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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Homelessness and Immigration*

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Minister of Education;*

Uriash Puqiqnak
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(South Baffin)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday October 31, 2003**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I will say the prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning, Mr. Premier, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 211 – 1(6): Fire at Nakasuk School

Hon. Manitok Thompson: I stand here today frustrated and angry.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I stand here today frustrated and angry. Last night there was a fire at Nakasuk School. That is becoming a problem and it is very frustrating when this happens.

Thankfully due to the quick response of a local resident and the Iqaluit Fire Department the fire was contained to the exterior.

It could have been very serious. We could have lost the school if it weren't for the quick response. Classes at Nakasuk School have been cancelled today due air quality concerns.

However, Mr. Speaker, we expect students to be back in class on Monday.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is the fourth school fire in Nunavut within the last four months. That's too much. Three of these fires appear to have been deliberately set. This is not just an increase in vandalism; this is becoming an epidemic of destruction in our territory.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this increase in vandalism in Nunavut must stop.

(interpretation ends) Damage to schools or other government buildings touches all residents of Nunavut. The cost to replace these must come from within our existing budget.

(interpretation) I think that this part is not entirely understood. If we have to repair or replace something that is damaged or lost, the only way to do that is to get the money from our existing budget.

(interpretation ends) This means that government must make decisions to delay or cancel other programs and services to pay for these repairs.

(interpretation) It is immediately apparent that our Government has to make emergency decisions and have to find money that was to be used for other purposes. There are many who would like to get offices, and the buildings that are damaged or destroyed often have to be replaced with money that would have been used for other resources within Nunavut. Because of this we are not able to build any other resources.

(interpretation ends) This government will not be able to move forward if we are forced to spend our budget and resources repairing or replacing existing schools destroyed by vandalism.

(interpretation) We will not be able to move forward if this is to continue, things such as vandalism and setting fires to the schools, or other buildings.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, today I am asking all Nunavummiut to help us in stopping this epidemic of destruction.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am asking all Nunavummiut to help us in stopping this destruction.

(interpretation ends) We all have a responsibility to protect our assets from vandalism, damage and destruction. Please talk to your children and youth about the seriousness of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, vandalism is very serious and it's a criminal offence.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, vandalism is very serious and it's a criminal offence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statement. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 212 – 1(6): CG and T Departmental Policies

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is Halloween, one of our staff who has his hair done up like yours, I am proud of him.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House to tell you of the progress my department has made with regard to revising and developing our departmental policies that directly involves communities.

Mr. Speaker, Cabinet has approved 15 department policies that better allow our operations to reflect the realities of Nunavut and form a solid foundation upon which we carry out our business.

Among the policies, Mr. Speaker, are the Municipal Training Policy that has significantly advanced training and development at the Municipal staff level. Our Recreation and Leisure policy now includes a program to promote traditional activities at the community level such as dog team races and fishing derbies.

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly happy to have a new Search and Rescue funding policy. My department now offers a start up grant of \$2 thousand 500 dollars to Search and Rescue Societies based in communities as well as an annual contribution of \$2 thousand, 500 dollars. The policy raises the maximum allowable contribution for a community based Search and Rescue activity to \$5 thousand based on actual costs.

Mr. Speaker, as a follow up to these policy developments, my department has undertaken a communications campaign to ensure the policies are communicated back to the communities. In this way, I am ensuring we are an open and accountable government that puts the needs of our communities first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 213 – 1(6): Liquor Plebiscite

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am please to update Members that plebiscites will be held next month in Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet and Resolute Bay to determine public interest in changing restrictions governing the sale, distribution and consumption of liquor in those communities.

This resulted from petitions that were signed by voters in the communities, consistent with the *Nunavut Liquor Act*.

The plebiscites for Baker Lake and Kugluktuk will ask voters if they wish to have an alcohol committee established. If established, these committees will have the authority to determine who may purchase, possess and transport liquor in the community.

In Rankin Inlet, members of the community will be asked if the Rankin Inlet Liquor Restriction Regulations should be repealed. Current regulations prohibit the sale or purchase of liquor within 25 km of the Rankin Inlet Hamlet Office. Voters will also be asked if they wish to have liquor licences issued to clubs, restaurants and bars.

The Resolute Bay plebiscite will ask voters if the Resolute Bay Liquor Restriction Regulations should be repealed. Current regulations provide an Alcohol Education Committee with the authority to determine who may purchase and possess alcoholic beverages in the community.

The plebiscites will be held to determine the wishes of the voters. They will empower the people of the communities to determine what they consider to be an acceptable access to alcohol in their community.

Mr. Speaker, staff from the Department are planning to visit all the communities to assist in providing as much information on the plebiscite; also information packages have been delivered to the communities and should appear in public places.

On November 10, 2003, the plebiscites will be held in each community. Advance polls will be held on November 3, 2003. I encourage everyone in those communities to come out and vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 682 – 1(6): Governor General's Visit to Other Countries

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about something that I am extremely pleased about in regards to the Governor General's visit to Russia, Finland, and Iceland on September 22, 2003 and right on to the 16th.

I was very pleased that they went to visit those countries with the Northern theme, the people of the North and working together. Their Excellencies have made visits to many countries and they are very well known.

The most important part in this State Visit was that they were able to bring Northerners with them representing all the peoples of the North. They have met up with people our young people are going to be working with, even when we are not around anymore. I would like to thank them on behalf of all of the people of Nunavut.

The Inuit who went down to visit included Mary Simon, Arctic Ambassador, Sheila Watt Cloutier, President of Inuit Circumpolar Conference and Peter Adamie, President of Makivik Corporation and also included was the Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq.

This was the very first time that Inuit were included in a state visit and we were also extremely proud that both the representatives from Nunavut and Nunavik were included.

Our country was put on the map and I think that we should be proud of the fact that they are promoting Canada and also Nunavut and Nunavik and I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Statement. Are there any nays? Are there any nays? There are no nays; please proceed Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, to my Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the Governor General and her husband have been very supportive of the Inuit, our youth and the Arctic.

And while I have the opportunity, I would like to thank their Excellencies for visiting Russia, Finland and Iceland and I would also like to thank them on behalf of the people of Nunavut. We all know that they have been in Nunavut on more than one occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 683 – 1(6): Boat Wreck Found Near Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today when we are celebrating Tupilak where the world is getting cold outside, we have snow on the ground, which is when the Tupilak, the ghosts of the Arctic are wandering around in our environment.

It was the belief of long time ago and if my Colleagues do not believe in the Tupilak, in ghosts, I want them to know that was the belief of Inuit a long time ago.

I rise today to talk about the 1800s when a wooden ship ran aground near Clyde River and the ship was wrecked. The crew perished in that accident and are buried around the Clyde River area. It is a very interesting site and a historic site.

About two weeks ago, we found another boat, which I believe came from Pond Inlet, a fibreglass boat and it is approximately 22 feet long. I believe it is a boat from Pond Inlet, but its housing was wrecked when it came into our community.

There are more and more dog teams being formed in Clyde River and Isa Piunngittuq, Jayko Aasivaq, Aimu Sisivugat, Elijah Paliittuq and Jamesie Palluq were the ones who found that boat when they were out dog teaming.

I am not sure what is going to be happening with the boat or if there is going to be an investigation in this incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 684 – 1(6): Congratulate Margaret Ikkapkuraq on Award

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this moment to remind our motorists that tonight is Halloween and that there will be many children out there. So, please, driver carefully so that we can have a safe Halloween.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Margaret Ikkapkuraq for receiving the Northwest Company's Presidents' Award for excellence in customer service.

Mr. Speaker, for as long as I can remember Margaret's familiar smile has greeted people at the Northern Store in Kugluktuk.

During her time at the store, she has become a wife, mother and grandmother. She also enjoys going out on the land with the family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how difficult it can be to balance family and a career. Margaret's ability to balance her career and family for more than twenty years makes her a role model for all Nunavummiut, especially for the youth of today.

I would like my Colleagues to join me in congratulating Margaret Ipakohak on her recent award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 685 – 1(6): Cost Effective Transport of Food

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I too, would like to apologize to my two sons that Asiknaat and Amarook that I will not be home for Halloween this year again and I caution people out there in Nunavut to watch over the little people and when you are driving around tonight in the dark, take care that nobody gets hurt.

Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to talk about a concern that affects each and everyone of us living here in Nunavut. We all have to eat, Mr. Speaker, but the cost of nutritious food in most northern communities is still too high for many.

It is difficult to make healthy eating choices when most choices mean emptying the bank account. For example, in 2002, a typical food basket for a family of four in Iqaluit cost \$240 dollars, while in Rankin Inlet, it cost \$301 dollars and these are central transportation points for the regions. In the more remote communities like Resolute Bay, the cost went up to over \$342 dollars a basket.

Don't get me wrong, Mr. Speaker, I am very glad that the Federal Government continue to subsidize the northern food mail by over \$30.6 million dollars a year up from \$15 million dollars in 1994-1995. This subsidy program was almost dropped a few years ago and I commend the Federal Government and Minister Nault for agreeing to continue it.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age when fiscal responsibility is at the top of everyone's agenda when we are all trying to make our dollars stretch the farthest. Would it not make economic sense to find a cheaper way to deliver the food mail program?

At the current time, the food mail program is only run out of designated entry points like Val D'or, Yellowknife, Happy Valley Goose Bay and Churchill. These entry points were established years ago and do not reflect today's reality.

It should be Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton and Mr. Speaker, in our region alone, the food is put on a truck from Winnipeg to Thompson, taking it off a truck, putting it on a train from Thompson to Churchill, sits in Churchill for three or four days and eventually, it ends up in the Kivalliq a week later.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to review the efficiency of using these entry points. Surely, it would be more economical and more practical to transport nutritious foods from these locations. Not only would it be more economical, but the qualities of food would suffer less.

I urge my colleagues in this House to join me in encouraging the Federal Government to review the impact of these entry points on the effectiveness of the food mail program and to consider opening up other more cost effective entry points. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 686 – 1(6): Regards to Family

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Halloween, I wanted to wear a tie that was given to me by the Premier, when we first became a Government, but I did not put it on.

And also, my youngest son celebrated his birthday yesterday, and I did not realize that. I finally realized it today and I wish him a Happy Birthday. And also my two

grandchildren are here, and I send my regards. Again I have two other grand children in Pond Inlet, and I also send my regards to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 687 – 1(6): Nakasuk School Fire

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the near disaster that hit Iqaluit last night. Mr. Speaker, like hundreds of parents in this community with children who are in Nakasuk School, I was devastated to hear last night about the fire, which appears to have been deliberately set.

Mr. Speaker, without the quick action of local resident, Eric Caouette, of Arctic Circle Retail, the School might not be standing today. I want to acknowledge and thank him for his quick and courageous actions.

I also want to thank the members of the fire department who arrived quickly at the scene. And I want to say how relieved I was to learn that there was no injuries and very minimal damage to the school.

Mr. Speaker, it is not an exaggeration to say that we came within an inch of tragedy and crisis last night. I want to urge parents in this community, and others to sit down and talk with their children why it is important not to set fires, how it hurts everyone, including those children who set the fires because of pain and anger possibly in their own lives.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister of Education that the community is open to experimentation and new ideas. Mr. Speaker, take a look at the building that houses our Legislative Assembly. It is protected 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with fulltime security and video cameras. That costs a bit, but it is infinitely cheaper than having to replace an entire structure. Mr. Speaker, our schools and our children deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, schools are often one of the most valuable assets in any given community. We make a mockery of our commitment to education and our children if we do not take action as a Government, as a community, as parents, and as individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 688 – 1(6): Informing Children of Future

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Halloween, my son, Qallunaraaluk, and my grandson Tommy and Mosha Arragutainnaq, I want you to have a good evening tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I too am frustrated also in regards to Minister Thompson's Ministers' Statement. I would like to give her support. I am talking about Nunavut as a whole in reference to the vandals in the communities. It frustrates us when these young people vandalise the infrastructure at the community level.

As I usually tell the students in my community, every time I go to the School, and every time I go on the local radio station, the infrastructure at the community, no matter what it is, whether it is a government building, or municipality building or Coop building, those are yours for you to take care of when you grow to become adults.

Perhaps you will become a Member of the Legislature, or you will come to replace me when you grow up. In the community that you live I say that I am not going to be a Member of the Legislature for the rest of my life.

It will be your responsibility to take care of the properties in the community. That's what I tell them within the schools and through the local radio station.

I try to advise them that if you want to have good infrastructure then you should not vandalize those buildings. That's what I tell the students so that at least they will remember in the future they will have adequate facilities.

Those are very expensive buildings that cost around \$12 to 13 million dollars per building and it's very expensive to replace these buildings. Mr. Speaker, I want to tell the people of Nunavut, please take care of your buildings because one day you will be responsible for those buildings in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk

Member's Statement 689 – 1(6): Happy Birthday to Sister and Happy Halloween

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday and it's Halloween, and I want to wish my sister, Mary, a Happy Birthday. She works at Innirvik as a translator. I also say hello to people at Innirvik.

And also to my daughter, Jenna and Joseph be careful tonight during the Halloween in Pangnirtung. I know that my son won't want to sit idle for too long, and I told my son not to eat all his candy in one sitting.

>> *Laughter*

And also I told the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq not to dress up in something too scary as I know my grandson Kevin might get scared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Netser

Member's Statement 690 – 1(6): Same Sex Marriage Impact

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I want to stand to express my gratitude to our fathers who have since passed on. When I was a young boy I used to visit this older man and what he said to me has affected me up to today.

What he said was, son, some day you will have a family of your own. Today, and what you do today, will have a direct impact on what you do for the future of your children and determine the end of your children.

Mr. Speaker, those words have never left me and Mr. Speaker, what this government does in the next few months on the issue of the same sex marriage that the federal government is imposing on its people will have direct impact on the future of Nunavut and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Members of this Legislative Assembly to make a stand on the proposed same sex marriage legislation that the Federal Government is proposing for its people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statement. Mr. Anawak

Member's Statement 691 – 1(6): Recognition of Three Nunavummiut

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raise today to remember three individuals who were recognized a few days ago. The Governor General recognized three individuals from Nunavut. One of the individuals was Elisapee Ootoova from Pond Inlet. Though I don't know this individual, but I am very proud of her for being an outspoken person. Zacharias Kunuk who put Nunavut on the map. He produced the movie "Atarnarjuat". It seems like he literally, on his own, put Nunavut on the map in France during the film festival. I was quite proud to hear him say thank you in Inuktitut.

Another individual I'd like to recognize, if he didn't start his work here, I'm sure that the Government of Nunavut would have not been established; Tagak Curly, who initiated the Nunavut Land Claims in the beginning.

This process started in the 1970's; to date it has become a reality and we created the Nunavut territory. I would like to extend my appreciation and congratulate him. However, if he did not take part, I'm sure that the Nunavut Land Claims would have been a lot slower. I would like to thank him for that.

I'm glad that he took part in this otherwise we would not have the Nunavut territory today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 692 – 1(6): Happy Halloween and Greetings to Family

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to rise.

I expect my children and grandchildren are watching and I send my greetings. I also send my greetings to my children and grandchildren in Pangnirtung; some are attending Arctic College there.

Our children will be going trick or treating, and even though I am an elder now I have not heard any sounds of footsteps outside to this day from the *Tupilaks*.

To my grandchild who is five years old, my son's daughter, whom I love the most I want her to have a very good time today during Halloween trick or treating and I could even picture her beautiful eyes.

I want her to have a good and safe Halloween tonight and I want my children and all other children to be safe tonight.

Since today is Friday, some Members stated, and it's a fact that yes, we have to take care of our children. It's not just is one community, if there is an incident in the community; it affects all the communities of Nunavut.

When I was growing up I was taught never to touch anything that did not belong to me. That is how I was raised. Today's children are very different. Even if some children misbehave they don't seem to be scared of adults now. They can't be intimidated. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank you colleagues. I would like to advise the people of Nunavut, as the Member when we tell our young people these buildings that are in your community, these will belong to you, and you

have to take care of them, and you have to be responsible for them, and in order to have a good life, please try and live healthier lives, even as adults too, we need to live like that.

Please raise your children accordingly. There are some parents who take care of their children very well and we envy them, and that is what I would like to see.

As a parent, myself, I try to be that way. For that reason, I am urging everyone; I am urging all the parents to advise our children to live properly. That way there will be fewer problems in the community.

When there is an incident in one community, it is felt by all the communities. That concludes my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 693 – 1(6): Better Than Hunter Tootoo

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Since today is Friday, looking at the Hansard, one of the Members made a statement when I was not here and it is not quite true so I would like to clarify it stating that I can't play golf.

I am so good I can even harvest wildlife without a rifle. I can drive my ball very far. Even though his name is Hunter in English, but I am better at him in golf and hunting. And I want to clarify that to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause and Laughter*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 694 – 1(6): Disciplining Children

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Okalik made me lose what I was going to make a statement on, and I agree with him. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Paul Kanayuk for being here, and also he has been a very good Sergeant-at-Arms.

He really misses his grandchild so he is going home today, and I would like to thank his wife, Martha, for being patient and also Paul Kanayuk's grandson and on behalf of all the Members of the Legislature here, we say hello to his grandson.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my appreciation. I would like to thank CBC Radio reporters. They have been reporting quite a bit lately about Rankin Inlet. It seems to be the only community that they are focussed on, and I am grateful to the residents of Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet who phoned me with their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk about children, I just want to remind everyone that small children today who are quite spoiled, we should care for them and we have to at least look at how we raise our children. When we see children overpowering their parents, at times, parents are yelled back at if they discipline their children. When children are disciplined, sometimes other people take the child's side and punish the parents instead.

When a child or students have been disciplined, the parents come in and take the side of the child. Before children become teenagers, it is ideal to set them straight. I believe that taking sides, whether it is to the child or the parent, when you take sides in front of the child, it deteriorates the child's development. It is not good to see young students fighting amongst themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Mr. Speaker. Williams.

Member's Statement 695 – 1(6): Bringing up Our Children

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to remind the public that we often don't go to the community for consultations. As today is Halloween, there were discussions in Cape Dorset, Igloolik, Pond Inlet and Clyde River residents that during our consultations on the Education Act, we heard throughout the whole week that the children are involved in creating crafts for Halloween.

We were told that this is how much that students have gone through and that they should focus more on improving the behaviour of children.

Yesterday, the Member for Tunnunig stated that students have to be disciplined properly and raised questions to the Minister of Education. Today we heard that there was another unfortunate incident in Iqaluit.

If we are more involved in the lives of our children, as we are with Halloween, then we would have better relationships with our children. They would have more of an opportunity to learn life skills with us. When they're dealing with skeletons and graves during this week, we should try to turn that around to mean that we want to be involved in that process in the lives of our children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to say that I was here with my wife and Sharon Takiyok, one of the pages here with us. She will be leaving

today. Sharon Takiyok will be heading back home today, so I want to recognize her. I was glad to be here with her in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 666 – 1(6): RFP Information on Liquor Warehouse

Mr. Tootoo: I beg your pardon Mr. McLean. Happy Halloween. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister some questions on the RFP, the proposals that they received for the RFP. I am just wondering if the Minister has that information to provide it to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do have some information.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: It is nice to see that openness coming from the Government. Hopefully that is something that we will see improve over the next four years. I asked the Minister last week if he could provide the information and he said he would and has the information now and it still has to be dragged out of him. So, could the Minister elaborate on the information that he has please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to provide the information. I do not know what specific information the Member is requesting so if he would be more specific then I can respond to that accordingly. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is like trick-or-treating. Maybe if the Minister, I thought he had a better memory than that because I know he specifically asked some questions last week and he said he would provide that information, who the proponents were, the proposals were received from on that request for proposal that they put out for a liquor warehouse in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were three proposals received. One from Iilligiitut, one from M and T and one from KPN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Minister, as he had indicated last week that it was a Committee from Finance and some other people, Public Works, I believe that did the analysis of those proposals.

Would the Minister be willing to provide to this House, the analysis of those proposals for all Members to see? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, and the reason why, I will explain the Member has said that in his past practise in the private sector, he is aware, he submitted proposals before and the response the Government requests the standard clauses in there for non-disposure as part of all Government requests for proposals in order to protect those individuals for proprietary rights and information that they provide in their proposals and because of that, we will not release that information unless the proponents say it is okay to do so. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

Question 667 – 1(6): Security Concerns for Educational Facilities

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Education.

Mr. Speaker, earlier in the week in the Committee of the Whole, I brought up the issue of security cameras on the outside of our educational facilities and the Minister said she would look into it and I am sure that the Minister of Education and her Officials were as shocked as I was last night to hear about another school fire.

Mr. Speaker, it is a lucky thing that the disaster was not as bad as it could have been and it seems that our schools have been targeted in the last few years by vandals.

Mr. Speaker, yes, we can stand up in this House and say we will talk to our kids, we will talk to our kids, and we will talk to our kids. But at the end of the day, there are a very small percentage of kids that are doing this and not every parent is going to talk to their kids.

In the Yukon, they are experimenting with installing cameras around schools to deter vandalism. When will the Minister overrule her bureaucrats and do something similar to protect our schools in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Education. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already talked to my staff when the Member brought up security cameras, and we will be putting forward a tender to purchase a security camera. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I enjoy working with this Minister because she is always very accommodating when it comes to critical issues in Nunavut. In dealing with issues, she is very good at it, and I commend the Minister for her answer.

It is no secret that there is a new school in Baker Lake that is going to be opened in the next few months. When Sanajit Construction have had the contract for that school, they have been very vigilant, and I must commend them for hiring a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week security person from the start of that project. And that individual, who is a friend of mine, was unemployed until Sanajit got the contract. There has not been one thing done to that new school since the start in August.

Could the Minister commit to telling her officials, or asking her officials to have security cameras put on the outside of that building before the final completion date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 668 – 1(6): Status of Pond Inlet Decentralization

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for decentralization. We saw in the Capital Estimates yesterday for the reduction in decentralization.

For Pond Inlet, which is one of the decentralized communities, what is the status? Is the move to Pond Inlet completed? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry; I do not understand his question. Can he please clarify? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Clarification.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): There are nine staff houses vacant in Pond Inlet. So I am asking the Minister whether the decentralization of those positions is complete for Pond Inlet for the Department of Education and Public Works and Services? Is the move to Pond Inlet complete? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the intended positions to be moved to Pond Inlet are complete. However, the staffing levels are not up-to-date yet. There are still some vacant positions to be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Premier can state whether those positions will be filled. Is there work being done to ensure those positions will be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are competitions going on for those job openings, and if there is training needed we also provide that for new employees. We are actively seeking to fill those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The budget for decentralization for Pond Inlet, those positions might be moved to the other community because there was a deadline for the completion of the decentralization and that there will be no further budgeted items.

Are you going to be caught up before this deadline ends for the decentralization of those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the issue of decentralization was for employees and so all we have to do is to fill positions in Pond Inlet for the day to day operations. We'll still continue for those positions in that community regardless of the deadline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. Williams.

Question 669 – 1(6): Russians Launching a Rocket

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

I will be asking my question in English, as I am not sure about the Inuktitut terminology.

(interpretation ends) The community of Grise Fiord has been concerned about a rocket that is supposed to be orbiting to launch a Japanese satellite. It was supposed to be yesterday but it was delayed. Can the Minister update the community and this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Emergency Measures employees were informed that on October 22 the Russians would be launching a rocket.

It would orbit around our planet and yesterday we were told that the launching of this rocket has now been delayed due to weather problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Speaker. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good update for the community. The Community was concerned about the environmental damage or impact. Can the Minister reassure the community and Nunavut that this is possible or that there is not going to be any environmental impact? That's one question. And why isn't the northern command centre in Yellowknife, why didn't they communicate with Grise Fiord themselves? That's the other question because the community is concerned that they didn't hear it from the Department of National Defence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If those were the concerns, and the lack of communication between Yellowknife and Grise Fiord with DND, I can inform the communities of Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Nanisivik and Pond Inlet.

They were informed and we were also told that the RCMP and Search and Rescue were also informed about the launching of this rocket. We informed the hamlets because it would have had an impact on their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second part to my question was the environmental issue. Can the Minister elaborate on that, please? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that took one of the questions and I apologize. In regards to the launching of this rocket, we were

concerned about the lack of information that was given to us in regards to the launching of the rocket and what kind of impact it will have on the environment.

Since we received the news we were told that there would be no environmental impact, but then again, we have also been told that the equipment that is no longer used will fall back into earth and of course, it would have an environmental impact and I would like to inform the people out there that if they do find some equipment not to touch it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 670 – 1(6): Update on Decentralization

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Decentralization.

We have heard that some of the positions that were going to be moved to Pangnirtung and the Wildlife Division of people do not want to move up to that community. I would like to get a status on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to decentralization, it has had an impact on quite a number of employees. We have been decentralizing for the past three years and it is at the discretion of the staff people whether they want to move to the community or not and if they do not want to move, they can try for positions within the Government or resign from their positions.

We have checked this progress and it is going to be ongoing, but these positions are open to anybody who would like to try for those positions including the local people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I have just heard and I am not sure whether it is a fact or not, but from what I heard, all of the employees do not want to move to Pangnirtung and the Wildlife Division personnel do not want to move either. So my question is how many people declined the move and how are they going to be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are going to be six positions that will be affected and it will be an open competition for the community of Pangnirtung. I am not sure about the numbers for Sustainable Development, but once we get the information, I will give it to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): I am not sure if we are on target with the number of positions here in Iqaluit, but when we are, the Premier, I believe, said the six positions, six employees are not moving up. So my question is, are they going to be filled locally or are they going to be filled from people over here because of course you need to have qualifications and training to fill these positions.

And do you know that they have qualified employees up there but they do have to have specific responsibilities? When you're going recruiting what using or are you going to from Nunavut or are you going to delay filling these position while the candidates are going through training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're just going to keep using the same methods we're using to see if we can fill these positions with Inuit as we place a hiring priority on Inuit. We are continually posting job openings through the media; we will continue to use that as well looking for qualified people. I have no doubt that there will be people who are willing to relocate.

To date we have relocate a little over 400 positions within the government. There are qualified people that have relocated and I am not overly concerned about not being able to fill those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am envious that he is not overly concerned, but it does have an impact on the employees when they are required to move to another community, or either find another job or to resign from their positions.

In regards to the employees who do not want to move, are they given adequate information? Are they told that if they don't want to move, that they would have to look for another position or resign from their positions?

I'll say in English. (interpretation ends) I guess my question would be, in the case of Statistics Nunavut because these are specialized positions and what other jobs if they refuse to move to Pangnirtung?

As well as the wildlife officers who have to be decentralized, have they been told that they don't have a choice and if they choose not to, they either get jobs elsewhere but again these are specialized jobs. What is the mind set of the government that those jobs are filled by the northerners, long time northerners or Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we decentralize positions we are aware of affected employees concern and that's why we introduced a policy, to provide them with the first opportunity to continue on with a job in another community and if they don't want to, then we assist them in finding alternate employment.

We have been fortunate here in Iqaluit for example for there have been lot of vacancies since we have formed as a government. It has given us more flexibility for the employees who are affected.

If they choose not to work for the government then that is their choice. But we try to do our utmost in helping them out. And as soon as we have an announcement, we provide them with all the information and finding out alternatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 671 – 1(6): Policy on Medical Travel Escorts

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask, Mr. Speaker, if there is any Legislation on the parents when the children are going for medical travel. Is there a policy that states that they have to be escorted by their parents?

How old does a child have to be in order to be escorted, well, rather, how old do they have to be when they no longer require an escort? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have said in the House here before, about two years ago, we actually standardized and put in place a new Escort Policy that would be uniform across the Territory.

The Member is correct. There is a Policy in place based on the age of the child and it depends on the individual circumstance of that child.

So, for example, Mr. Speaker, if a child is under the age of 16, the child would be expected to be accompanied by an adult. There are also, Mr. Speaker, rules in place by airlines, for example, when unaccompanied children are on the plane.

So, those types of things play into the granting of an escort for a child who is seeking medical assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When an individual turns 16 years old, then they can travel on their own during medical travel and I understand that reply.

Since there is a policy like that, Mr. Speaker, how about when young women have to travel when they are pregnant and underage for medical purposes, do they have to be escorted also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had instances, for example there, a young person who could have been 14 or 15 who was pregnant, and we also provide an escort for that person.

Again, Mr. Speaker, it is based on the individual circumstances and I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, ninety nine percent of the time, where a person is a child who is 14 or 15, for example, who was having a baby, they would of course, be accompanied by an adult. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A mother had sent correspondence to me as their Member of the Legislative Assembly from my constituency of Taloyoak.

This individual who was supposed to leave to go for medical leave to have a baby wanted to be escorted by her mother and it was the first time that she was going to have a child.

But apparently she was told that the mother was not allowed to escort the young pregnant woman because they said that she was of age. Because it was the first time that she was ever pregnant she really wanted to be with her mother. Would it have been possible to escort a pregnant young lady after the age of 16? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each case as I said before could be looked at independently. For example, Mr. Speaker, if a person who is sixteen was flying from their community and was going to another community to have a baby, for example, if they had a sister or if they had relatives in the other community they may not want an escort.

Mr. Speaker, when the patients requests the escort then we do everything we can to facilitate that through the guidelines and regulations that are in place.

Mr. Speaker, if the person is an adult as definition by law, then there may not be an escort, but again it depends on the extenuating circumstances. I do know Mr. Speaker,

that we have had escorts with young mothers, fourteen to sixteen who were having babies, depending on the unique circumstances.

Some cases, Mr. Speaker, the young mother may be in a jeopardy situation where the pregnancy is at risk, because of that, the medical professional has requested a medical escort.

Sometimes you have an escort based on the emotional state of the young mother as an example. So it depends on the circumstances.

What I would do Mr. Speaker, in the case that the Member is talking about is to find out exactly where the person was originating from and other information and if the Member could make that available to me then I could actually do a Ministerial review of the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister for his response.

Yes, I will provide you with all the information that I have. I tried calling earlier this morning but I hadn't realized that my constituency is two hours behind. I will try to provide you with the information today.

This is a very sensitive case. I know that when an individual is over the age of sixteen, under the individual circumstances I am sure that they could be provided with escorts.

I will provide the Minister with the information today from my constituency. It's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 672 – 1(6): Municipal Training Policy – Search and Rescue

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

In regards to the Minister's Statement regarding the Municipal Training Policy, I would like to be clear on my question on Search and Rescue funding.

It states here on the Municipal Training Policy, and I know that the HTO's are responsible for search and rescue, they search for hunters when they don't return at the time indicated.

Who can we utilize further for search and rescue funding because when there is a lost hunter, the municipality and the HTO work together? Perhaps the Minister responsible for Transportation can explain how this is set up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Minister's Statement I spoke about the departmental policies. Yes, the Municipality can work with an entity as long as it is recognized or designated as an Inuit Association, for example, the HTO's.

I know that the Search and Rescue is under the municipality and they are both registered as a society and they can be provided with funding. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did he reply to me by saying that the designated Hunters and Trappers Organization, if there can be an agreement between the Hunters and Trappers Organization and municipality with certain rescue funding that they could have an agreement between the two so that they could use the funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, just to elaborate further about Search and Rescue, if there was a hunter lost out there and if this was an emergency case, the funding for Search and Rescue, is to the designated Inuit association, and is the recognized Hunters and Trappers Organization who is going to take part and the start up point is community-based Search and Rescue activity up to \$5 thousand dollars based on actual costs, whether it be hamlet council, Search and Rescue, they can obtain the funding and use this funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, although he explained that to me and it is clear to me, does that mean all of the communities are given that information so that they can have a clear understanding?

The Municipal Council is also comprised of elected members from the community and hamlet council members change every time there is a general election. Perhaps you can provide that information to the Municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff have told me, from my Department that this new departmental policies has been communicated back to

the communities and I am going to be open to my Colleagues if they have any further questions and if they wanted to look at our policy, I am open to them. Thank you.

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

Question 673 – 1(6): Replacement of Boarding Home in Yellowknife

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In the Kitikmeot, in Cambridge Bay I know that we are going to get a hospital in that region; we will get a regional hospital there. When the new hospital is being utilized, and I know for sure that Kitikmeot residents will be travelling on medical travel, my question is there is a boarding home in Yellowknife and the boarding home is overcrowded and there is hardly any space and there is no recreational facility for children or for children to play in. When are you going to replace the boarding home in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's question on the boarding home. I had an opportunity to tour the boarding home with him and the Member from Kugluktuk this past summer.

Mr. Speaker, two issues here, one is that with the new facility going in Cambridge Bay, we believe that the number of patients going through Yellowknife will actually decrease.

That's why we need to be able to review actually what the size of the facility is, and what we need to have in that facility in Yellowknife. That's part of the request for proposal that we're putting forward.

Secondly, on the facility for Cambridge Bay, we have allocated money within the Capital Budget to look at the student hostel there and actually have a good boarding home in place in Cambridge Bay for patients from the Member's community who will be staying there.

So that's what we're doing on the boarding home front in those two communities. We need to be able to ascertain how many people will be travelling to Yellowknife, because of the new facility in Cambridge Bay, we're hoping to be able to lower that amount and then we could know what size of facility we'll need.

I know that our executive director in the Kitikmeot, Sharon Iqaluak, has been working vary hard on the processes as well as the issue itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, has there been any consideration given to replacing the boarding home in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we looked at the boarding home a couple of years ago and I believe that it is safe to say that the current boarding home is not conducive to some of the needs that have arisen for the facility, for example, the Member talked about playroom space for children.

If we could extricate ourselves expeditiously in a manner that would allow us to have your return on an investment because the lease that is in place is costing us a lot of money, then we could probably move away from it.

At the same time we have a long term lease on that building and I would have to find the money then to be able to lease a new building or have another building built. I don't have that in the Capital Budget. I'm not sure what size of a facility that we need.

That's why we wanted to be able to look and say do we need a new facility in Yellowknife, or can we find an alternative facility and at the same time how long do we need to continue with that facility.

We have a four year lease, if I try to break that lease it's going to cost us \$3 million should I pay out the lease of \$3 million or should we move forward on another one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister of Health for his response.

It has been a couple of years since we met with Kitikmeot leaders regarding the boarding home and the concerns raised.

You would expect that after the one year since the concerns were raised that we would at least see some new considerations for alternative space for boarding homes.

We do know that we will always send patients to Yellowknife, regardless of the new centre in the region.

Has there been any consideration for a new boarding home in Yellowknife? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since April 1, 1999, I think it's important to point out that this Government, Mr. Speaker, has moved very fast on boarding homes.

We've put a new boarding home in Ottawa, we've put a new boarding home in Winnipeg, we have a new boarding home in Edmonton, we're in the process of actually putting a facility in Cambridge Bay, and, Mr. Speaker, we're moving forward on a plan for Rankin Inlet, at the same time we have a building in Yellowknife.

I'm suggesting to you Mr. Speaker, that I realize there is a situation with the facility in Yellowknife. I understand, Mr. Speaker, there is an issue around the facility in Yellowknife.

We are Mr. Speaker, trying to see what, in the best way logistically, administratively and financially we can move forwards for the patients.

We are going to have a boarding home in Yellowknife and as the Member had pointed out, we need to continue to send patients to that community and we need to have the best facility available.

Right now, it does not seem to be the Lena Pederson Home and that is why I am suggesting to you that we need to look at what we will need, what is the size of that facility is, and the amenities that will be in it, and that is something that hopefully we will be able to do in the New Year.

So, Mr. Speaker, for the benefit for the Member and the Constituents in the Kitikmeot Region, that is something that we are moving on right now and we hope to have that analysis done in the coming weeks so we could actually move on the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the boarding homes that he just listed, in Winnipeg, I also toured that place and it is a beautiful facility and very adequate for patients.

The Kitikmeot also needs this type of space that is adequate for its patients. What year does he expect to make it in the budget and when is he going to start reviewing what type of facility is required in Yellowknife? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister Ng has stated, right now, very eloquently, it is a good question by the Member from Kugaaruk and with the

support of my Cabinet Colleagues and Minister Ng with the rebasing of my budget, I would hopefully be able to move forward.

But in reality, Mr. Speaker, the Capital Budget that we have here in the Legislative Assembly does not include monies for the leasing of the boarding homes because that is flow through money.

However, I had to work with our Federal partner when we put up a facility forward because that is under the NIHB. I do not want to confuse the issue, but I would hope, Mr. Speaker, that sometime very early in the New Year, in the next six to eight weeks, we would be in a position to be requesting an RFP and an analytical review of what the needs are in Yellowknife for either a new facility or to ascertain if there is another building in the community of Yellowknife which we could have to facilitate our patients staying there when necessary.

As I said earlier, the Member is correct, Lena Pederson Home does not seem to be conducive to those needs right now and we need to move forward and we are trying to be as proactive as we can.

So, I want to let the Member rest assured that I would hope that in the next six to eight weeks that we would be able to move forward on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 674 – 1(6): Misdiagnosis at the Nursing Stations

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to forward my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. First of all, those patients who go to see nurses or physicians when they are not feeling well and they are examined as to what ailments or as to the reasons why.

Nurses and doctors, at times, prescribe the wrong diagnoses within Nunavut. How can these nurses and doctors, once they make a diagnosis that is a mistake, how do you treat these people that diagnose patients in the wrong manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in any given day in Nunavut we have hundreds, literally hundreds of people who are being treated in 26 communities, as well as the hospital here in Iqaluit.

When you have that number of patients going through a system, sometimes errors are made; I'm not trying to say that they're not. If the Member is aware of a misdiagnosis, in particular, where something has occurred, then he should make that information available to the Member.

I cannot speak on hypothetical situations that have occurred. I can say that if the diagnosis has been made, if a patient has been damaged by some type of diagnosis, then there are rules and regulations in place.

For example, we have professional associations for nurses; we have the best practise unit in Kugluktuk that investigates those types of issues. So there are mechanisms in place, like in every other jurisdiction.

If the Member has a specific complaint to make, then, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that the Member would make that known to me in writing and then we would be able to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for your response.

There are many problems that Nunavummiut experience and those in my community. You're aware of nurses or doctors that prescribe or diagnose patients improperly.

How do you rectify the situation? Do you remove or terminate their employment? People in Kugluktuk want to hear and probably throughout Nunavut, Inuit and Qallunaaq alike.

They try and not make mistakes but these things happen. I'd like to see, when there are mistakes being made, what is done to rectify those mistakes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand, I think the tact the Member is not trying to give an example of something hypothetical, he's trying to say that when a misdiagnosis occurs, what are the ramifications of that.

Specifically, Mr. Speaker, when we're dealing with medical professionals, they are a regulated body. That means that they have regulations and rules that they have to follow on their professional conduct.

If a conduct unbecoming of that medical professional, including a diagnosis problem for example, that was serious was raised, then we would have the best practises unit that we have in Kugluktuk review and examine that case.

In every case, we bring an independent outside reviewer who would come in and review the case, and ascertain what has occurred. If there was a violation, or a dereliction of duty, then Mr. Speaker, the proper steps would be taken to deal with that issue.

That is the way that it occurs. Not only this jurisdiction but in every other jurisdiction. The same types of regulations and rules on a regulated body like a professional in the

medical field, it's pretty standard throughout the country of Canada, and North America for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize his response being there are professional people who are always analysing that if there is such a situation, that they're the ones who go about rectifying the situation wherever in Nunavut or in Yellowknife.

The public needs to know where they can write to or where they can direct their questions when a situation occurs throughout Nunavut. Is there a place to direct their questions or written documents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis, I wouldn't say on a daily basis, on a regular basis, as Minister of Health and Social Services I receive complaints from across Nunavut from different individuals with regards to the way their health services or social services have been delivered to them.

In those cases Mr. Speaker, every time something is received, for example, in writing in a letter or it could be an email, then it is followed up and investigated. It is reviewed and looked into to find out the veracity of the comments and indeed, what action that may have to be taken.

In this case, if the Member has constituents, for example, or anyone in Nunavut who has issues with the health system, they can write directly to the Minister, they can bring their concerns to the MLA, they can contact the supervisor for each region, for example in the Baffin we have the Pangnirtung office, the Kitikmeot, the Cambridge Bay office.

There is a huge avenue for constituents and Nunavut residents to be able to raise their concerns and complaints with the system. That can either be in Inuktitut or English, they can be raised personally, but the best way to do it would be in writing and documenting what has occurred. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. You didn't quite answer my question. I'll pose it to you again.

You just mentioned that there are bodies within Nunavut; they're the ones that review the situations. If there is a nurse or doctor that misdiagnoses a patient, do we have such a body in Nunavut or Yellowknife so that the public knows so they'll know where to direct their correspondence? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are licensing agencies for any medical professional whether that be the Nunavut and NWT Registered Nursing Association, whether that be the College of Physicians and Surgeons, that the licensed physician is operating under; there are different avenues to make complaints.

In general Mr. Speaker, if someone has a complaint, whether it be a misdiagnoses, whether it be the bedside manner of the attending physician, then the opportunity for the constituent or for that individual is to make the complaint known as soon as possible after the even has occurred and outline what has occurred.

Mr. Speaker, that can be done by phone, that can be done by writing, it can be done by email, it could be forwarded to the Minister's office, they can go to the Best Practises unit in Kugluktuk, or the constituent can contact their MLA who will bring it forward, which happens quite often; they could make a complaint to their mayor, their hamlet, and Mr. Speaker, in every community we have functioning, up and running Health Committees where people could also make their concerns known.

So there are considerable avenues available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Ms. Williams. If the particular Minister is not in the House you can refer your question to the Premier is you wish.

Question 675 – 1(6): Training of the Social Assistance Appeal Board

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was really happy to hear the appointment of the Social Assistance Income Support Appeal Board that was appointed recently.

My question Minister is that, there are about six of them, who will be training them on social assistance programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of the issue of training those appointments at this time. I will convey the same to the appropriate Minister and request that he respond to you. Thank you. I am taking the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The question is taken as notice, so therefore, there will be no further supplementaries. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Ng.

Item 13: Tabled Document**Tabled Document 142 – 1(6): Incremental Cost – Baker Lake Session**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to Table the Incremental Costs Incurred by the Government of Nunavut for the Baker Lake, June 2 to the 6, 2003 sitting of the 6th Sitting of the first Legislative Assembly in the amount of \$28 thousand, 3 hundred 24.44. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kilabuk.

Tabled Document 143 – 1(6): Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report 2002-2003

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to Table the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Annual Report for 2002-2003. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Williams.

Tabled Document 144 – 1(6): Letter from Anglican Church of Canada

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Table a document regarding a document that was written by Andrew Attaguttaaluk; it is in regards to same sex marriage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 145 – (6): Incremental Cost – Baker Lake Session

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have a document to Table. It is on the Report on the Incremental Costs specific to the Sitting of the Legislative Assembly in Baker Lake in June 2003.

Tabled Document 146 – 1(6): Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses of the Members of the Legislative Assembly

The second document, Pursuant to Section 36 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I am tabling the Report on the Payments of Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses of the Members of the Assembly for the Fiscal Year ended in March 21st, 2003.

Correction on that document, it is March 31st. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 12, Bill 33, Bill 37, Bill 41 and Bill 47 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair.

Members, do you wish to continue on with Committee of the Whole and then break for lunch? Gentlemen, I hate to break the bad news but lunch is not here yet so I thought we would continue until it arrives.

We will break for lunch.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:57 and resumed at 13:05*

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

Chairman (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): In Committee of the Whole we will be dealing with Bill 12, Bill 33, Bill 37, Bill 41 and Bill 43. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, the Committee would like to begin with the Bill 33. And if we have time, we'll review Bill 37 and if time permits Bill 43. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 43 amends the *Nunavut Income Tax Act* so that the thresholds in our Act remain consistent with those in the federal *Income Tax Act*.

Maintaining consistency with the thresholds in the federal Act will mean that there is a reduction of the effective tax rates for Nunavut taxpayers. This will help streamline the personal income tax system, making it easier for taxpayers to understand.

We expect the foregone revenues will be relatively small, in the range of about \$300 thousand, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to answering any question the Members may have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. Chairs Opening Comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hoped you enjoyed your lunch. The Standing Committee on the Government Operations and Services is pleased to have an opportunity to review the Bill 43, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act.

Mr. Chairman, the Members may recall that Standing Committee previously supported the initiative to reduce the Income Tax, the Income Tax burden on our constituents.

The Committee also expressed the support for measures to reduce the corporate income tax in order to attract businesses to relocate to Nunavut in order to provide an incentive for them to allocate a portion of their income for this jurisdiction.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has also repeatedly stressed the need for the government to actively track and evaluate the actual success that these measures have had in achieving their policy objectives or stimulating economic growth and job creation.

I look very much forward to progress in this area. During the Ministers appearance before the Standing Committee, Members thought and were pleased to receive assurances that the measures contained in the Bill 43 would not have significant impact on the revenues that Nunavut receives under the Formula Financing Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments; the Committee recommends passage of Bill 43 to all members.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng, you can go down to the witness table and bring your officials.

Sergeant-At-Arms, if you can escort them.

Thank you, Minister; can you introduce your officials, please as I have never seen them before. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. On my right I have David Akeeagok, Assistant Deputy-Minister and to my left is Mr. Geoff Hughes, Director for Fiscal Policy, with the Director of Finance.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. According to our rules and procedures, 75 (1), you have 10 minutes for General Comments and you will be allowed ten more minutes for questions. At this time we are on General Comments. You have a 10 minute time limit. If there are no General Comments, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple, very quick General Questions to be made; I know that the Minister, as I had indicated in my Opening Comments, I just want to have stated for the record, the impact in estimated tax reductions for Nunavummiut that is expected as a result of these changes.

I am just wondering if the Minister has that information and also, if he could provide it, as I had indicated in my Opening Comments, the impact on our revenues through the formula financing agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had indicated in my Opening Comments in respect to forgo revenues for more money into Nunavut taxpayers hands of approximately \$300 thousand dollars.

We expect that the impact on our formula financing agreement will be about 20 percent of that, so, 60 percent or sorry \$60 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 43. An Act to Amend the Nunavut Income Tax Act, I was wondering if how and what kind of impact it will have on the Inuit who are on the workforce, who are in employment. If the Minister is willing to clarify that again for me, I would really appreciate it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess that these firm measures were taken there will be about approximately \$300 thousand dollars that will not be paid in taxes by Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going, Mr. Chairman, I am going back to my Opening Comments. Does the Government have a plan to track this information and the impact of these changes that we have made as to the Income Tax Act, as I had indicated in my Opening Comments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do, but that information is provided through the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and there is always a time lag between the time they implement tax measures and the impact of those measures and to the reporting of those measures. It is usually a two-year delay.

As Members may recall, 2002 was the year that the first initial measures of reductions took place. So, we expect sometime next year that some of those indicators will be coming back through reports through the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you have any further comments or General Comments? At this time, I have no more names on my list. Bill 43. An Act to Amend the Nunavut Income Tax Act. We will go on to the Bill. Do you want to go clause-by-clause now?

Bill 43. An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree to Bill 43 as a whole? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that Bill 43 is now ready for Third Reading? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng, thank you, for appearing before the Committee. It did not take too long to complete it. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we are dealing with Bill 37 next as I may go into my Opening Comments on that. Mr. Chairman, thank you. Bill 37. An Act to Amend the Nunavut Liquor Act of further implemented recommendations that the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board made in the fall of 2001 on the liquor system in Nunavut.

This Bill is part 2 of a three phase approach to make improvements in this system. It is the intent of the Department of Finance to introduce an entirely new Nunavut Liquor Act during the next Assembly.

Mr. Chairman, this Bill complements the efforts of the Department of Health and Social Services by requiring liquor license holders to comply with the Tobacco Control Act, which is also before the Assembly for debate right after this.

The Act also supports the municipalities in their efforts to reduce tobacco consumption by requiring all liquor license holders, whether they're private clubs or open to the public to adhere through municipal smoking bylaws.

To ensure license holders comply with the Tobacco Control Act and municipal smoking bylaws, the Act makes mandatory 30 day and 13 month license suspensions and license cancellations for subsequent offences of license holders for contravening the Tobacco Control License conditions of this Act.

The Bill also makes mandatory 30 day and 13 month license suspension and license cancellations for subsequent offences of license holders who supply liquor to a person

under the age of 19, who supplies liquor to a person who is banned from having liquor by the courts and for serving liquor to intoxicated persons.

Mr. Chairman, in line with the government's commitment to community empowerment, this Bill allows the council by resolution, to declare a community a prohibited area for a period of up to 14 days during special occasions.

During this period, no one in the community may possess, purchase, sell or transport in the prohibited area. The Bill permits the council to make up three resolutions in a year. Mr. Chairman, to control bootlegging, the Bill establishes new minimum and maximum fines for individuals and corporations who sell liquor to minors, who sell liquor unlawfully and who sell liquor to a person who is prohibited by the courts from possessing liquor.

The fines for an individual will range from a minimum of \$5 thousand dollars to a maximum of \$10 thousand dollars. For corporations, the fines range from a minimum of \$10 thousand dollars to a maximum of \$50 thousand dollars.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to answering the questions you may have on this Bill. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I'm sorry if I had the number wrong. I probably said 33 when in fact it's Bill 43. Please fix that in the Hansard.

We are now dealing with Bill 37. Does the committee chair have comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're a very smiley man today. It's good to see.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has had the opportunity to review Bill 37, an Act to amend the Liquor Act. Mr. Chairman, the issue of access to alcohol in our communities is not one that engenders easy consensus.

As Members know, there are competing perspectives on the appropriate way to balance the desire on the part of some people to allow more liberal access to alcohol and the desire of others to restrict the access of alcohol.

The fact that several Nunavut communities will be voting next month in plebiscites, illustrates the active and ongoing debate in our communities on this issue. Mr. Chairman, Members will recall that in 2001, the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board presented a report to the Minister Responsible for the Liquor Act.

It contained recommendations that were in some cases, very contentious. The Committee itself could not reach a consensus on what position to take on a number of these.

However, the committee has been of the view that the time is not right for fundamental change to be imposed from above on the broader issues surrounding access to alcohol.

The committee was pleased to see the Minister introduce a Bill that addresses issues where a degree of consensus exists. Members agreed with the idea of permitting elected municipal councils to be able to declare their communities to be a prohibited area for certain periods of time without having to seek ministerial approval.

Members would encourage Councils seeking to make such declarations to do in an open manner.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of bootlegging is one where Members stand united in wishing to see action taken. Members were pleased to see that the penalties under this Act increase for bootlegging and other offences.

Mr. Chairman, it should be pointed out that criminal sanctions are often a blunt instrument in addressing problems of a social nature. I would stress that the Members wish to see the toughened penalties provided for in this Bill to be targeted to those individuals who engage in illegal sale of alcohol for profit.

Mr. Chairman, the next Legislative Assembly and Government may very well wish to undertake a comprehensive review of the Liquor Act, or that the Committee would note that in order for informed decisions to be taken, there is a critical need for much better information on which to base on, than is presently available.

For example, the Committee has discovered that very little baseline data exists in a readily accessible manner on such questions as how many prosecutions under the Liquor Act has been undertaken in the past few years?

It is also difficult to evaluate the impact of such measure that have been undertaken to date such as the Government of Nunavut's 2001 announcement regarding reduction in Liquor Import Permit fees.

Mr. Chairman, it is the Committee's understanding that the Nunavut Liquor Commission would be repatriated to Nunavut in 2004. A number of open questions remain including where the Commission's Office and staff will be located.

Nonetheless, it will be important for the Commission to bring the work of compiling the information necessary to allow future members of this House the opportunities to fully consider the choices before them, in terms of the law governing access to alcohol.

There are legitimate, but competing points of view on all sides of this issue, and solid information will assist in making sound choices.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my Opening Comments. The Committee recommends the passage of Bill 37, to all Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We will now move onto General Comments. I will allow ten minutes according to the rules. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have dealt with this for some time now as the Member of the Committee, and our Chair stated, that we could not come to a consensus on some issue regarding alcohol. There were also some conflicting issues within the Bill, and it was really hard to separate the social impact of alcohol, and the accessibility of alcohol.

And so alcoholism causes a lot of problem with families, and I have never heard of it not being a problem. And so if this Act to Amend the Liquor Act is passed, it will not impact on the social side of alcoholism, and so there are higher penalties for illegal conduct.

We also heard that if the penalties, from \$5 thousand to \$10 thousand fines, the Minister said that they are not high enough. Those bootleggers do not have a shortage of money, and because of that I think that \$5 thousand is probably a little pocket change for them.

So, Mr. Chairman, I felt that I had to voice my concerns regarding my communities. In representing their views, I was told by quite a few people that alcohol causes problems and that is all it does and so because we have to regulate it, because we can never get rid of alcohol, we need to ensure there is support for people with drinking problems.

We should also encourage pregnant women not to drink to avoid the fetal alcohol syndrome. I think the numbers are rising for children with FAS and I felt I had to say these statements on behalf of myself, members for the communities and we have to come up with legislation that benefits our residents.

Alcohol does impact a lot of people. People drink to try and have fun, but it also causes a lot of problems at the same time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity and I'd also like to say that the Standing Committee worked very hard on this issue and at times we had to agree to disagree.

I just wanted to state the hard work the Committee put into it, and I thank the Minister for his diligence in this matter in trying to answer the needs of Nunavummiut. This bill is not new to us; it's just an act to amend the act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Please be careful with your statements that the committee already made opening remarks. You have to stay away from speaking for the Committee and as a separate individual member.

You can speak as much as you want as an individual member. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a few comments in this regard.

It was good to hear the Minister's comments in terms of the Liquor Act. As I mentioned, November 10th, Kugluktuk will be having a plebiscite. I was happy to hear your comments on the issue of bootlegging.

People often go to the bootleggers to purchase liquor and it is very expensive. There are many. I have known of a few and heard of incidents like this in Kugluktuk and elsewhere. It is getting very expensive. They are caught and go through the courts to hear fines of 5 thousand dollars to 10 thousand dollars.

Maybe this might help. The sale of liquor might not be as high. If people take alcohol, it is alright if there are no problems. If it causes problems, then it affects the family and the children in a detrimental way, and I have seen this.

Those people, as you mentioned, those that go into the bars already intoxicated, if they are not looked after, those people that supply the drinks in the bars, if they are reprimanded through the courts, how will they know whether that person is intoxicated or not?

In those cases, as I am aware of some cases, I've heard, because I have often talked to people who are walking or out in the public, he mentioned I was not intoxicated, as you can see, but I was unable to buy any more drinks; I was asked to leave.

How will the supervisors or those people in those liquor outlets know whether or not a person is intoxicated or not? I would like to know for the future as to how this was, will be dealt with. These are my few comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I have no other names on my list. Any other comments? You have 10-minutes for General Comments. I apologize, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Well, I do not have much else to add, but I will be asking questions before we go any further. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Anything else? Any other General Comments? General Comments. I think we can then now move on since I do not have any more names on my list. Bill 37. An Act to Amend the Liquor Act. Questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. In the Opening Comments, we heard that there are going to be plebiscites held in some of the Nunavut communities. Could we have an explanation of what the plebiscite is going to be about?

There are some communities that are prohibited, there are some controlled communities and then there is free access for some of the communities. What is the plebiscite going to be held on? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I said in my Ministers' Statement earlier in the Assembly about Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet and Resolute Bay. It is not really relative to the Liquor Act amendments that we have here, but perhaps the Member can review that Statement that was distributed earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the \$5-10 thousand dollar fine and the \$10-50 thousand dollar maximum, those are going to be fines for selling liquor illegally. How are the fines going to be received because there has to be somebody who has to receive the money; there has to be an individual who will be collecting the fines. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fines will be imposed not by the Department of Finance, and the revenues, depending on the circumstances, through the judiciary process, normally is what would happen where the penalties would be settled if the individual's convicted, individuals or corporation were convicted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): If this bill goes through, if Bill 37 is passed, are you going to be getting additional employees who will be the ones to oversee the fines?

Because I think that if you don't increase the number of employees, there is going to be no change to the number of bootleggers and illegal sale of liquor. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are various individuals with the powers under the Liquor Act, there's liquor inspectors, if they see infractions, they can lay charges and those charges are heard in court and if individuals or corporations are convicted as a result of that, this legislation lays out what parameters there are for fines.

That's what this is increasing is the ability of the court to impose fines, minimal amounts, maximum amounts. It still is up to the courts to decide that. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. What about those who sell liquor without a license, what will happen to them? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be the same thing. It will be up to the courts and the judges to decide to impose punishment if convicted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the illegal sale of liquor, are they going to be getting stiffer fines or is it going to be dealt with in the way they're dealt with at this point. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is to allow for increased penalties for infractions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): There are people who have the authority to deal with bootleggers and so on. What are we going to do decrease the number of bootleggers and the illegal sale of liquor? What are we going to do to better the situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, there are probably more substantive measures that would have to be looked at in the Liquor Act that the next Assembly, the next government would have to deal with Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your opening comments, on paragraph 4, you talked about serving liquor to intoxicated persons, as you know I made a comment about some individuals that go out to the bar and are kicked out by the bartender or whoever because they're intoxicated.

I'm just wondering what you mean by an intoxicated person. From what I see, yes, they are very drunk. I said earlier in my comments, some people have maybe one or two glasses of alcohol in that bar and so the bar tender says you're pretty drunk now, so I'm going to kick you out.

But, still this individual says I'm not drunk. But I'm just saying, in some cases that happens too. I wonder who decides to say Hunter is too drunk, you have to go, so those types of things.

Hunter could say to me, no, I'm not. I'm just trying to make a statement here for what I've heard on the streets, but anyway I am just trying to point out, you know, sorry, hunters, I will use as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is up to the employees of the licensing facility. So, ultimately they will be the ones and the license holders will be the ones who will be charged for any potential over serving of alcohol products.

But having said that, I mean, obviously there is some, some parity, I guess, for interpretation and subjective review, I guess, that each individual would have to have and that is up to, really, the establishment to deal with their criteria and what they feel is appropriate or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Haviyak: Yes, I guess I will save it for the question or something like that, where you draw the lines between the two, drunk and very drunk. But anyway, I just, you were saying, it goes case by case, I guess, depending on what the situation is.

Now, about bootlegging, in there, I just want to make a comment, maybe you could make comments after I say this. It is about bootlegging. You know, these bootleggers make some dollars and they make quite a bit and they put some money away and once they look at this here and they say, oh, it is only \$5 thousand dollar fine, minimum. So, I put \$5 thousand dollar fine if I am going to go to court, I might as well continue bootlegging.

I am just trying to say, I guess, by saying maybe if we make it more, I do not know if it would be a bit more harsh by bringing, getting them to jail instead of having to fine them.

I am just trying to find ways, how we can make it more harsh, you know, that I am not trying to say that every person do this, but some, if I make enough money in one year that is more than \$5 thousand dollars and I will continue to bootleg.

Maybe there is a way to fix that; I am sure to get the individuals, fining them on the first case, even bring them to jail for a few weeks or something. It may be there is a comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, you know, we have put in what we think is reasonable to start, but having said that, I mean, I get anything else, I am in over the course of after implementation, we have to review to see if it is working or not or if we felt that it was too high or too low and then obviously make adjustments based on that review of the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for Members' assurances that I was not really paid off. Does not matter what they have told you. There were no cons in jails, innocent, too, eh?

Mr. Chairman, the Minister touched briefly on the topic that I wanted to raise and I know throughout some of the Committee's deliberation under the Bill, there were some concerns that the maximum and minimum fines, someone said that they were not high enough.

There were other views, that's why we have mandatory minimum fines because of the circumstances, like, who knows what could happen for something that could be a very minor offence and yet, you know, someone could end up now getting, having, because of the mandatory minimum fine of \$5 thousand dollars, for example, that they get binged for \$5 thousand dollars, even though it could have been a, you know, there is so many different circumstances that can happen out there on that.

I am just wondering, and I know that we have discussed with the Minister in the Committees, but I would like to ask him, as he has indicated, to review these things, and that they would determine over time, I guess, in an annual basis, to review them and say yes, we are happy with them because they were fine, or no we are going to change this because of, for whatever reason, or lower it, or reduce the minimum, or increase the maximum.

Whatever, if you can commit that they would look at doing on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Opening Comments, on the last paragraph, it talks about controlling bootlegging. How can we find out if an individual is selling alcohol, by bootlegging? How could we find out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The law enforcement officials with that matter, Mr. Chairman. Obviously in our communities, there is general knowledge of who is in that type of illegal profession, or occupation, or trade, whatever you want to call it, but it is an issue of getting people to come forward. Or having an individual who has evidence obtained

against him, I know that they lay charges by the local RCMP's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was thinking, I know that they are bootlegging, for example, I will use myself if I try to bootleg, and if I am very secretive about it, I would never be caught.

If there was an inspector in the community at the local level than they could look around for bootleggers. So I was quite a little bit taken aback. I am not in support of bootlegging but the bootleggers, they sell their alcohol very secretly.

So therefore, I think that we need to strengthen this a little bit more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inspectors are more for licensed facilities and the RCMP is responsible for infractions by individuals for illegal sales. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I am not a member of the Alcohol Committee and I am one of the people... I am not a member of the Committee that deals with this Liquor Act, that is why I do not know anything about this Bill.

As an individual person, or as a person from the outside and when you are not a lawyer, so therefore, you do not really understand the intent of the Bill. If I, no matter where I am, if I had drugs in my possession, then I could be arrested on the plane. Or if I was the carrier, I could be arrested.

Bootleggers who sell alcohol, could I be charged if I had a possession of alcohol if they know that I am going to bootleg it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You could be charged for illegal possession, depending on the circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes, I am sure that it might mean the written content in English is very meaningful, but the translation in Inuktitut does not make it very clear. If

I'm staggering around and holding on to a bottle of alcohol, how would that be considered? I was wondering if you could clarify that for me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: That's part of the Liquor Act but not the amendment that we're dealing with Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. According to my understanding if you can respond to the question, if an individual is selling alcohol, the buyer or the seller, if they're caught, who would be charged for bootlegging, the buyer or the seller? Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The offender, the seller, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Would you like to go clause by clause now? Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act. Are you on that page now? I'm sure you have it in front of you. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that the Bill is ready for third reading? Do you agree that Bill 37 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Bill 37 is completed. Thank you, Minister Ng for appearing before the Committee.

What is the wish of the Committee?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're still smiling. Two o'clock on a Friday. I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I must be quite smiley today, everybody is noticing me smile today. Mr. Speaker, there is a motion on the floor to report progress. Do you agree? Opposed. Carried. Mr. Speaker, you may come in now.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 43 and Bill 37 and would like to report that Bill 43 and Bill 37 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee as a whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Alakannuark seconds the motion. Motion is in order. All those in favor? All those opposed? Motion carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 37 - An Act to Amend the Nunavut Liquor Act – Third Reading

Bill 43 - An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 37 an Act to Amend the Nunavut Liquor Act and Bill 43 an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favor? All those opposed? The motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reminder of the meeting of the Standing Committee Ajauqiit at half past two in the Nanuq Room. The meeting of the Standing Committee for Sustainable Development tomorrow at 10:00 o'clock in the Nanuq Room.

The meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on Monday morning at 10 o'clock in Tuktu.

Orders for the Day for Monday, November 3rd, 2003:

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
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 40
 - Bill 41
20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Once again to remind all the motorists to watch out for children tonight who are trick or treating. This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 3rd, 2003 at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House adjourned at 13:59

