is not lifted, export ban is not lifted for a while, the caribou hunters and the meat plant workers would not be able to sell their caribou meat.

Have they considered any options, if the export ban is not lifted, have they considered any other options like selling/marketing of muktaak and other country foods? I was wondering if they can consider these options if the ban is not lifted for a long time on the exporting of caribou meat. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. I do not believe that the ban is going to stay for a long time. I am going to work hard to ask them to lift the ban on the export of caribou meat. I am sure that we are going to be looking at the options on how we can support the residents of Coral Harbour and Rankin Inlet.

This was just put there and we still have to the opportunity to get the ban lifted. I personally will be working on it. I believe that they can lift the ban because we have no connection to the mad cow disease.

We will work with the Federal Government to lift the ban. We will do whatever we can to get the export banning lifted. If the ban is going to stay for a long time, yes we will need plans for other options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to remind you that we are all hoping that the ban is very short, however I never take for granted the wisdom of the Americans

to do the right thing. So my point is that is there a contingency plan in case that ban goes on to diversify from doing the caribou harvest from Coral Harbour.

Shouldn't they have a contingency plan just in case the ban goes on? I am hopeful, as the Premier, that the ban will be short. If the ban stays on then there has to be a contingency plan in order to look at other ways of creating economic development in Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour. Would they come up with a contingency plan just in case? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member that we will have to look for a contingency plan if the ban continues. At the same time the Meat Plant that is being utilized now is European certified. I do not want to risk losing that by using the plant for other purposes as it was intended for, because it will limit our abilities to create a European market, for example of caribou meat.

So we have to look at it carefully. Our main focus will be trying to lift this ban for the time being, at the same time we will have to look for alternatives and make sure that it does not jeopardize what the current facility is used for. We are very proud of that facility and it is the only European certified facility in Nunavut, and we want to keep that for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Yes, in Rankin Inlet we are very proud of the Meat Plant and Brian Shindell, because he is a very good, capable worker and his staff. Although the ban may not be too long, perhaps if you can consider using Muktaak as an example. Maybe we can expand it for a fish plant. If the ban is lifted but have you considered expanding the Fish Plant? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it has only been three weeks that the Fish Plant was established because we've hardly had time and opportunity to consider how we can look at that and yes, we will work very hard to lobby the Americans to lift the ban.

Once we know more about this, it will be evident that we will need to make plans. If the ban is going to stay and for a while, we will definitely need to make contingency plans, but the ban is quite new right now, so we prefer to work on the lifting of the ban. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 577 – 1(6): Jet A-1 Fuel Additive

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. The Jet A-1 fuel in Pond Inlet, they were not too pleased with it. We heard that the Jet A-1 jet fuel was not adequate and they needed an additive to that Jet A-1 fuel.

Perhaps the Jet A-1 fuels in Nunavut, especially in the Baffin Region, do they all require an additive? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, not all Nunavut communities, only the community of Pond Inlet had had problems with Jet A-1 to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Why did it need an additive? was it because it was old fuel? What was the reason? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Jet A-1 fuel needs to be investigated every six months and during the investigation in Pond Inlet, they found out that the Jet A-1 fuel was inadequate to be used for the airplanes.

The copper, they found like when fuel stays idle for a long time, there is a copper build-up. So, every six months we need to do testing on these fuels. After a regular check-up, we found out that there was a copper build-up in the Jet A-1, but I expect that this issue has been rectified to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. So, after six months they have to be tested as he said? Was it because testing was delayed that this fuel became stagnant? The other fuels, perhaps such as in Clyde River, do you have a regular program that you test every six months? Is this regularly scheduled testing? Is it perhaps Pond Inlet fuel was not tested for over six months? Can you please answer that? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was that the fuel that is tested regularly every six months, that is a requirement and the fuel in Pond Inlet had the regular six month period testing and that is when they found out they had to mix in additives.

And in Clyde River, they will also be receiving their regularly six month testing period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 578 – 1(6): Contracts Office

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I was rushed a bit when I was questioning Mr. Kattuk. At this point, I would like to follow up on my questioning.

The Capital Estimate process is on the roll and we will be reviewing them in September, and before the Capital Estimates are being dealt with, can he consider the contracts in the smaller communities? The smaller communities, I am wondering if they can get an office where they can deal with contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government has stated that they had wanted to be closer to the communities according to the Bathurst Mandate we want to work on the well being of the communities and with that in mind, I will pass on that information to my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for his response. Mr. Speaker, the reason why I asked that question was that our Government wants to assist the smaller communities and when that becomes possible, the awarding of contracts in the smaller communities, the Government will then truly be assisting the communities by awarding to community-based businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that he lives up to his commitment and I will believe in what he just told me. Will he be following through with it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? Mr. McLean.

Question 579 – 1(6): Improvements or Promotion of Private Sectors

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is interesting. I was thinking about this question for a bit the last couple of days but not how to phrase it and who to

phrase it to, but my Colleague from Hall Beach straightened it out for me and I would like to thank him now because now my question to the Minister, I am phrasing it to the Premier.

Mr. Speaker, the plight of small communities, the non-decentralized communities and as an Member of the Legislative Assembly for a larger community and seeing significant economic development and growth of this community, I think about the smaller communities.

The private sector that we keep talking about and ignoring in our small communities, in all of Nunavut communities, I sometimes wonder if we really promote them enough and assist them and you know, make contracting available to people.

It always seems that the big companies in Nunavut get all of the work and very little is filtered down into the small contractors in the communities and even in the smaller communities, I do not see a lot happening.

The NNI policy shows us that there's a lot of money staying in the communities, a lot more business going to northern companies, which I applaud.

I think we've made great leaps in developing the business community. But my question is, you have chambers of commerce in the Kivalliq, Baffin and I think there's one in the Kitikmeot.

But at the end of the day, the little business person, the small business person doesn't have a lot of money to travel to attend meetings and have conference with the Ministers. It's come to mind, would the premier consider setting up a business advisory council that he over sees in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have been doing, is a number of things, we're doing a major review for NNI and I'm sure that we'll introduce some more changes because we've seen that there needs to be some improvement. There needs to be more local contracting.

I'm sure that will be part of the results, I'm sure of the review. In addition, we have been the major review on our own economy. The Nunavut Economic Strategy that the Minister of Sustainable Development has been working on and will finalize shortly.

So, once that's done, that will open up potentially more ideas and I'm quite open to what else we can do but I'd like to see those completed before making any other changes because I don't want to overlap what's already been happening of late. I'd like to see those completed for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I say, I think we're headed in the right direction in business development and small business development. But at the end of the day, you have places like Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Clyde River, Kimmirut, the smaller communities that are trying to develop their economies.

I'm glad that they're setting up this NNI appeals board, but I wish the premier would consider that if you get a group of small business people together, I'm not saying from every community, but one from each region, take some southern experience, some long term northern experience and sit down and maybe look at what issues are affecting the private sector in the business community, arts and crafts and carvers and stuff like that, and once a year get together and say okay, we can improve in these areas. Would the Minister consider doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I'm quite open to ways of trying to help the smaller the community, because they do need help, but at the same time we have been doing a considerable amount of work.

I'd like to stress that those good works are almost done, like the economic strategy and I'd like to see that completed and see what else we can do. So if there are many major recommendations in there, perhaps they'll do the same thing. So, I'd like to see that done and what ever else we can do, we'll look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 580 – 1(6): Assistance for Businesses in Smaller Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation.

For the smaller communities, regarding the awarding of contracts and different economic development opportunities, will the Department of Community Government & Transportation be in support of assisting these small communities to be able to take on more contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With my cabinet colleagues, we're always discussing what opportunities we can think of for the smaller have-not communities and businesses and to ensure that we do not ignore them. So, we are in constant discussions. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Community Government became a barrier when the community was eager to get into economic development.

Has that position been changed in that the Department of Community Government is in support of these smaller communities' needs and ability to take on economic development, and activities? What has been worked on by the Community Government in that regards? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our Department of Community Government tries to be supportive of communities and the Hamlets not only through contracting, but as well, through the operations we have these support services.

The Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy is the responsibility of the Department of Public Works and we have to follow it and it is not only through contracts that we try to support the communities.

I can tell my colleague that we do support smaller communities and smaller businesses and we try to focus on that with the Department of Public Works. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for his response. The communities, the Hamlets and the different subsidiaries, do they understand that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our staff and officials in my Department or my Deputy Minister, when there are different issues brought up, we always try and ensure that the information flows into the communities and not only within the office.

We pass information onto all of our Nunavut employees through press releases and we always try and stay on top of things. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the smaller communities who are not able to get their needs met because of different barriers. Are you aware of this and will you be working on it? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not exactly understand exactly what his question was because it was very general about whether or not my officials are aware of that and have that commitment.

Through our officials, we try to ensure that they have the information and to ensure that they are in support of communities whenever there is anything new that comes up.

Our staff are always available to support the communities and travel to communities once they are invited. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 581 – 1(6): Review of Musk-ox Quota in Kugaaruk

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, and I hope that it is clear enough, I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the study of wildlife and it takes place every five years. They wanted an increase to the musk ox quota. I do not think that there is any help to provide gas for using a snowmobile to go out musk ox hunting further from the community.

We wanted a quota closer to the community. When will the quota be reviewed again for musk ox in my community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, good morning. First of all, I thank the Member for his question. The increase in musk ox quota is the responsibility of Sustainable Development and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

I would have to ask my Department and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board before we can commit to saying that we will be reviewing the musk ox quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said, I think it takes about every five years, there is a review in quota for musk ox and is there a possibility of doing it in less than five years, doing a study to see whether we can get an increase in quota in my community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities that are affected in regards to the increase in quota, we will try to use the Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit and we will also use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit when we are deciding whether we are going to have a review in the increase in quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of people in the communities that have the knowledge of the wildlife in their surrounding areas. Will they be included as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last study done I believe was in Gjoa Haven. We are aware the utilizing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is beneficial when doing studies so, we will be including the people in the communities to work with the biologists and use the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams, Ms. Williams was on the list first.

Question 582 – 1(6): Plan for Suicide Task Force

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his commitment yesterday about putting the task force together for suicide prevention.

And on that, I would like to further ask the Minister in regards to; in the motion it speaks about the report and that it will be done in six months. Will that regional plan be in place for the members to be able to discuss this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the motion was cast by all the members in this house, the member's committee. I would expect the member, is correct, that that report and so on would be made available to all the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response and it was originally planned for a six month report tabling. Will that original plan still be the same even though it's been delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member has indicated, there has been some delay and I explained those reasons yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope to be able to have the committee constituted by the end of this month and depending again on the schedule that the committee, the people that are appointed from the different nominations we received, see what the time frame and the work that we will put in place for the committee.

I don't want to rush them and tell them they should have the report to me in September, but I would hope to be able to have it for table in the session in October for sure. That would be the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The members will note that according to the clerk's clock, question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 017 – 1(6): Power Subsidy Program

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister Responsible for Finance.

Mr. Speaker, number 1; with respect to the Government of Nunavut's Power Subsidy Program, which is funded through the annual appropriation of the Department of Finance, how was this subsidy calculated and applied from the January 1, 2000 to June 1, 2003.

Number 2; if any changes occurred during this period with respect to the calculation and application of the subsidy, what were they and why were they undertaken.

Number 3; during this period, how was the power subsidy calculated and applied in relation to the fuel stabilization rate riders imposed by either the Nunavut Power Corporation or its predecessor, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Number 4, have any audits or reviews been conducted since June 1, 2003 with respect to the calculation and application of the power subsidy and if so, what were the conclusions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 018 – 1(6): Income Support Policies

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this written question is for the Minister Responsible for Education.

Number 1, for the purposes of determining the level of payments made to income support recipients, what is the Department of Education's policy with the respect to the treatment of coop patronage refunds.

Number 2, if coop patronage refunds are treated as unearned income, what policy objectives are achieved by reducing the amount paid to income support recipients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Written Question 019 – 1(6): Status of the Government of Nunavut's Medical Travel for the Kivalliq Region

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to Mr. Picco, Minister of Health and Social Services.

As of June 6, 2003, what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's contracts for scheduled medical travel and medical evacuation services for the Kivalliq Region.

What are the terms of the contract or contracts for these services. How do they differ from the terms from the contract or contracts, which were previously in place? What contracts are currently in place between the Government of Nunavut and Kivalliq Air. Forth, what contracts are currently in place between the Government of Nunavut and Skyward Aviation Ltd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 006 – 1(6): Review of the 2001-2002 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services under review for the 2001/2002 annual report of Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, given our time, my colleagues and I will not be reading the report aloud today, but I would like take a brief moment to highlight the attention of the house to a few points.

Members noted the commissioner's generally positive comments regarding the government's compliance with the spirit and intent of the act. Member's also noted the

commissioner's emphasis on the need to think seriously about issues related to the privacy of people's personal health information.

Recent federal outrages related to the medical consent forms put the spot light on this issue. Mr. Speaker, the committee has been generally disappointed with the government's response to our past report and we look forward to a positive one this fall.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 91 (3) (a), I move that the report be received and adopted to the house and that it be entered into the record as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do the members agree that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House pursuant to Rule 91 (3) – (a), and that it be entered into the records as read. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Ms. Williams.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 125 – 1(6): Arctic Bay, Nunavut Midnight Sun Marathon and Road Races and Challenge, June 30 to July 1, 2003

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a wonderful invitation. I would like to table the documents from the invitation for the Nunavut Midnight Sun Marathon and Road Races Challenge, 2003 between Nanisivik and Arctic Bay, the longest road in Nunavut.

I invite all the members, their officials and their staff to come and run on this marathon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter and Applause*

Speaker: Item 13, Tabling of documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of motions. Item 14. Notices of motions. Item 15. Notices of motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 027 – 1(6): Extensions – Bill 36 an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act and Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Qamanittuaq that notwithstanding Rule 68 (1), the reports of the Standing

Committee on Government Operations and Services and 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 committee has completed their review. 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 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 of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister Statements 164-1(6), 167-1(6), Tabled Documents 117-1(6) and 118-1(6). With Mr. Puqinaq in the Chair.

We will break for twenty minutes before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole and report back here at 11:30 sharp.

Sergeant of Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:06 am and resumed at 11:28 a.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak)(interpretation): We will now proceed with Committee of the Whole. We will be reviewing Bill and Other Matters. During the Committee of the Whole we will be dealing with Ministers' Statements 164 – 1(6), and Ministers' Statement 167 – 1(6), Tabled Document 117 – 1(6), and Tabled Document 118 – 1(6) What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee wishes to deal with Ministers' Statement 164 – 1(6), and as well Tabled Document 117 – 1(6), and 118 – 1(6). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Energy, do you have Opening Comments? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am prepared to go to the Witness Table, I had my opening comments and to take questions and debate on the fuel rider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): You may proceed to the Witness Table. Go ahead, go sit down. Minister Picco, do you have Witnesses with you?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, I have helpers with me in files and books in paper, but I do not have any individuals with me, so, it will be just myself, your Minister of Energy trying to do the very best that I can on behalf and for the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before he starts are there any general comments. At this point I will recognize Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this whole issue, I think there is, as I had indicated in my Members' Statement earlier this week, there are a lot of questions that need to be asked in regards to power rates and riders and just, in general, the financial situation of the Nunavut Power Corporation.

There are things, like I asked the Minister of Finance, you know, for the last two years the Power Corporation has projected paying \$2.3 and \$2 million dollars respectively in dividends to the Government.

If they are losing money, like they say they are losing money, then how can you pay a dividend? There are questions like that that need to be asked. Do they even know what they are doing or are they just plugging numbers?

One of the other questions that, there are a number of questions that I will have that I will get to it in a minute, but one of the things that I found while I was doing some

research on this is, you know, I was quite surprised actually to find out that the power rate in Nunavut, it is the highest in the world per kilowatt hour. Japan is the next highest and you look at just the demographics of our territory and we have to do something about that.

One of the other things that I found out, I know that the Minister had indicated that the, you know, 80% of the homeowners or private, I won't say homeowners, I will say private consumers use less than the subsidised 700 kilowatt hours per month.

I have lots of information from someone that is an average homeowner in Iqaluit, you know, about their bills and amounts and the kilowatt hours per month, the number of days that is there, you know, since 1999, since January, 1998, actually.

There are only maybe three or four or so months in there where they use less than the 700 kilowatt hours and those months are months when the billing days are not the full month, anywhere from 21 to 24 days or so that they are under the subsidized amount.

So, I think there the Minister has indicated in comments and statements that he has made in interviews, that is not going to affect the homeowners that much. When you say 80 percent of the consumers aren't going to be affected by it. I think 100 percent of homeowners are going to be affected by it.

Out of that 100 percent of private consumers, what kind of percentage of those people live in staff housing and apartments or high density dwellings, multiplexes that don't use the same amount of power as a detached home.

I think 80 percent use less than that but if you look at what kind of consumers those are, are they homeowners, the people that live in apartments. That makes a huge difference in your power bill.

I think, this is some clarity that we need to bring to light on this, on some of these issues in order to feel comfortable with what the power corporation is doing, in coming forward with something like this.

I know that the government itself has said that they're not comfortable with the numbers and I just want to make sure that some of these other issues, that the government may not have thought of, that the regular members have issue about it as well. That they want to make sure that it gets looked as well.

So, with that Mr. Chairman, I'll leave that for my opening comments. I do have a number of questions but I'll let other members go ahead if they have opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we go back to general comments, Rule 77 (1), I will allow ten minutes for general comments during Committee

of the Whole discussion and please respect the Chairperson, and raise your hand if you have any general comments. Next on my list is Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it was me that praised the Minister when he made the decision with his cabinet colleagues to split the power corporation from the Northwest Territories and create our own power corporation here in Nunavut.

The Minister was really great in setting up the Nunavut Power Corporation. He did a training program to train local people here in Baker Lake and it was very successful. In the mean time, in the last couple of years, it seems to have drifted away, like a small boat without a rudder.

It's a \$50 million dollar utility. What's happened was anything that happened in the power corporation, negative, was blamed on the Baker Lake office, which is terribly wrong and so I started enquiring on what's going on with this utility and it showed that there are questions about power bills, about miscalculations etc. etc.

So, I said okay, I'm going to check into this. So went over to the office and two years after the power corporation was established, they're still sending the bills out of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

This office was getting the blame for the mis-billings. I'm sure the Minister is well aware and us as Members of the Legislative Assembly got to be very careful when we scrutinize certain issues.

It seems like the Minister set the utility up and kind of trusted his staff which he should. He should trust his staff. And they're all capable staff and I'm sure they work hard. But in the mean time, the Iqaluit office swelled, to the last report I heard, over 20 staff in the head office over there.

And here we are, supposed to be the head office for the power corporation in Baker Lake. And so in the spirit of decentralization, it was, okay, we'll keep Baker Lake happy and we'll keep decentralization happy but they seem to have grown in size in Iqaluit.

You have the president over there. You have the vice-president over there. And this you expect this office to carry the load. It just didn't happen. And now we get financial statements that we can't even believe.

We're told we've got a \$15 million dollar deficit and in fact there's a Member of the Legislative Assembly sitting, representing Baker Lake and looking at these financial statement executive reports, I do not know if we can believe them.

And you have tabled the financial statements, so, I think they are correct, but at this point, I do not really know what to believe and then you come across, the Utility Rate

Commission comes across with this fuel rider and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly you have got to make the Government accountable and ask the questions.

So, we ask the questions and there is a big debate, the public grab a hold of it and there is an outrage and now, you have come through with your smoking mirrors and decided we do not need a rate increase.

But in fact, what happens if we do? What happens if we face a \$20 or 30 million dollar deficit after the next fiscal year?

Now, on that point, I just had to get that off my chest because it has been bugging me for the last year or two. Like I say, it has been set up, I commended you for doing what you did by taking the initiative to set up the Nunavut Power Corporation, training Inuit staff in Baker Lake, but it seems like after that happened, it got washed away.

Now, we are into something that we are looking around and where is it going from here and what is it going to cost us?

The Board of Directors, I think today, in my humble opinion, that Board of Directors is a great group of people, they are intelligent and they are capable of making the decisions, but, is that Board of Directors involved in the decision making of how this utility is going to be run?

I do not know if it is or not. They are all capable, I respect them all, but are they involved in the decision making and the hiring process and the direction that this corporation is going in?

If we are going to have a Board of Directors, let us make them make the decisions and that is all the comments I have to say. I have no questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my comments brief. When the corporation was being set up for Nunavut, we wanted to have ownership and my community had 30 to 40% expected increase while we were discussing the setting up for this corporation for Nunavut.

And so, we had to make some changes and so, I was very happy to have this Nunavut Power Corporation created. I think it was \$18 million dollars that we set aside for the set up of the Nunavut Power Corporation in 1999, perhaps in 2000, I forget which year, but we did set monies aside for the creation of Nunavut Power Corporation.

When we are dealing with rate hikes, we as Nunavummiut, either through the staff or the consumer, they do not get pay raises when we get increases to our rates and so, we have to be considering the Nunavummiut.

When we consider increasing rate hikes, we have to be looking at the people of Nunavut individually because they do not automatically get a raise to make up for that hike.

The cost of living will keep going up and so, we have to keep in mind the whole picture. Our staff through different jobs in Nunavut, we also have to consider that their salaries are in tune with these rate hikes.

When we were children, in Nunavut, when we were growing up, 50 cents was a lot of money. You could buy a lot of things with 50 cents back then. Today, \$100 dollars is like \$1 dollar in comparison. So, that's how different it is now.

When I was going out camping to go out hunting, \$100 dollars was adequate for my supplies. Now, today, I need \$1 thousand dollars just to get the supplies for my camping trip. That is how much the cost of living is going up.

With the cost of living going up, if we're still going to continue to be part of the economy, our salaries will also have to be considered to be in line with the increase in cost of living.

If you want to be a contributing citizen, \$5 thousand dollars is adequate for living. And so these are the considerations we have to keep in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. At this time, we're talking about, in Committee of the Whole, Nunavut Power Corporation. Please try not to get off the subject. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because I'm an Inuk, I'm not really clear on what's happening with the power increase. And now they've deferred it.

I thought, why are we talking about it today when they already deferred the item, the power rate. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Do you want to ask questions now? Just a comment. Okay. I have no more names for general comments on this topic. We will be going to the questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, going back and looking at the URRC Report to the Minister, in there it goes on to talk about the extra revenue that was generated from the 3.4 cents rider that was previously put on in place and it's my understand and I'd just like to ask the Minister to clarify that that rider was set to go off on March 2001.

Was that when the initial thing for it was changed to 2002 when it was actually March 31, 2002 when it actually came off. I just wondered. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, originally when the rider was put on, I think that's why we need some clarification today. In 1995-1998, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation asked for a rate rider increase for fuel because public utilities can't increase their rates all the time. So that was done in 1998.

At that time they allowed for a plus or minus \$2 million dollars for a rider when the fund reached that amount. So, they put 3.4 cents on. They asked for that. And one of the members asked me earlier, the Northwest Territories put on a water rider, a low water rider.

So, here in Nunavut, we all had to pay for low water in Great Slave Lake to create hydro power. When they put the 3.4 cents on, as Mr. Tootoo just indicated, Mr. Chairman, they came back within four months and said we need 9.9 cents I think it was or 9.5 cents.

As the Government of Nunavut we were just setting up our power corporation. So, we said no, we will not go with the 9.9 and we left the rider on in place until March 31, 2002. Now that's what happened.

Mr. Chairman, if I may, I just want to make a couple of comments on the comments that we usually have an opportunity to respond to the comments made by the members. I wanted to just say a couple of things.

First of all, the power corporation was only set up on April 1, 2001, two years ago. Mr. McLean just suggested that he doesn't trust the financial statements. Mr. Chairman, I said in the house two days ago that the reason why I didn't table the annual report was because I didn't have the financial statements.

I had to wait for the Auditor General for Canada to sign off on the financial statements. If the Auditor General for Canada has signed off on the financial statements and in her report she stated that these financial statements meet all the criteria of any general accounting practises in Canada. So, Mr. McLean can trust these statements.

The Auditor General for Canada signed off on them. Mr. Chairman, another comment made was on the rider. 70 percent of any rider or any increase, and as Mr. Anawak indicated, we're not going with it anyway, that any increase would be covered by the government, schools, hospitals, nursing stations, those are the costs associated with the rider.

That's why it's unique in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, lastly, and I have answered Mr. Tootoo's question. My last comment is, it's only been two years and the reason why we said no on the rider application, and there is a process in place, the power corporation can't increase it's rates or put a rider in place unless they make an application.

They've made the application. And if you look at your report, Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to note that, Mr. McLean had said earlier that the power corporation got away from the Minister. I resent that.

On January the 2nd, one day after New Year's day, this Minister was in the office and I received the application from the power corporation. Within two working days, on the 6th of January, I had requested advice from the URCC, which is the process.

It's only been in operation for 2 years. On April 1st, two months ago, it was a two year operation of the power corporation. We only have one set of financial statements, Mr. Chairman. And that's why the cabinet, after taking URRC recommendations, I went back to cabinet, which I'm supposed to do and the cabinet said how can you put the rate in place when we're trying to set up what Mr. Tootoo talked about earlier. The highest rates in the western world are being paid in Nunavut.

And that's why in the Qulliq Energy Report and Ikuma 1 and Ikuma II, that every member is familiar with, we talked about the affordable energy fund, the AEF. So we've just set up the Qulliq Energy Corporation and we've appointed the president.

It wouldn't be acceptable when the power corporation has to go for a GRA this fall, to put another rider on because we don't know based only on one audited financial statement, if the problem with the power corporation is on the revenue side or as some members have indicated, on the expense side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Tootoo, do you have anything else.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question was that initial rider of 3.4 cents, was it, when it was initially put on, was it put on, was it supposed to come off on March 31, 2001 and not March 31, 2002. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way the rider was set up and I think it's important to note how the rider was put in place so you understand how it works.

The rider was put in place by the Public Utilities Board and as I said, it was 3.4 cents and when the fuel reached plus or minus \$2.2 million dollars, then it could come off. But, what happened was, Mr. Chairman, in December of that year, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation said that they needed the rider to go up to 9.9 cents, because the 3.4 cents was out stripping it.

So, Mr. Chairman, we said as a corporation or as a government, we didn't want to go to 9.9 cents because we were just setting up our own power corporation and because we weren't sure of the 9.9 cents because of 26 communities in Nunavut which made up the

52 community in the Northwest Territories, we had 80 percent of the diesel generated plants.

So, we would be paying for this rider and we were not sure because we are setting up the Power Corporation if the numbers coming forward were correct. So, we decided to leave the 3.4 cents on for the twelve month period.

We could do that because the Power Corporation had said that, according to their figures, the money under the rider was outstripping the fund. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Please try to keep your responses and question short. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just asked the Minister, if that rider was supposed to come off March 31st, 2001 instead of March 31st, 2002, simple. I do not need a big, long, filibustering answer, just a simple yes or no.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am trying to explain that when the rider was put on, it was to bring the fund plus or minus \$2 million. So, it could have been six months or three months.

The Power Corporation had to say to the Public Utilities Board: Our estimate, if it had increased to 9.9 cents, is that we can do it by March 31st, 2001, and therefore and thus it comes off.

So, the rider is not set up for a period of six months, it is to set up until the fund reaches plus or minus \$2 million dollars based on the best estimate that was available to the Corporation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, there was a date of March 31st, 2001, as the Minister mentioned. Can the Minister indicate if and when the fund made it to that amount when it was supposed to come off? Did it do that before March 31st, 2002 or has it done it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know we were setting up the Nunavut Power Corporation as of April 1st, 2001, and we felt then after that 12 month period was up, we left the 3.4 cents on to recover with we thought was the amount and that was the best advise that the Power Corporation had to give us at that time and then after that 12 month period was off, we took the 3.4 cents off.

At the end of the division of assets and liabilities between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, we realized that the fund was under collected by \$2.7 million dollars and that was paid back at that time as part of the assets and liabilities division part.

At the same time, they still did not have a financial statement because of the ongoing exercise of assets and liabilities between the two governments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I give up on that line of questioning, I cannot seem to get an answer from the Minister. Mr. Chairman, the Minister met with the Chamber of Commerce in Iqaluit last month, I think it was the day the power went out, I am sure he remembers it quite well. Word was going around that he was trying to keep people in the dark.

Mr. Chairman, I would like the Minister, at that time speaking to one of the Chamber Members that was at the meeting, he had indicated to me that the Minister had indicated to him that once the rider was taken off on March 31st, 2002, the subsidy was reduced by the 3.4 cents resulting in no change in people's power bills and that the Minister, when they asked the Minister about that, he had indicated it was a computer glitch that caused the problem.

I would just like to ask the Minister if he can clarify if that was actually the case or not just so that we could have some clarity and hopefully that did not happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is very hard for me to comment on someone said this and I said that and it was a meeting when the power went off.

Mr. Chairman, what I can say is that when the rider came off the bills, as of the date, and the member just talked about the date and so on, to the best of my knowledge, based on the information provided to me and the bills, then that's exactly what had occurred.

If there was an individual who had a concern, and in that case, there was one person who brought their bills forward, then I asked them to go see the customer service agent of the power corporation to ensure that there was, if there was money that had been owed or not owed, that indeed the bill was put together properly.

So that's the only comment I can make on that because there was only incident, there was only one persons bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess that wasn't the case. It did stay the same.

Going on Mr. Chairman, in the executive summary on page 3, it says the results of the 2001, it says that the Nunavut Power Corporation experienced a net loss for the year of almost \$16 million dollars.

It says that about \$5 million, 150 thousand dollars of that was a direct operating loss, while the remaining almost \$11 million dollars was attributed to one time only expenses related to the division of the former Northwest Territories.

Mr. Chairman, we all know the other day I asked the Minister what the fuel rider was to be used for. It can only be used for increased costs of fuel. If you go to the financial statements and under the outlook for 2002/2003, it says the same thing.

Without the numbers, that the corporation has experienced significant loss in operations due to one time costs associated with the commencement of operations and it anticipates a loss on operations for the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

My first question, and it say that for the second year, it's for the higher cost of fuel, does the Minister have any idea how much that's going to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, on the fund, I tried to explain the other day, and I'm going to read into the record what the fund is.

The fund is called a fuel stabilization rider. The most, or 80 percent of the component is the cost of fuel, but that's not the only one. So, if I can, I'll read it into the record. The amount placed to or taken out of the fund is determined based upon a calculation of the actual generation, and that's the electricity generated, divided by the most plant efficiency, for a community, each community, times the difference in fuel prices, between prices in rates, and the actual prices in any given year.

That's what the fuel subsidy rider is. So, it's not just the cost of fuel. It's based on the efficiency of the generation of power and what the costs and expenses are for that. On the financial question that Mr. Tootoo raised, and he's raising a good point, and that's the point that goes back to the cabinet.

We only had one year's financial statements and a forecast of revenue growth and expenses and liabilities based on the second year of operation. So, where we are, Mr. Chairman, we know the rates haven't increased since 1998. There has been no rate increase since 1998.

So it would be very difficult to say that the forecast made by the power corporation is either correct based on the annual report or based on the total numbers available to us from the audit report. And that's why the cabinet was in the position of saying if we put the 7.5 cents, will it actually, based on the efficiency, will it actually bring the fund to zero.

Don't forget the power corporation's own forecast was 10 cents. They asked for 10 cents. First they asked for 5 cents and then they asked for 10 cents. The URRC came back and said no, you can't have 5 or 10, you can have 7.5, somewhere in the middle.

So based on all of those questions, the government instructed me as the Minister Responsible, to go for the affordable energy fund, the have the power corporation go for a general right application in the fall and make sure that we find out exactly the figures.

So, the quick answer to Mr. Tootoo's question is no, I do not know if that is an accurate forecast and that is the question that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, then is the first time we are hearing that this rider can be used for something other than fuel. That is other than the increased cost of fuel? If I can interpret what the Minister said, that what he just said that it could be used for other things. As he has indicated in the past, in interviews and meetings that that is all it was going to be used for.

I would like to know, it talks about operational losses and one-time cost for division and what happens when Government Departments go for a budget like that?

All that is, is either poor budgeting or poor management. Do people have to pay for that? Do we have to pay for that, the one-time cost? When a Department goes over that, they do not increase the user fees for anything else, they do that, they take it out of general revenue and those things cover off in the form of a Supplementary Appropriation.

You know, if it is operating costs due to poor budgeting or poor management, then I think that is where it should come from. The consumers should not have to pay for that and if the Government is paying, as the Minister stated, 80% of it already, what is the big deal? Sorry, 70%, Mr. Picco.

You know, because I know that, like, up until just a couple minutes ago, I was under the impression and that that is the only thing that that is the only increase, the increased cost of fuel is the only thing that the rider could be used for.

You know, and in the outlook it states that, you know, it talks about the losses over the first two years and that the Corporation intends to address the loss in 2001 and 2002 and the projected loss in 2002-2003, through the implementation of a fuel rate rider in 2003-2004.

Based on all of the information that the Minister provided before, you know, I was just questioning, is that something that they can do? Can they put a rider on to cover off costs other than increased costs related to fuel? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member has probably made, I think probably the most important statement here today and that is a Power Corporation, a public utility is not like any other business. It cannot raise its rates or prices to cover off the cost of doing business.

If Ed. Picco Company is losing money, I can increase my prices or rates. I can do that. The Corporation, the public utility has to go before a Board; it has to go to the public and say: This is what our costs are and so on. So, the Member is correct. It cannot raise its rates to cover off those costs.

However, in the negotiated settlement of '95, '98, this goes back to the Public Utilities Board, they realized the cost of diesel was increasing and like every other Utility Board in the country and every other Energy Corporation, whether it be Manitoba Hydro, whatever, for the diesel costs, they are allowed to have a rider in place to cover those costs, not the rate, but to cover the cost.

And the cost, and I want to explain it again because I do not think that I am explaining it well enough, the fund is not just on the cost of oil, it is on the efficiency of the plant. That is how they figure out what the amount of the rider is.

So, the rider covers off the increased fuel cost, but it is based on the efficiency of the plant and that is what I am trying to explain is that it is determined on the calculation of the actual generation of the plant divided by the most recent plan efficiency.

Each plant has to have an efficiency rating and that is done on a regular basis by the Corporation and when they come forward based on their rates, they say: The plant is 87% efficient and if we are going to bill, use a hundred litres of oil, this is how much electricity we can generate.

If the cost of oil is going up, then of course the efficiency of the generation goes down and therefore the fund is put in place. So, that is how the fund is worked out. And Mr. Tootoo is right.

The corporation cannot increase rates or use the fund to cover any other costs. That's why it's only on the efficiency of the plant and the fuel costs. Because they can't use it for increased labour costs for example. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, then they I can finally figure out what the Minister is stated.

They can't use any funds of the rider to offset any one time costs as a result of division. If that's the case, why does it say in their report that that's what they're going to do with it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not what the intent was of what was said there.

On the division of assets and liabilities, we are in negotiations, mediations right with the Northwest Territories to take another I think it's between \$4.6 and \$8 million dollars that we believe they owe to us.

If you put that into the first year of operations of the corporation, their bottom line is that the power corporation has actually done very well, if you look at that. But we don't have that money right now, and that's why the outstanding balance.

I can confirm for the member, as he had just indicated, that the fund is only for the increase costs in the generation of electricity as it pertains to the efficiency and the oil purchase.

That's why it's a fuel stabilization rider. And how you get that fund amount is based on the efficiency. How much oil does it cost to generate x number of hours of electricity and you factor in the cost of the fuel that you had to purchase that electricity.

So, that's how the stabilization rider would work if we had to put it in place based on what the power corporation asked for.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Thank you. Your last questions, because you're running out, Mr. Tootoo. And I'm sure that the other members would like to ask questions. Mr. Tootoo, your last question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I'd like to make a comment. Maybe the Minister should check page 28 of the annual report, where it says it's going to be used to cover off those losses. Maybe that's a mistake in the report that he may want to fix.

Two things I guess, maybe a two part question. One, as I had mentioned earlier, the corporation has indicated they're planning on paying dividends to the government. They had planned \$2.3 million dollars last year, and two and a \$2 million dollar dividend this year.

If they know they're losing money, how can they pay a dividend? That's one question. And I guess the other thing that relates to the overall costs is, we all know in the last year,

the government awarded the fuel supply contract to a new firm and was going on about how many millions of dollars they were going to save by doing that.

It's the same people that are doing the power corporation fuel delivery I believe. Has it gone up that much? Isn't there, when are these savings going to be passed on to the users? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that's why in Qulliq 1 and Qulliq 2, the Ikuma I and Ikuma II, it talks about the affordable energy fund which will be the savings. And we're in the process of doing that right now.

So, those are the savings that would be passed on. On page 28 of the annual report, which you're talking about the losses, those are the losses that the corporation had forecasted, from not having the fuel subsidy rider in place.

Again, Mr. Chairman, on the dividend, the dividend would be available if the \$4.6 or more comes from the Government of the Northwest Territories, that's in accounts receivable, and if the power corporation, based on their forecast estimates, which means if the fuel prices and the savings, they'd actually have a dividend.

But again, in any business or government, we make estimates or we say there's the supplementary estimates. So it's an estimate based on the best information from what their business will do.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I will allow Mr. Tootoo to ask more questions after the Members have asked their questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Mut'na, Mr. Chairperson. I sure bet you before I ask my question that the shareholders of that Enron Corporation had the Auditor General sign off in their financial statements today. They probably wish the Auditor General signed off in their audited financial statements, they probably really wish today in the billions of dollars they lost.

But my short question is to the Minister today, he had a fuel rider on there, it expired, he goes in, I went into my office, he could have informed the Members and have a short little meeting with us and said, listen we have to put this fuel rider on at 7.5 because of these reasons and at the end of the day, he says, now we do not need it and we freeze in it until 2004.

What made you make this decision? What was the final reason that you made this decision to freeze power rates to 2004? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Chairman, we did not, when the Member was here, I do not know if he heard me say or not. First of all, the 7.5 cents is not something I just came up with. The Power Corporation asked for 10 cents.

Originally they asked for 5 cents and the new URRC said, well, based on the information you have given us, which was incomplete, the URRC states in the report the information for the Power Corporation is incomplete, we will say 7.5 cents.

The Cabinet has the opportunity to look at that, plus we have the audited financial statements. The Corporation has only been in place two years. I only have one year of financial statements to go by. That is all we have.

So, under the affordable energy fund and so on, we have to put that in place, Mr. Chairman. So the Government said: Should we put on another 7.5 cent rider based on if it can actually bring the fund to zero? Because that is the only reason why it is supposed to go on.

Based on the numbers we had, we could not be certain that that is what was going to happen. So, that is the reason why we did not do it, plus we want to freeze the rates because we are setting up the affordable energy fund.

The whole idea of the Qullik Energy Corporation to transfer jobs that Mr. McLean has been talking about, putting in place a new precedent for the Corporation, which has happened in the last few days and it will be announced hopefully in the next couple of weeks.

All of these things are paramount and intertwined. So, for those reasons, the Power Corporation said: Are we justified in putting on the money that has been asked for and can we honestly say that the numbers that have come forward to us are realistic?

We only have one set of financial statements that Mr. McLean indicated been signed off by the Auditor General for Canada, we can believe those. I do not have them for the second year; it is only two years of operation.

So, if I put the 7.5 cents on the URRC asked for, will the fund actually come down? I honestly cannot say it would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are short of time. I have no one else on my list, but Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to ask the Committee whether they have concluded with Ministers' Statement 164-1(6) and Tabled Document 117-1(6) and Tabled Document 118-1(6). Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have more questions that I would like to state, we have not concluded it, and can you leave it on the order paper? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to report progress, moved by Mr. Irqittuq. The motion is not debatable. Those in favour. Those opposed. Motion carried.

You may ascertain the speaker.

Speaker: Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 164-1 (6), tabled document 117-1 (6) and tabled documents 118-1 (6) and would like to report their consideration on these issues and Mr. Speaker, I move for you to concur with the committee's report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion. Ms. Williams will second the motion.

>>*Applause*

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. Orders of the Day for Tuesday, October 21st.

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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - 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. Clerk. Before we adjourn the house, I would like to thank all the people of Baker Lake, the elders, the young people for hosting us this week. Also, Mr. McLean, for being such a great host and a real fun guy, so I hear. Also, our administration staff, our technical staff, Peter Markwell and Steven and Steve Smith, for their helping set up. George Metuq, of course, our high tech wizard. The mayor of Baker Lake, Joe Neigo. I'd also like to acknowledge and recognise former Member of the Legislative Assembly, William Noah.

>> *Applause*

Also the staff at the Iglu Hotel, Norman, Jesse, the maitre de and also forever their chef for great food and taking care of us and also the staff at the Nunavut Lodge, I believe it's called.

I wish members a safe trip home. Have a great summer and we'll see you in the fall. This house stands adjourned until Tuesday October 21st at 1:30 p.m. in Iqaluit.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Applause*

>>*House adjourned at 12:26 p.m.*

