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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker Hon. Kevin O'Brien (Arviat)

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Ovide Alakannuark (Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq (Amittuq) Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

> Uriash Puqiqnak (Nattilik) Deputy Speaker

Glenn McLean (Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng

(Cambridge Bay) Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Government House Leader

Hon. Peter Kattuk (Hudson Bay) Minister of Public Works and Services Hon. Ed Picco (Iqaluit East) Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation; Minister of Energy, Minister of Homelessness and Immigration

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

> Donald Havioyak (Kugluktuk)

> > Patterk Netser (Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung) Minister of Community Government & Transportation; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

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Law Clerk Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms Jayco Ishulutak Hansard Production Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0 Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266 Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Jack Anawak (Rankin Inlet North)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin) Minister of Sustainable Development

> Jobie Nutarak (Tunnuniq)

David Iqaqrialu

(Uqqummiut) Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

> Rebekah Williams (Quttiktuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut Tuesday November 4, 2003

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, 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, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to call on Ms. Williams to say the prayer this afternoon.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Good afternoon. Mr. Premier, Members. It's nice to see all nineteen Members here and the other Members back from their voyage on the land. Welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 218 – 1(6): Federal Child Disability Benefit

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of you will recall that the Federal Budget announcement made in February 2003, proposed to add a separate supplement called the *Child Disability Benefit* to the Canada Child Tax Credit.

The Government of Canada introduced this benefit to help children with severe and prolonged disabilities living in low and modest income families.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the first payment of this benefit will be issued in March 2004 and will be retroactive to July 2003. This tax free benefit will provide an additional \$1 thousand, 600 dollars per year to families who meet the eligibility criteria established by the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the special needs of low and moderate income families with disabled children in Nunavut, I am pleased to announce that my department has received approval to exclude these benefits from the assessment of income support.

>>Applause

This means that the Child Disability Benefit will not result in a reduction in social assistance payment for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, a directive will be issued shortly to all Income Support Workers advising them how to treat these benefits under the Income Support Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 219 – 1(6): Nunavut Economic Development Strategy

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, and my constituents of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. As Members are aware, I, along with NTI released the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy to the public on September 23, 2003. It represents that fulfillment of a major commitment of the *Bathurst Mandate*.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is the first Economic Development Strategy produced by Nunavummiut for Nunavut and as such is a landmark document. Members will recall that Cabinet met in Naujaat just over two years ago to discuss the Nunavut economy, its prospects and the development of an economic development strategy for Nunavut.

(interpretation) As a result the *Naujaat Challenge* was prepared and initiated a process of consultation. Last fall we agreed to a proposal to complete the Strategy in collaboration with over twenty organizations from Nunavut. In March of this year we held a major conference in Rankin Inlet on the Strategy, the Sivumut II conference.

(Interpretation ends) It includes a practical approach to implementing this Strategy and to continuing the collaboration with the private sector, other levels of government and the Inuit organizations.

Mr. Speaker, the strategy has stimulated a great deal of interest in our plans to economic development, especially from the Federal Government. Last week I met with the Federal Minister of Finance, John Manley, and with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Robert Nault, both Ministers pledged their support for the implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. Minister Nault has already agreed to cost share a small secretariat to coordinate implementation of the Strategy and further discussions are scheduled next month on priority economic development projects that his Department will support in this fiscal year.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic about our economic future, and about our ability to capture the benefits of economic growth for all of Nunavummiut by following the ambitious plan laid out in this Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 220 – 1(6): Inungi Sapujiijiit Task Force Report

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and thank the Inungi Sapujiijiit Taskforce on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that later today I will be recognizing them in the gallery. There are a few behind Mr. Tootoo and Mr. McLean.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to show our gratitude for their work in representing Nunavummiut and their recommendations on suicide prevention and community healing.

The priorities highlighted in the report *Our Words Must Come Back to Us*, is the delivery of a culturally relevant wellness programming.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling their report *Our Words Must Come Back to Us* completed by the Inungi Sapujiijiit Task Force. I invite the Members of the Legislative Assembly to take the time to read what Nunavummiut are saying about suicide prevention and to hear the call for the development of our healthy communities. Following the session today Mr. Speaker, I invite all the MLAs to join with me and meeting our task force in the foyer where we will have some light refreshments available.

Mr. Speaker, again, I extend my sincere appreciation to the Task Force's very important work on this very difficult issue and I assure Nunavummiut that this report will be the foundation for a comprehensive action plan against the unacceptable and heartbreaking suicide rate we see here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 221 – 1(6): The Nunavut Literary Award

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth it is my pleasure to announce the launching of the Nunavut Literary Award. This is a new initiative to encourage the writing and publishing of new Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun literature.

While Inuktitut is the majority language in Nunavut, very few books in our language have been published for adult readers. I know that there are many Nunavummiut out there who are excellent writers and who have stories and ideas that really need to be written down and shared with the rest of us. But, up until now, it has been difficult for these people to get their work published.

I invite all of those people to send their stories, legends that have been passed down, poems or any other writing they have. I will be appointing a panel of judges to read through the entries and select two winners. The first prize is worth \$6 thousand, and second prize \$4 thousand.

Mr. Speaker, all entries should be sent to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth by December 31, 2003. As Minister, I will be handing out the awards during Inuktitut Uqauttin Week in February.

Later today, I will be tabling the guidelines for the Literary Award. They are also available on the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 222 – 1(6): Tabling of NPC March 31, 2003 Annual Report

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce that later today I will table the Nunavut Power Corporation March 31, 2003 Annual Report.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct pleasure to report that although NPC has followed through on it's commitment to provide safe, reliable and efficient power to Nunavummiut, with 2003 rates based on a 1997/1998 cost of service study, NPC's 2003 operating deficit has come in at \$7.9 million, not the \$13 million that we originally anticipated.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed good news. Good news for the Corporation and good news for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, in short, costs such as capital, labour, and most importantly oil have consistently increased since 1997, without matching these costs with any increase in revenue.

Mr. Speaker, improved financial reporting and management are supporting the development of a General Rate Application for fuel and electricity pricing, which will be completed this spring. Members should be assured that any rate proposal, for the next government's assessment, would require full disclosure of NPC's financial information and will also involve public hearings that will be transparent.

Mr. Speaker, much has been done to strengthen NPC's financial accountability, financial capacity and financial management systems since the Auditor General completed NPC's 2003 year end audit and has it been put in place.

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NPC's management team has been substantially altered with new appointments including a Chief Operating Officer, Director of Human Resources, and Director of Operations. In addition, the financial management of the corporation has been bolstered with the recent hiring of three accounting managers. These three accounting managers have already implemented innovative solutions to improve billing, accounts payable, budgeting and financial reporting of the Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Board of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the parent of NPC, has also taken measures to improve financial accountability. Board committees for audits, budget and finance, human resources and compensation were recently established with the view that committee recommendations approved by the Qulliq Energy Corporation Directors will be imposed on NPC.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of the Minister of Finance and our Premier in establishing the Crown Agency Council within the Department of Finance to ensure that appropriate accountability mechanisms are established for all crown corporations and their subsidiaries.

Mr. Speaker, as the Members of the Nunavut Legislature articulated several principles for the future in our *Bathurst Mandate*, we have tried to bring this forward with the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, one of these principles of shared importance is the principle of self reliance. Since the creation of NPC a short two years ago this has become our NPC. This is our power corporation and as self reliant people we must ensure that this important Nunavut organization remains uniquely reflective of the people of Nunavut.

In closing, I would like to confirm that I remain committed to supporting a holistic approach to the future vision of NPC. A vision that respects not only financial realities but also supports progressive environmental, cultural and human resources practices. Mr. Speaker, this is a difficult task and one that requires the skills, wisdom and expertise of each and everyone in this room today. But, it has been said it is part of Inuit traditional wisdom form the time the first Inuksuk was built, through teamwork and cooperation, that as good as our individual efforts may be, together we can do even greater things. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with all Members in support of the future of NPC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? If not we'll move on. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 708 – 1(6): Federal Government Consideration on Same Sex Marriage

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll speak very briefly about the issue that we've dealt with a number of times.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to express my concerns regarding the issue of same sex marriage that the federal government is considering.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents are strongly opposed to the idea of same sex marriage and they continue to tell me that this is not an Inuit practice.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier continues to tell us that he will wait to see the outcome of the Supreme Court's decision on the same sex marriage, but until then, we will not do anything about it.

Mr. Speaker, I realize that we as the Government cannot do anything about the federal legislation; however, Mr. Speaker, we as the Government should be able to lobby against the issue that we oppose, just like we did with the Gun Control and other issues that affect the Inuit way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to see all Members of this House support each other and lobby the Federal Government on the issue that we strongly oppose. Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that while same sex marriage is not supported in Nunavut, this issue should not effect our deliberation on Human Rights, as they apply to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 709 – 1(6): Igloolikmiut Concern on Old Community Hall

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to send my regards to the people in my riding. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Igloolik. We all know that there are many people who go up to Igloolik and quite a number of the Ministers go up to Igloolik, and Mr. Anawak, Mr. Ng knows, and Manitok knows, and Mr. Kilabuk knows.

Igloolik has a major concern regarding the small size of the Community Hall that they have. I do not know how many times that I have repeated in the House, but that community hall is a major concern of the people of Igloolik.

I tabled a petition with 300 signatures on it. In Nunavut, if the Fire Marshall's Office was doing its job that community hall would have been condemned today. It would be like comparing them to the Liquor Inspector, who can close down an establishment if they are going over their limit.

If the Fire Inspector was doing his job properly, I am sure that they would have closed that complex today. It is still open, and it is still being used, and they are not putting a limit on the number of people who are using that facility at the same time.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would like support from the Government to set aside money to be used to build a new complex. This is one issue that the people of Igloolik feel is a priority. It's a little scary when I was having meetings with the people of Igloolik when it comes to that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 710 – 1(6): Athletes of Nunavut in Need of Facilities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards to the people of Taloyoak, and Gjoa Haven, as well as my daughter. I am going to be going home very shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our athletes in Nunavut who are participating more and more in competitive sports outside of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it is good to see our youth involved in games around Canada and in other countries such as Greenland. Our athletes are getting more medals in areas such as speed skating, wrestling, Inuit games and hockey.

Mr. Speaker, our youth's biggest role model today is Jordin Tootoo. Mr. Speaker, last March, Team Nunavut represented our Territory at the Canada Winter Games for the first time.

Two athletic teams competed in short-track speed skating and badminton and Mr. Speaker, five of our athletes were able to set personal best times at these games, which is quite an accomplishment.

Mr. Speaker, our athletes have so much potential and they need this and it gives them joy; it keeps them busy, and it makes them feel good about themselves. This, Mr. Speaker, can also be a big help in the prevention of suicide for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, this is for their good, and we need the infrastructure in smaller communities so all youth can participate and get involved in sports. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Colleagues. We would like to see our youth, all youth participate and get involved in sports. If we do not have gymnasiums, arenas and community halls, where will our athletes practise and get in shape for these games? How will other athletes improve their skills and dreams of going to these kinds of games?

Mr. Speaker, if communities are offered assistance for infrastructure from outside agencies, we should accept them with open arms. Otherwise, if the Government does not have the adequate funding for these buildings, our athletes and future athletes will suffer.

We should provide them with full support, adequate facilities and places to practise so they can get involved in athletic competitions in Canada and with the rest of the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 711 – 1(6): Nunavut Government in the Last Four Years

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my appreciation to the people of Clyde River and the people of Qikiqtarjuaq and the people of Nunavut. I would like to thank them very much.

Mr. Speaker, it has been four years since we became the Government of Nunavut. In those four years, Mr. Speaker, we have accomplished quite a bit and it's visible now that some of things that we need for the people of Nunavut are starting to appear.

But Mr. Speaker, looking at our future, we have to be able to have some time for the young people as a government and we have to plan for them. There are many things that we can plan for the young people and they have not been accomplished to date.

Mr. Speaker, as the people of Nunavut, we wanted to get our own land to be able to see things that we want done here in Nunavut and for the people of Nunavut. What we have expected is now here.

We have the opportunity to do things that we wanted to do but we have not provided much for the people of Nunavut and we have not improved the government system to date.

We have to be able to provide some assistance to the people of Nunavut and we should be working towards meeting the needs of the people of Nunavut. We would like to welcome all people that are non-Nunavummiut to our land and to be able to provide them with their needs as well.

Mr. Speaker, we can do it. We can accomplish this. Today we have legislation. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what are the visions of Nunavummiut?

As the people of Nunavut, what do we need and what do we want to accomplish? What is in our hearts as people of Nunavut? We want to be able to accomplish what comes right from our hearts for the people of Nunavut.

We don't want to just rubber stamp legislation that is not relevant to the people of Nunavut and we have to make changes to those things that we don't like. Mr. Speaker, I know that the people of Nunavut need assistance from the Members of the Legislature.

I am very serious Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut need to have their needs met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 712 – 1(6): People Opposed to the Human Rights Act

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are starting to deal with Bill 12, the Human Right's Act and we have heard from the people of Nunavut out there that there is opposition to that legislation.

It is called the Human Rights Act. It deals with the rights of the people. When I was growing up, I grew up with the elders and they were in support of human rights at all times.

Some people think that there is no such thing as same sex marriages and things of that nature but they're out there. There are many people out there who are of the same sex who are with each other.

I am not opposing the legislation in general. We have to treat all humans the same. I am not like that.

But, years ago we were told by our parents and our ancestors that we have to be able to treat everybody the same, and there are those that are transsexuals and transgendered and we have to except that.

When the non-native people first came to our land, we started seeing different races. They are going to be here all the time and we have to be able to understand that the church and the Government are separate.

We as a Government treat everybody the same and we will have the opportunity to talk about this a little bit more when we deal with the Human Rights Act and Mr. Speaker, and I will elaborate a little more on that when we discuss the Human Rights Act. I am in support of promoting equality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 713 – 1(6): Nunasi Corporation

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to speak about an important partner who has been working for more than twenty five years to help develop and secure the economic future of Nunavut.

Long before us, this Corporation was hard at work ensuring that Nunavut could take its rightful place in the Canadian world of business. Of course, Mr. Speaker, I am speaking about Nunasi Corporation.

Nunasi is a birthright Development Corporation fully owned by the Inuit of Nunavut. It was formed in 1976 by the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and they are to be commended for the work they have done since then on behalf of their shareholders.

The Board of Directors and staff have dedicated themselves to furthering economic training and employment opportunities for their Inuit beneficiaries.

We all know from our own experience here that finding a winning balance between economic development and respecting the cultural, environmental and social wellbeing of our Territory and its people can be difficult.

To Nunasi's part, they have found an approach that works and they are to be commended on that. With a mandate to maximize profit for their shareholders, they have created numerous value added opportunity including retail outlets, service providers and developers of infrastructure while investing in the future of this Territory.

The Corporation has established an unprecedented list of interest and now employ hundreds of people in the many businesses that they either own or are partners. Some of these companies such as Arctic Spirits Sport Rack, or Nunasi helicopters are completely owned by Nunasi, while others such as Top of the World 2000, Baffin Optical and Larga Services are strategic joint ventures with other Nunavut Inuit Organizations and Nunavut owned businesses.

Another joint venture they are involved in deserves a special mention is Canadian North, which employ 38 Nunavut residents, many of them living right here in Iqaluit. This, Mr. Speaker, is what we need to see more of. Inuit owned and Nunavut based businesses, corporations and other initiatives putting Nunavut residents to work.

The Board of Directors represents all regions of Nunavut and have been given a strong mandate to move the Territory and its shareholders forward into the future so that we all benefit. Recognizing this significant task, Nunasi Board and Executive aggressively seek opportunities and new partnerships for further development as they strive to secure a solid, strong economic future for our benefit and our children's benefit.

But it is not all about business with Nunasi Corporation. They also recognize the importance of social development within our communities and have been strong supporters.

For example, they provide \$500 dollars each year to each one of our communities for their annual Christmas Feast and celebrations. They contributed to the arena here in Iqaluit, built for the 2002 Arctic Winter Games.

These are just a couple of examples of the recent investments in Nunavut that Nunasi has made. They are a true partner in developing our Territory and I for one, Mr. Speaker, would like to congratulate Board Chairperson Peter Tatty and Mr. Fred Hunt, President and CEO and the rest of the Nunasi Board for their continued effort...

>>Applause

Speaker: I would like to remind Members to try to stay within the time frame. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 714 – 1(6): Human Rights Act

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

I would like to talk about a happy event and it's a good information item for the Members. I would also like to send my regards to the people of my riding and I would like to remind them of the things that they have been expecting.

The Human Rights Act that we have been talking about is dealing with the rights of every human being in the world but because there is a but, Mr. Speaker, we're planning for the needs of the people of Nunavut, and if we pass the Human Rights Act, I feel that we're

on dangerous ground and I will not support it. I will be opposing it because I am representing the views of my constituency.

I cannot do it by myself. I have to do what's right for the people of my riding so I will be opposing that Human Rights Act at this time because the elders in my riding have to be represented and I'm their representative so I will be opposing it.

There might be a problem in the legislation if we pass it. Perhaps in the years coming, in about 10 years or more, a problem might arise. I oppose passage of this legislation at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 715 – 1(6): Same Sex Marriages

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of days ago, our Premier, Paul Okalik, made a Minister's Statement regarding Human Rights Legislation.

There has been a lot of confusion regarding the issue surrounding same sex marriage. It is not the intent of this Bill and I'd like to rise today regarding Kautaq, from Arctic Bay who is here.

She was present during the public meeting I held in Arctic Bay regarding the issue surrounding same sex marriage. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to state today that the residents of Nunavut will not be agreeing with the passage of this Bill.

We are here to speak on behalf of our constituents and we should not be passing legislation without input from our constituents and we should not just be riding on the coat tails of the Federal Government.

So, Mr. Speaker, we should note that the Bill today, its intent is very good. I'm a part of the standing committee that reviewed this Bill and its intent is to ensure that there will be no discrimination regarding the employment and different issues on the legislation.

But the issue surrounding same sex marriage has been confused with the intent of this legislation. The people of Nunavut are opposed to that idea and I would like to say to the people of Nunavut that this is not an Act of Nunavut yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Minister Ng.

Member's Statement 716 – 1(6): Fair Legislation for Nunavummiut

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Member spoke in Cantonese) I said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I know that you do not know what I am saying." I have the right to speak in my language, and as a minority in this country, that is one of the things that I grew up recognizing.

We have a right and a responsibility as a Government to protect minority rights in our Territory, as legislators. It is a fundamental responsibility that we have and that we must take seriously, in protecting those most vulnerable in our society. I know that there have been some discussions late, again the Committee of the Whole discussion on Human Rights Act that we will be debating later on.

The Government of Canada has the Charter of Rights. All Territories, besides ours, all Provinces, in this country, with the exception of Nunavut, has a Human Rights Act to protect those minorities.

We have an obligation; I know that there is a difference of views amongst Members here, it has been debated in the past, in our caucus, in the Committee meetings, and obviously, from some of the discussions today those different views will be debated later on.

The point is, Mr. Speaker, is that we have an obligation to resolve this issue, either for or against the Human Rights Act that this Government has proposed. I believe that even in Cabinet, there have been some discussions on that and the Premier will speak about what he is doing in respect to the Cabinet Members on this.

So, Mr. Speaker, I guess, the bottom line of what I am trying to say is as legislators we have an obligation to be objective in looking at the Human Rights Act. Yes, we have our personal views, yes, the constituents have their personal views, and yes, some of us are running for re-election and others are not, but the bottom line is as legislators, we have a responsibility to be fair and objective for all Nunavummiut when considering legislation in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 717 – 1(6): Protecting the Inuktitut Language

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Members' Statements we speak on different topics, and today I rise regarding the need for protection of our Inuktitut language.

We used to have different symbols, known as the ai, pai, tai, and they were taken out. The writing system we use today in Inuktitut is longer because those symbols were taken out.

They were like short cuts to writing in Inuktitut, and that is how we learned to write in Inuktitut through the Bible with those syllables.

We need to protect our language; I think that the elders would be happy to see the reintroduction of these symbols. If we are going to stay with the status quo, I think we are on the road to losing our language, and with the translated versions into Inuktitut of these Bills, there are usually quite a few mistakes and typos.

In these Bill, once you have read it, and back translate it, the meaning usually changes. I think that when Bills are being translated we have to ensure the accuracy of the translated version into Inuktitut.

Perhaps the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth can accommodate my request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 718 -1(6): Different Definitions of Love

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak today about the need for love and that love welcomes everybody. Mr. Speaker, I can use children as an example, because they are loved so much; we spoil them to the point where their teeth are rotten.

Mr. Speaker, at times, some parents almost say they do not mind their children smoking because they love their child so much, and Mr. Speaker, we can make mistakes surrounding the issue of love.

So, Mr. Speaker, because love's intent is to welcome other people, it is also used as a good parenting skill. Mr. Speaker, we are trying to send the message of using common sense in this world and that is our purpose in life, some of us anyway.

Mr. Speaker, because we love our children so much, we shouldn't be letting them get away with things because the message of love and welcoming could be misunderstood.

Mr. Speaker, we welcome everybody into Nunavut. We have peace with everybody, no matter where they come from, either through business or socializing and there are many people who have benefited from this love that we have given to outsiders and so, Mr. Speaker, we have to understand what type of love are we giving.

At times, we disrespect the issue of being a parent because Mr. Speaker, even if the child does not have a driver's license and is 10, 12, or 14 year old, we allow them to drive ATVs without a license, without thinking about the consequences and so I think we should really rethink what our priorities are regarding love. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Minister Picco.

Member's Statement 719 – 1(6): Snow Challenge March 2004

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to take this opportunity to update the Members of the House and the people of Nunavut regarding the progression of an excellent opportunity to showcase Nunavut.

That excellent opportunity Mr. Speaker is the Nunavut Snow Challenge. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Snow Challenge is scheduled to take place in Iqaluit on March 27, 2004. This event Mr. Speaker, for the first time ever in Nunavut, has secured television rights with the Outdoor Life Network and as a result Mr. Speaker, will be rebroadcast nationally across Canada.

James Patterson and Thomas Bregard recently attended the World Snowmobile Show on October 25th in Toronto. This event allows the organizers of the Nunavut Snow Challenge to hand out demo videos and brochures of events to companies such as Arctic Cat, Bombardier and Yamaha.

Mr. Speaker, the trade show allowed them to showcase the event in Nunavut as one of the most extreme snowmobile races available anywhere Mr. Speaker, in North America. The interest of potential sponsors was overwhelming.

In 2003, this Nunavut Snow Challenge attracted 42 racers from Northern Quebec, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Kimmirut and here in Iqaluit. This year, we estimate that over 60 racers from across Quebec, Ontario and Nunavut will be participating.

The record time Mr. Speaker, for the event was 3 hours and 2 seconds and was set by Jimmy Gordon of Kuujjuuaq of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, the 2004 event marks the first year on national broadcast of this event that will take place.

The Outdoor Life Network will showcase not only the race but will be showcasing the people, the culture and the traditions of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, any persons wishing to participate in this event can go online at www.nunavutsnowchallenge.com or Mr. Speaker, to see an 8 minute demo of the 2003 race, they can call or Mr. Speaker, go online at NSC2003@nunavutproductions.com.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join with me to wish the organizers of the Nunavut Snow Challenge the best in success in March of 2004 for this very exciting opportunity to showcase Nunavut and our extreme weather conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements? If not we will move onto Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to recognize in the Gallery members of the Task Force, the Inungi Sapujiijiit Task Force that we talked about earlier in the House.

Mr. Speaker, they have joined us in Iqaluit from all over Nunavut and I would like to ask them to stand up when I say their names. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start off with a well-known Elder, a respected Inuk leader, a good friend of mine from Arctic Bay Mr. Kautak, Joseph Kautak.

From Pangnirtung, Mr. Speaker, from Pangnirtung, a very good person, has done the yeoman service on this Task Force, Mr. Norman Qumanaqtuq, and Norman. Also, Mr. Speaker, from Gjoa Haven. From Rankin Inlet, Bernadette Saumik. Mr. Speaker, one of the younger people of the Task Force and actually became one of the co-chairs, Mr. Brian Simonie from Pond Inlet, Brian. Also, Mr. Speaker, from Pangnirtung, Meeka Arnakaq and Mr. Speaker, from Kugluktuk, Ahme Angunaq, Ahme, beautiful jacket and Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce from Kugluktuk, Teresa Hakunia, Teresa. And I believe Mr. Speaker, Adrienne Sammortok from Baker Lake is not available to be with us. So I would like to thank her for the work she did also on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to welcome to the Task Force members. I would like to recognize today, the Akitsiraq Law School Program professors and students.

First of all, the elder advisor on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Lucien Ukaliannuk, welcome to the House. One of the professors, a judge in the south, Justice Connie Hunt, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

As well, an instructor from the south, temporarily in Nunavut, Steve Kirk, welcome to Nunavut. He is from the University of Victoria and their Northern Director, Professor Shirley Wright, welcome to the House.

And to the students of the Akitsiraq Law School, who will some day catch up to me, first of all, Aaju Peter, welcome. Madeline Redfern, welcome to the House. Qajaaq Robinson

is here as well, welcome. Sandra Inutiq, welcome to the House. Connie Merkosoak, welcome. Lillian Aglukkaq, welcome. Henry Coman, welcome. As well, Susan Inuaraq is also here. Welcome to the House. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize from my home community, a well-known athlete and he is also part of the Recreation Committee and is also the Deputy Mayor and has been a very active member of sports in my community, Raould Amundsen's grandson, Bob Konana. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the following people from Hall Beach. Hersha Curley, she is one the pages this week, and the next one that I would like to also recognize, I am sorry, I forget his name, Joapie Kupaaq. I apologize. Again, from Igloolik, we have two other individuals, Tracy Uttak, and Jessie Ullatitaq.

These pages are going to be working with us and they are also from Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize all the people in the Gallery, but I would like to specifically mention Kautak Josephie. I worked with her. When I was a social worker I used to work with her, she is tireless, and she speaks in English.

I would also like to recognize and welcome Martha Flaherty, who I used to work with in Churchill and we roomed together. She is an excellent person. And also her partner who she is here with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not too often that I recognize visitors in the gallery. I have two constituents who are here in the Gallery.

I want to recognize the first person. She is also a schoolteacher, and she works at KPE. She helps a lot in the community. I want to recognize Millie Kuliktana. And also, our elder from Kugluktuk, I am very pleased to recognize Amie Aigonak from my constituency. I welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These two individuals were recognized, but I would like to start off with an individual who is very well known for counselling and she is one of the leaders in counselling, Meeka Arnakaq. I would like to welcome her to the Gallery.

And also Norman Komoartuk who was here just a minute ago, again from Pangnirtung. He is a small business owner, and is also one of the Board Members. I welcome them all. And again, I think that it was a few days ago our Premier made some comments about his golfing incident that was in Ottawa.

He and I were also golfing but I can tell you that I am better than he is. And again there was Martha Flaherty, who was down with us at that time. And I welcome her to the Gallery.

The House is quite full and it is nice to see, I welcome you all and Kevin in Qikiqtarjuaq, I would like to acknowledge my son. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: I would like to recognize the education staff, Peter Geikie, Assistant Deputy Minister for Education, he is right over there. Millie Qulittaana, (interpretation) Director for Kitikmeot. Cathy McGregor and Charles Banfield who is the Director of Baffin Schools, School Operations and again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the Women's Auxiliary from the Anglican Diocese and Sammie and his wife who are here listening to the proceedings and also to listen to the debates on Bill 12 and my little sister, the youngest one, Mona Natsiq who is here. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from my community. This individual works in the nursing station and is involved in all activities. She is a good friend of my sister, Teresa Kanayuk.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very, it is on very rare occasions that I recognize people in the House. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Brian Simonie, who I am very proud of. He is a young individual and is doing excellent and participates in all activities and it is a learning process for him.

And also Connie Merkosoak, who now lives in Iqaluit, but she is here going to school in Iqaluit. I just wanted to say, I want to be the one to make judgement when she becomes a lawyer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize a whole lot of people in the Gallery and I welcome you all, every single one of you. I would like to recognize three people, Susan Inuaraq, who is from Clyde River and Sandra Inutiq, again, from Clyde River and Brian from Pond Inlet who is again, coming from Clyde River. I especially would like to welcome these three individuals and to all of the other people in the Gallery, I welcome you, I am sorry we do not have tea to serve you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As has been mentioned here earlier, I am very pleased to see the Gallery; it is full of people and I especially would like to acknowledge all of the elders who are here in our Assembly.

I know our Assembly, as you know, Mr. Speaker, the only jurisdiction in Canada that has seats, especially for elders to show the place that they have, the important role that they play in our lives here in Nunavut and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent who is here in the Gallery and that is Ms. Enoapik Sageaktok; she is here and she is usually at many public meetings voicing any concerns that she has over any issues that are going on in here in the community and I am very pleased to have her here in the Gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognise my wife walking in the foyer. I would like to welcome her to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any further recognitions? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognise a former constituent of mine from Baker Lake who couldn't find a job in Baker Lake and has moved to Iqaluit and now he's working two full time jobs and his dad is a famous author, unilingual business man and all around great guy, I would like to recognise Robert Tookoome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome Robert. Do we have any further recognition of visitors in the gallery? Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognise an individual originally from Kimmirut, Pitseola Akavak and beside her is Mr. Quirke's wife, Annie Quirke.

I used to go to school with her for two years in the Sivuliuqtiit Program and again behind me I would also like to recognise Enoapik Sageaktok and every individual who is in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery, Annie and your friend. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 686 – 1(6): Update and Status of Igloolik Community Hall

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little earlier I was talking about the Igloolik community hall and I will be asking questions to the Minister Responsible for Community Government and Transportation on that matter.

We have been working for quite a while on this issue and I would like to ask the Minister to give us an update on what has been happening with the Community Hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Irqittuq and I have been working very hard on this issue and we are still working on the project.

After the review, our Cabinet will deliberate on this issue and we will work on it until we identify some capital dollars and I would like to assure the Member that I will keep working on this until it becomes resolved. I will be able to keep the Member updated on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand exactly where the Minister is coming from but there is one that I don't quite understand in your response.

The life of the First Assembly is coming to a close and we will not be able to complete any projects in the First Assembly.

What I do not understand is that the Minister stated that he is talking about the plans, where the dollars are going to be coming from. So I am asking the Minister do you have funds and plans in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is in front of the Standing Committee and when we were dealing with the Capital Estimates, I mentioned that the hamlets were going to be working with the Federal Government and also to identify some funds through the Infrastructure Program.

The Federal Government and our Government will be negotiating an agreement. Once that has been completed and the funds are available, and all of us heard, the Members, that we are going to be working with the municipal officials and representatives to review and to identify what kind of Infrastructure Projects they will place as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 687 – 1(6): Which Jobs are Most Suitable for Decentralization Plans

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier, who is responsible for decentralization. Mr. Speaker, as you know last week I made a Member's Statement regarding the stability in the workforce, and the security in the

workforce, and also I mentioned that it seems like the targets, the numbers that the Government has been moving jobs into decentralized communities is just based on meeting numerical targets.

I would like to ask the Premier if they have done reviews to find out which jobs would be most suitable to be moved to the decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why it took three years to complete decentralization is that we wanted to make sure that it worked, and that our Government could continue to function properly in the interest of the public and our constituents.

I am pleased to report that we are almost complete and will be done after this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that this has been something that I believe that everyone in Nunavut, including the people of Iqaluit, have endorsed, and agreed with, and knew going into the creation of Nunavut in 1999, that Iqaluit be the capital. People accepted the fact of decentralization.

At that time, Mr. Speaker, there was a plan and people made career choices in choosing positions within the Government based on those original plans that have been made. My question is again to the Premier is what type of analysis has been done in order to come to the changes that have been made?

I understand the initial plan for the Workers Compensation Board, for example, was supposed to be decentralized, and they are still here. Some other civil servants have been moved as a result of them not wanting to move.

My question is, based on things like that, who had the opportunity to say they can decide that they should be decentralized or not? And what kind of analysis was done to see which jobs were, again most suitable, to be decentralized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we assumed office, we were presented with a plan for decentralization and there were high expectations of those communities that were receiving new jobs. Unfortunately, the plan that was in place was not workable. So we have had to make adjustments along the way. That is why it took three years to complete the plan.

I could not and the government could not function with all Wildlife Officers being situated in one community where their jobs are to enforce our laws in each of the communities. That's the plan that we inherited, so we had to make some changes.

In terms of the Workers Compensation Board, we couldn't commit to relocating it to a location of our choice. Unfortunately, it runs by itself and is governed by a piece of legislation that we don't have full control over.

So, those things we've had to adjust and what we've done is make it as workable as possible and at the same time, meet the expectations of communities. The benefit that we have had over the last little while is that we have had many vacancies within our own government.

It has given us flexibility to offer alternate jobs for the employees affected, in particular Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Workers Compensation Board is something I'd like to get into with the responsible Minister at another time.

I know that's a piece of legislation that we're going to be looking at here in the next few days. My question to the Premier is he had indicated that it wasn't a workable plan.

I know that there are a number of specialized positions, like biologists and engineers. Looking at the relocation of those types of positions, was the type of work that they do taken into account when making those decisions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A large portion of the plan, in particular, Sustainable Development's jobs were already on the plan when we inherited it.

We've had to make adjustments in a few cases but we've largely stuck to the plan. For biologists, I believe there are some Inuit who are completing their studies and would love to go back to their own communities.

So, it's always nice to say that this doesn't work or that doesn't work but we have to make it work. That's our job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if the Premier could indicate at what point, I know he talked about he did not have a workable plan and I don't think that there's anyone here in this room that will argue that point.

Mr. Speaker, can he indicate when the decision was made and why the decision was made to decentralize engineer positions with the Nunavut Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been making plans and have had to revise those plans to make sure that we meet the expectations of the communities that were expecting those jobs.

For the Power Corporation, we could not commit ourselves to making finalized decisions up until recently. There were tentative plans that we reached as soon as we created the Power Corporation to move many of these jobs to Baker Lake.

In the past few months, while we were finalizing the plans, it became clear that for us to meet the expectations of that particular community, we had to find further employment from the Power Corporation.

That is when we finalized our plans as a cabinet, later this year. I can tell the Member that there are no further plans to decentralize as we have met the expectations of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. I'll ask a question a little bit later on. The Minister responsible is not here.

Speaker: Just a reminder to Members that as part of our House rules we do not identify a Minister when he is not in the House. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 688 – 1(6): Gymnasiums for Athletes

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made a Member's Statement today in regards to gymnasiums and community halls for athletes to use.

These athletes might not be able to develop their skills if there are no gymnasiums. I would like to ask the Minister of Community Government and Transportation for those communities that do not have a community hall or a gymnasium, is there anything in place for those communities to be provided with gymnasiums and community halls and is there any funding for these facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if his question is for all of Nunavut, I believe it is in reference to the inadequate number of facilities and what their status is at this point.

Mr. Speaker, there are different communities that have gymnasiums and some have community halls. Some of them don't even have one. Some of them need renovating. The facilities that require renovating or for those that have requested a facility, we are still working on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague made a statement about fire marshals closing down community halls.

I will use Gjoa Haven for example, Mr. Speaker, if there are 135 people in the community hall and that is their capacity then according to the fire marshal's regulations, we have broken the law.

What kinds of powers do they have under the Minister's portfolio, because the fire marshals have regulations; so do they have the power to close down buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm sure that is a concern in his community where the population is over 1000 and the occupancy capacity was just 135, so the whole community cannot get together in that centre.

It's unfortunate and I don't want to be misunderstood by Members but it's more unfortunate that because of the occupancy capacity the whole community cannot participate in an event.

There are many community centres in the communities that lack occupancy capacity large enough to meet the needs of the community and so the whole community cannot get together at one time.

Regarding his question regarding the authority of the fire marshal, yes, I made a Minister Statement regarding the fire marshal's fire prevention strategy for Nunavut because it became a concern with the fires that were occurring and for assessment reasons for insurance, that we needed to follow the fire marshal's code.

It is fortunate that it is generally understood what state the communities are in. Knowing this there is some hesitation when they ask to close down the facilities. If they closed them down right away it would not be very good in the communities.

I can further explain to my colleague that we are aware of this issue in the community and we have been in constant contact with this mayor of that community since spring. We report to each other on what the progress is of that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the government's tight fiscal reality and that we can't just go ahead and plan for a community hall when we want.

With that reality in mind, we have tried to support our government through the hamlets, through contracts or with the private sector and that is what the hope was but the Department was not agreeable to that. Is there a policy in his Department that allows for partnering with the private sector?

There is that option out there to ensure the benefit of the community, but perhaps because it is against their policy, is there a policy in that regard. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we're reviewing the needs of the communities, we also always have to remember our policies and processes and if we are going to build infrastructure that will not come along with operations and maintenance budget, then we would have to look for further funding in that other area.

We try to be quite careful in reviewing the needs of the communities. Excuse me. We are unable to approve all requests for funding. For instance, for community halls or any infrastructure needed in the communities, we have to follow our policies to ensure we have ongoing support for those communities and not overburden them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those communities that are lacking recreational facilities, for those communities that do not have a place to assemble whatsoever, in my earlier statement, if there was a lack of space in the community, can there be some sort of assistance given to them so those communities do not fall behind.

Are they open to getting help from outside agencies so that they are kept up to date along with other athletes within the territory? So, I'm wondering if there are any plans for any alternative sources for facilities in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify the matter, the facility in Gjoa Haven is inadequate, and we are aware of that.

In the high school, the gymnasium, and I'm glad to say along with them that they will be expecting an upgrade to the other school gymnasium that will be an addition to the elementary school.

And there will be a tender process that we have to follow. For instance, within Nunavut, the communities before they start planning for the future, they have to ensure that they prioritize what the needs in the communities are. Due to the lack of funding, we have to follow these procedures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 689 – 1(6): Social Assistance or Income Support Inadequate

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct this question to the Minister of Education. Yesterday, I had mentioned in the House regarding the issue of social assistance. We have heard from other Members here that social assistance is people who have not other options left to them.

I think that social assistance is inadequate for the communities. Are you going to increase the social assistance to the people in need? Are you going to increase social assistance to the people who need it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome all the visitors to the House. Mr. Speaker, there was a review done on income support before I took over this portfolio.

Mr. Speaker, we have a better understanding that in Canada because of the high cost of living in Nunavut that we are lagging behind. That is a fact, and it has been confirmed, Mr. Speaker, if there were to be any further funding, I think that it is \$23 million dollars that we give out in Income Support to the residents of Nunavut.

If we were to increase this we would have to increase the overall funding for this Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for answering my question. I am glad that I heard right. Last year we asked for the Minister regarding that the money was too small for social assistance to buy groceries and clothing.

We know that it is too small in Nunavut and I would like to see that and I think that the Federal Government have mentioned that food here is very expensive and everything that is required in Nunavut is very, very expensive.

I was wondering if the Minister can improve on the Social Assistance Program. The question is everything is so high that the social assistance that people get is too small. Since the Minister is here, I would like to them make some improvements in social assistance to the individuals, and it is too small because the groceries are getting very, very expensive and the assistance that these people get is too small. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review that was given to the Committee on November 27th, in 2002, in there was a recommendation to increase it by \$10 million dollars to increase the individual income support recipients.

We would have to look for an additional \$10 million dollars to be included into the budget for Income Support.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we now understand the high cost of living in Nunavut and that was already confirmed through the review process and I do agree because that was one of the recommendations.

And if we were to find further funding, we'd have to find an extra \$10 million dollars and that would enable us to increase the income support levels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister Thompson for answering my question.

As you know I like to see that the Minister makes improvements to the social assistance program. When will the money be improved for the recipients to get groceries? When will the improvements be implemented to the social assistance program? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, once we find an extra \$10 million dollars then we would be able to increase the income support levels.

Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that because of the school emergencies that puts an extra strain on our budgets. Although we want to increase the income support levels we are unable to do so. If we find an extra \$10 million dollars to increase the income support

program than we would be able to increase the amount of money available for that program I will continue working on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 690 – 1(6): Number of Staff Houses Vacant in the Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier regarding the Decentralization Secretariat.

The decentralized communities in Nunavut have benefited through the creation of employment and the building of staff houses in those communities. How many staff houses are vacant in the decentralized communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different reasons in those communities and the status of the decentralization of those positions is not the same.

Some of those positions are not staffed. I can get that information to him at a later date. Thank you.

Speaker: The question has been taken as notice. There will be no further supplementaries. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 691 – 1(6): Syllabic Writing System

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and I'll be making reference to the statement he made earlier.

It's in regards to the Nunavut Literary Award. I made reference to the loss of our language. Do you have any plans in place for our syllabic writing system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the comments he made during the Members' Statements, the Inuit Tapirisat Kanatami set up the new writing system, which took down one column of our ai, uu, aa. The present system is used to write the curriculum in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The Inuit language is weakening and changing. I believe that the Minister should look into the writing system and also set up policies for the Inuktitut alphabet.

My question is once the policies are set, do you do a review of the material that is produced in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to Bills, and since the creation of Nunavut, there has been a lot of terminology that has been compiled, and usually it is the interpreters or stakeholders who have those terminology conferences.

The terminologies that are compiled is reviewed and used in the workplace. Once the terminology is compiled the Department will have to review the translated Inuktitut material to make sure that they comply with the lists that have been compiled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I am talking about the Inuit language and usually many of the words are not entered into a database. Does the Minister have a compiled set of Inuktitut words that will be standardized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, I probably did not respond to his first question correctly. We have had to invent new words in order to be able to translate, or interpret legal words or medical terms, and so on.

We have a database where we have a collection of standardized Inuktitut terms. And you can pull them from the computer if you should want to look at the standardized terms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister stated that they have a compiled list, when are you going to be completing this project? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do not have a deadline set, because of course we are always inventing new Inuktitut terms. We have the Living Dictionary, titled Asuillaak, where we have a compilation of Inuktitut terms and definitions. And we look forward to getting and increasing the volume of standardized terms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 692 – 1(6): Plans on Starting a Youth Art Program

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I was glad that the Minister made statement today about the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy and I just want a preamble here. This question is for the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

The largest group who make up the unemployed is our youth. The unemployment rate per person aged 15-24 approaches 50 %. In preparation for the entrance of young people into the labour force we need more jobs and better education.

Mr. Speaker, if we cannot provide jobs and education, and as our population continues to grow we leave our youth with few options but to seek employment outside the territory or to stay home and to lose hope for the future. Neither option is acceptable and understanding the pressure population growth will place on the economy in the immediate future demands that we take strong action today.

My question today to the Minister, and I know that he has been involved in this document for the last year and a half, does he have any programs in his department today that helps young people gain employment, get into the business community or start arts and crafts programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: That's a good question Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have programs to help young people to start businesses to make sure that we recognize that we have programs that they could access for them to start new programs or start businesses in the future. We are also working as a department with other departments from the government to come up with training programs that will contribute towards youth training programs in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coming from the fourth largest community in Nunavut and having the highest unemployment rates in Nunavut and a lot of it young people who have moved to Iqaluit and other communities to seek gainful employment and I'd certainly like the Premier to decentralize more of these jobs in Iqaluit that they can't fill into Baker Lake.

So on that I know it's going to be difficult to happen and some of us will probably work in our next term if we are re-elected to that. But the question I have today for the Minister again, is carving was perhaps the first Inuit export and with over \$30 million dollars a year in carving exports out of the territory what has the Minister done to try and get younger people into the carving business? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The carving industry is a big project here in Nunavut for us to promote more throughout the world to get people to buy our art and I believe that as a government we are doing our best to make sure that we all have programs through Arctic College or other programs to educate our people in art not only in the jewellery but also in carving and sewing.

So I think that we will continue to help them out with programs that we want to see with our contribution programs, small business tools or other stuff where we have available for the people who want to try and start in the art business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has the answers today. Another part of the summary was that over \$30 million dollars a year in country foods according to Canadian dollars, country food is caught in Nunavut and it's hard to say what that does to the economy but it does two things; it gets people out on the land and hopefully the younger people are going with the older guys to learn how to hunt and be sustainable, and that brings in over \$30 million dollars a year into what I call groceries, into the house.

Also on that, there is the issue of what the government does, I'm being distracted here, Mr. Speaker, what the government does to encourage young people to get out and become hunters and other issues. Are there any programs available, are you looking at making programs available because we know to go out hunting and fishing, it's an expensive venture when it comes to buying boats and motors etc. etc. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all learn from our fathers and grandfathers, it was our fathers, or our brothers or our uncles who trained us how to do the hunting.

>>Applause

I believe it is very important for us to continue to ask our youth to follow us and to teach them how we were taught before. So I believe it is in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that we got to use for us to train our young people to do the hunting the way we did and the way we want to do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. **Speaker**: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I had about three more questions today. On that issue, I'll just into the fisheries issue. What are the Minister's plans and we know the fishing industry brings approximately, and I said \$60 million dollars a year to the economy of Nunavut.

I commend the people who are involved in the fishing industry in Nunavut. It sounds like a tremendous amount of money to me as a business man, as it is. Is the Minister looking at trying to double or triple that amount in the strategy and what are his plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have. We just came back from Ottawa from the Senate Committee on Fisheries and I believe we want to send our message that we have a \$100 million dollar industry here, that we only get \$9 million dollars a year.

I believe there is a lot of work to do and I'm going to continue to promote how we're going to develop the fishing industry here in Nunavut. I think that we've got to send that message to the Federal Government to make sure that we get recognised especially if they have to allocate any quota again from our adjacent waters to make sure that our fishing industry in the future will be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 693 – 1(6): Social Assistance Appeal Board Training

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education.

On October 30th there was a statement on the appeal board and there were appointments of six individuals to this appeal board. Who will be training these members on the policies and regulations on social assistance and other issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If my worker is listening, please take out the caribou meat so we can thaw it out for a snack during our break.

(interpretation end) The training for the appeal board members will be provided by the Income Support Director and my staff in the department at the headquarter level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please invite us for the caribou during our break.

In regards to the Social Assistance Appeal Board, this is going to be a board that will be providing a service to all the residents of Nunavut. I believe there used to be a three member board.

Are they going to have equal representation from all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do they have local appeal boards in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are not enough ulus, I have a few in my office. I'm talking to my staff. Yes, there are local appeal committees at the community level. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quite a few of us have applied for income support and the social worker is usually provided training in the rules and regulations and policies.

In regards to the local appeal committees, who will be providing training on the policies, rules and regulations for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a message to Phil. He should be running by now, Phil, the blue box in the trunk.

I will get the name and I will get the details and give them to the Member who trains the local people on the appeals of income support. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know we're talking about social assistance which buys food. I don't believe right now, people travel to communities to train the appeal boards committee in each community.

Can the Minister clarify that there will be training and if so, who will train these people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff will train these people and I don't know how it will be done but we'll make sure that they get trained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members, just for the record, you realize that the question was taken as notice by the Premier for the Minister on the 31^{st} of October, so therefore it will be stricken from the record of the status page. Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 694 – 1(6): Changes to the Policies on Social Services

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. He is going to be coming out with a report on work that was done by the suicide prevention and I'm sure that in there, there will be some comments on the policies and procedures that social workers use in dispensing with their work.

Does the Minister have any plans to change the rules and policies that social workers work under so that it would reflect more the needs and wishes of the people of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a reminder to Members that we have approximately seven minutes left on the clock and still a number of people yet to speak. So, seven minutes left. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I just want to say very quickly, it is very nice to see so many people here today, especially the teens about suicide; that was a very difficult task we asked the Members to do.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, there are several recommendations within the report; it hasn't been tabled yet, but I can say we've already set up an interdepartmental team to review the recommendations of the task force.

It went to the committee of Deputy Ministers and I would expect, Mr. Speaker, that some of the recommendations including the way social workers interact with the client will be one of the ones we review at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one more question and that I would advise the Minister to also pass the recommendations and observations to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee that the Minister of Culture Language Elders and Youth has just announced in order to make sure that the wishes of the people are reflected in whatever policies and programs that the Minister comes out with. Thank you.

Speaker: I take that as a comment. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 695 – 1(6): Plans to Teach Traditional Knowledge

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Education. Today, parents work extremely hard to provide for their children. We are not teaching children traditional ways anymore, yet because of the harsh climate in Nunavut, our youth need survival skills and on the land skills.

There are many training programs that we should be providing to our youth in relation to our traditional knowledge. What kind of plans do you have so that our youth will be taught survival skills, traditional clothing making and tools?

There are very few Inuit now who know the traditional methods and have skills to survive up here. What kinds of plans do you have so that we can pass on traditional knowledge to our youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark, in the absence of the Minister, I'd ask the Premier to take the question.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, from what I know, we are trying to set up traditional teachings that are Nunavut relevant.

We have been working on this for quite a while, but we're not at the final stages yet. We do have a panel who meets to talk about the training programs that will be provided to youth.

I will inform the Minister about the concerns of our Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All of the Nunavut communities have schools established. We would like to see the elders teach traditional skills in the school environment. Do you have any plans so that we can have the elders teach those skills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we provide funding to the council and there are elders who come in to teach the elementary grades. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that you have those set up in the school environment.

How many years do you expect to fully implement this traditional curriculum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working on this because we want to implement it in all the Nunavut schools. We want to pass on our traditional knowledge, language and skills to the school population.

We would like to see Inuktitut taught in the schools. Of course, it is not going to be implemented right away since we're in the planning stages. We are putting together the curricula and once they're made available, we will be producing them in the schools. But there has to be a planning stage and the final stage before it's fully implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier responded to my question, but not fully.

My question was in which year or in how many years will you be implementing this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to give him an adequate response, but since Nunavut was created, we have been working on it and this year is where we give them an additional 2 million dollars so that they can fast track the planning stage.

As I stated earlier, we are setting up the program. We will ask for advice from the people out there and then we'll find out when we will be able to implement it.

I cannot say what year, but we do need to have everything in place and it depends on whether the whole thing is well received by the people of Nunavut or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

4505

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 21 – 1(6): Lena Pederson Boarding Home

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. This question is directed to the Honourable Ed. Picco, Minister of Health and Social Services.

Question one. What is the policy for the assignment of beds at the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home?

Number two. Are residents from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Kugaaruk traveling to Yellowknife for medical purposes given priority over other Nunavut residents for accommodation at the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home?

Number Three. Are Nunavut residents traveling to Yellowknife for medical purposes given priority over non-Nunavut residents for accommodation at the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home?

Number four. What are the accommodation policies that apply to the operation of the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home?

Number five. Does the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home meet all of the contractual requirements of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services? If not, what specific contractual obligations are not being met?

Number six. If the Lena Pederson Kitikmeot Boarding Home does not meet all of the contractual requirements of Nunavut's Department of Health and Social Services, what options are being considered by the Department to ensure compliance?

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 009 – 1(6): Medical Travel

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring forward a petition from the people of Broughton Island. I was with the Health and Social Services Minister in Qikiqtarjuaq and the people of Qikiqtarjuaq have been having problems for three years with medical travel. There are 164 signatures petitioning to improve the medical travel system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Petition 010 – 1(6): Community Hall in Gjoa Haven - Expansion

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to table from the people of Gjoa Haven about the community hall. They would like to have their community hall expanded to meet with the occupancy capacity requirements of the fire marshal of Nunavut.

The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven signed this petition asking for a larger community hall. There are 205 signatures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 022 – 1(6): Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act – COW Review of Bill

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services, and that the Bill, as amended, and reprinted is ready for Consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek and ask consent to waive Rule 68(5), and have Bills 36 moved to the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. There is a request to waive Rule 68(5) so that the Standing Committee report on Bill 36 can be immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 36 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 148 – 1(6): Letter From Tagak Curley Re: Bill 12

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I have a letter from Tagak Curley who has asked me to table his letter statement on Bill 12, the Human Rights Act and Definitions of Marriage. The new legislation, if approved by the current Members of the Assembly without changes would make sexual orientation one of the prohibited grounds for discrimination.

The current Government of Nunavut and the MLAs in support of this provision, in effect, would amend the Bible, and prevent gospel preachers freedom to preach the word of God.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Alakannuark.

Tabled Document 149 – 1(6): Minutes from Kivalliq Regional Mayors' Meeting

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document. The Minutes of the Kivalliq Regional Mayor's Meeting, September 2, 2003, in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 150 – 1(6): Inungni Sapujiijiit Task Force - Report

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to Motion 012-1(6) made by the MLA for Amittuq, Enoki Irqittuq, I wish to table the following document Inungni Sapujiijiit Taskforce on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing. It is called, "Our Word Must Come Back To Us."

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would also like, again, to invite the Members to join mebetween 6:30 and 7:00, in the Grand Hall in the Foyer to meet the Taskforce members and talk about some of the issues around suicide and the work that they have done on behalf and for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 151 – 1(6): Nunavut Power Corporation Second Annual Report for Fiscal Year ended March 31, 2003

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure, as I said earlier, to table before Nunavut's Legislative Assembly the Second Annual Report for March 31st, 2003 Fiscal Year End for the Nunavut Power Corporation.

As many of the Members already know, the Power Corporation ended the 2003 fiscal in a deficit. However, the deficit of approximately \$7.9 million dollars is considerably, considerably lower than the deficit of approximately \$13 million dollars that we had anticipated earlier in the year.

The Power Corporation has implemented numerous fiscal management, and financial management, and other budgeting systems since the Auditor General's Spring, 2003 Review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 152 – 1(6): Nunavut Literary Prize Guidelines

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned earlier, Mr. Speaker, that I would table a document about the Nunavut Literacy Awards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 153 – 1(6): Retiring Allowances Fund

Tabled Document 154 – 1(6): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund

Members, I have two documents Tabled. First are the Financial Statements for the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund for the year ending March 31st, 2003. The second one is for the Financial Statements of the Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowances Funds through the year ending March 31st, 2003.

Tabling of Documents. Do we have any further Tabling of Documents? If not, we will move on to Item 14. Notice of Motions. Item 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 15: Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday, November the 6^{th} , I will move that Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Item 15. Notice 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 36 and Bill 41 with Mr. Irqittuq as the Chairperson and in the accordance with the authority provided to me by Motion 2-1(6), Committee of the Whole will stay in Session until it reports itself out. And before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break before we return.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:57 and resumed at 16:31

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

Chairman (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for coming to Committee of the Whole. We will commence our meeting. We will be dealing with Bill 12, 41 and 46. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to begin with Bill 12, the Human Right's Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any opening remarks? Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to appear before this committee to speak about the Human Rights legislation, which I introduced at the fall 2002 session of the Legislative Assembly in Pangnirtung, and which received second reading at that time.

Each one of us in this first Nunavut Legislature has a special role to play in building the future of our public government. We are setting the path for future legislators by encoding the basic values that we all hold dear. We are building for the future because we remember the past.

As Inuit, we have all felt the lash of discrimination. This Human Rights Act is a major step forward in our ability to deal with these matters closer to home. There has been a lot of confusion about just what this piece of legislation is meant to address. There has been public speculation that this is about redefining marriage and family relations. I want to be as clear as possible in saying that is not correct. Let me be perfectly clear about what we are dealing with. We are dealing with the history of discrimination that we have all felt.

We are dealing with a reality that is still with us today such as being denied access to establishments and services because we are Inuit. That is the only issue that is before us and that is the issue that we as Nunavummiut must say clearly is not acceptable.

The Nunavut Human Rights Act will mean that we no longer have to appeal to federal laws or bodies to deal with those prejudices.

Our Human Rights legislation will reflect the unique concerns of Nunavummiut, keeping in mind Inuit culture and values. Failure to enact this legislation means we will continue to have the Federal system apply in Nunavut, a system that is time consuming and does not reflect our society.

I believe that this new legislation will enhance the recognition and protection of the basic Human Rights of all Nunavummiut. For the first time, we will have a made-in-Nunavut legislation relating to this important part of our lives.

Currently, we have both Territorial legislation, the Fair Practises Act and federal legislation, the Canadian Human Rights Act, which govern human rights in Nunavut. Neither of the existing Acts gives any recognition to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and this one, and this is one of the improvements that we have included in the new Legislation.

The Bill before you is a result of a lengthy consultation process that has benefited from the participation of many Nunavummiut, including representatives of NTI and the regional Inuit organizations, the Nunavut Status of Women Council and many others with an interest in this area. Since the Nunavut Human Rights Act will replace the Canadian Human Rights Act, we have consulted the Federal Government on this matter. We have been mindful that as a public government representing a largely minority population, we have a special role to play in protecting human rights.

We have made every effort to ensure that the provisions for administering this Act are kept simple and publicly accessible. We have also committed to providing further public information on this Act prior to its implementation so that Nunavummiut can have a full understanding of its rights and protections.

This Human Rights Act reinforces the belief that we all have responsibilities to guarantee that every individual in Nunavut enjoys equal opportunity to a full and productive life.

As we knew with the creation of Nunavut, no people can be truly free or reach their full potential until they are allowed to do so in a climate where they are respected for who they are.

These are my Opening Remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have regarding this Legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The Committee Chairperson, do you have Opening Remarks? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Be happy and to my Colleagues, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Bill 12, the proposed *Human Rights Act* was referred to the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* approximately one year ago.

Over the past year, the Standing Committee has invited written submissions from the general public and from key stakeholders on the proposed legislation.

Eight submissions were received from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Status of Women Council, the Nunavut Employees Union, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, EGALE Canada, Iqaluit Pride and Friends of Pride and a number of law firms.

Mr. Chairman, early in its review process, the Standing Committee found that many Nunavummiut did not fully understand the intent of the proposed legislation.

The Committee found itself trying to educate the people of Nunavut about the proposed legislation and strongly felt that the Government, which introduced the legislation, did not do all it could to inform the general public about the intent of the Bill and to promote its merits.

The Department of Justice was therefore asked by the Standing Committee to develop public information on the Bill to explain its intent.

The Committee had requested that this information be distributed widely to communities and inserted in all newspapers. However, not all of this appeared to actually happen.

Mr. Chairman, the recent high-profile federal consultations across Canada and in Nunavut on the issue of same sex marriage did not help. In fact, it only resulted in further public confusion.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee held a public meeting in Iqaluit on October 1, 2003, with a view to possibly holding further community consultations.

Thirteen people attended the Iqaluit public meeting and all of the presenters were in support of the Bill with some recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee did submit a number of recommendations to the Minister and were pleased that motions were developed by the department to reflect the recommendations, which, if passed, will result in appropriate amendments to the *Human Rights* Bill.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has decided to report the Bill back to the House without a formal recommendation as to its passage. While some Members of the Committee were of the view that the Bill should now be put to a vote, others believed that further efforts on the part of the Government to consult with the general public should be undertaken.

Mr. Chairman, in the event that the Bill is passed, the Committee would encourage the Government, during its implementation phase, to give careful consideration to the location of the support structures for the new Tribunal. Members would note, for example, that the Legal Services Board is presently located in Gjoa Haven.

This concludes my opening remarks and I anticipate that individual Members may have their own comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Will the Minister and his officials please go to the witness table?

Sergeant-at-arms, please assist the Member to the witness table.

Thank you for coming to the witness table. Can you please introduce your officials for the record? I know the other individual, but can you please introduce them for the record.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is the elder advisor on the issue on traditional Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. He is well known by a number of people and his name is Mr. Lucienne Okalianuk. To my right is my Deputy Minister, Nora Saunders.

They will be at the witness table with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. According to our rules, each Member is allowed ten minutes for general comments and once general comments are done, then we will have questions from the Members to the Minister, also for ten minutes.

Does anyone have general comments to the opening comments for the Bill 12 review? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some opinions to make regarding Bill 12, the Human Rights Act.

The intent of the bill is very encouraging and can be very beneficial to the people of Nunavut. However, because we as a government are so new, as I said in my Member's Statement today regarding this matter, we are finally catching up to the needs of Nunavummiut.

The needs of Nunavummiut are still many, and still have to be worked on, starting with Bill 1, the Education Act, we knocked off the order paper because we wanted further input from Inuit.

We have also put out other bills off the order paper to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is included in the process. We, as Members, are working for the betterment of the future of our youth and our people. That is what I feel I am here for.

Mr. Chairman, looking at the many tasks we have at hand today, here is how it is. The bills, once they are introduced, we intend to make them into made-in-Nunavut legislation.

We have never seen that. The bills that are introduced before us, they are coming from other legislatures, from other jurisdictions in Canada. The human rights legislation that is before us, we do know that in Nunavut, we are at a disadvantage for having to enact legislation that is undesirable.

That is how much treatment we had. Our dog teams were slaughtered and once the dog teams were slaughtered to prevent people from relocating to another community and continue living in that same community.

This was the treatment through the policies of a foreign government. Around the 1970's, the ITC was formed to protect the Inuit of Nunavut and elsewhere.

This is the legacy that ITC left for the protection of Inuit rights and I am hoping to do the same for the future generations.

Mr. Chairman, the intent of the Bill is very desirable but it is too early to be set up at this time when we have other needs that need addressing. The Human Rights Legislation, if it is enacted, then our priority needs will again be ignored.

I do not feel that this Bill is made in Nunavut legislation, but having said that, we as Nunavummiut should be able to fight for the needs of our people. I cannot support this Bill at this time, as it is, because we have greater needs that need further attention. Once needs of Inuit have been met perhaps within ten years, or twenty years, then we could start focussing on these types of legislation once we are in a better position to deal with these types of matters.

I do believe that it is for protection from discrimination. Our needs, the needs of Inuit, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we are not caught up with these needs. I cannot go forth in supporting this Bill until those needs are met.

We have been imposed on with much legislation before, there are some new infrastructure and new schools being built. Those are our priorities, and if this Bill is not passed then perhaps we can focus more of our time on things such as the Education Act, which I feel is more a priority than this legislation.

In the meantime we will still fall back on other legislation from the Federal Government. When we are reviewing Bills, this is how the process is. Many of the contents of these Bill are taken from other legislation from across Canada, and try to apply it to Nunavut.

Having said that, Nunavut will always be at a disadvantage until we start using our own priorities and using the newly appointed Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which can lead the way in putting together Human Rights Legislation.

They have just started meeting and they have too many things to do at this time. There should be more of an opportunity to review this Bill brought before the House. Although I have said that I like the intent of this Bill, I am not ready to support it at this time, because we are just starting up as a Government and we not met our needs as Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was considering this Bill for quite a while and I am not opposed to it, but I did want to put some information together. I do know that there are equality rights, and I know where we stand on the issue. We have to have fairness, and I do support Bill 12. I believe that we should have done this a lot earlier than now.

As the previous Minister of Justice, much earlier in this term, I was prepared to bring forward a strong, clear Bill to the House. I think this action should serve as a clear signal to all that Nunavut is a safe, welcoming, hospitable and open environment where all people are shown respect, where it is acknowledged that human beings are equal and valued. I feel, at this time, that both in the eyes of the world and in the eyes of my fellow Nunavummiut that we have a public responsibility to assure to all citizenry that we have a peace loving, progressive and empathetic homeland for all of our people.

We have an enormous responsibility to live up to those same high standards and always have. I firmly believe in the clear separation of church and state, as has been done in all democracies.

I believe that fear, suspiciousness and discrimination against other people have no place in this new Territory we have worked so hard for so long to create. I believe that as Inuit, we had always treated people with acceptance, care and consideration.

These very positive traits help to define who we are. Our openness and respect for others has been the envy of many. This is something to continue to promote and honour now and in the future.

Our willingness to work along with people who are different from us, to collaborate and to cooperate with others has taken us a very long way. These characteristics are worth preserving and they are worth upholding in this situation.

I envisioned a place where people of all ages work together, not to work against any minority group.

I could see ahead to a society here in which people of all walks of life could cooperate as peers to problem solving, to initiate change to continue building and seeking innovative ways of living and developing.

Because as Inuit, we have suffered greatly in our own land I was sure that we would not want to inflict suffering upon others.

Do we want to see equality or do we want it the other way around? Do we want them to suffer? And we talk about religion and elders speak of traditional laws and beliefs, which included unity, cooperation, trust and respect.

I did not believe we, as Inuit, could ever set these aside and take a dislike to a portion of the population who we see as different.

Because we functioned in the most challenging environment in the world, I believed our ability to be flexible, accommodating, adaptable and progressive under our conditions formed the foundation of our success and that these were the keys to our very survival.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I believed all these things as I reflected on the subject of Human Rights.

I was sure that they were to be accorded to all – not only to some.

You can imagine my surprise as I watched a host of other things being brought in to these considerations as I watched the Bill being watered down and being severely challenged even then.

I have watched issues dragged in this discussion, which are not even included in this Bill. In this case, I mean the subject of same sex marriages which is currently so much a focus within the news media in southern Canada.

I have watched people work up a sweat about this without stopping to realize that is not what we are even speaking of in this particular Bill that is before us in this House today.

We are simply saying in this Bill that one of the categories that we will not discriminate against, is about their sexual orientation and I have watched pressure and judgment being exerted by religious groups suggesting in the strongest terms that if a person did not vote against this, they would be forever suspect and must be against God, even including our Prime Minister, by the way.

I have listened to hatred and paranoia coming out of the mouths of some people who should have known better. In some cases they would even be the first to complain if they lost any rights. I have listened to the confusion of some of those who do not seem to clearly understand what this is really about.

I have heard statements by those purporting to be leaders who seem to say that it is all right to be against some people and that it is okay that their rights should not be included. When did freedom loving people become so selective?

Since when it is it okay to discriminate? When did it become acceptable to treat people as less and more according to how we perceive them? When did we place more value on some than on others? What makes it okay to assume the role in our society that says we love you so you can have rights like us and we don't like you, so you can't have any.

How did we get to chose who is equal? Where did we get the power to give rights or take away rights? When did we decide to set aside our time honored values and beliefs about the value and integrity of all people.

In other words, what are we doing as members of our society supporting such nondemocratic behavior, judgment and attitudes? If anything, as leaders, we should be confronting this unacceptable way of thinking loudly and clearly.

We should be very busy reaffirming and protecting the rights of all. We should be rushing, almost tripping over ourselves, to say loudly in no uncertain terms that we will never accept hatred or discrimination against any group in our society for any reason.

We, as the leadership, should be very busy reminding everyone in the population that if any one person's rights are ignored or weakened, then everyone's rights are at risk. We should be leading the way in educating ourselves and making our society more responsible and more aware that human rights are for all humans, not just the ones you happen to agree with.

And while we are at it, we should be equally aware of the hundreds of people within our own population here in Nunavut whose sexual orientation may be different from our own. Whether you are in agreement with them or not, the reality is you must, in fact, you are obligated to serve them and to advocate for their rights too. No one gives us the right to organize against them or to promote exclusion or hatred towards them.

Some select people have totally failed to understand this point and feel there is some divine right now bestowed upon them to mercilessly attack, ignore or spread ignorance and fear of them.

As former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau once said, the state has no business being in the bedrooms of the nation. He went on to say that where there are two consenting adults of equal power and persuasion that it is not up to the state to judge.

Yet many years later tiny little Nunavut, the last to come on board in the map of Canada is kicking up such a fuss about this subject as if it was new and unknown. We seem to all be in the bedroom pointing our fingers and not in the boardroom using our heads.

Some of the statements being made in the House purport to speak for everybody when, in fact, many of their constituents are offended that anyone would assume that they thought like that. In some cases the wall of ignorance stands firm and refuses to let any new information in, nor does it stop and consider some very important facts, despite some of the pressing issues we are dealing with.

(Interpretation begins) Mr. Chairman I would like to have the opportunity to conclude my statement since my ten minutes are up.

Chairman (interpretation): Any nays?

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): I thank my colleagues.

Chairman (interpretation): Please recognize the chair. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): My mike went down. It is well know that there is a much higher incidence of suicide attempts and completions among youth who are grappling with their own sexuality issues. This fact is born throughout Canada and the US and is documented throughout much of the world. Nunavut leads this entire continent in suicide completions, yet we can take harsh and cruel stands which place further pressures on the youth population that is already vulnerable.

The negativity and judgement that people see as appropriate, when directed against those they do not like, goes a long way towards causing both direct and indirect harm to others.

Isolation is often experienced and this is one more effective way of excluding them and discriminating about those whose lifestyle may be different from your own.

There are many people out there who do not think the way I do but in many cases, the people doing this do not even know that may of their own relatives, friends and co-workers are gay, bisexual or transgender.

They seem to have no idea that it was their lives that they're taking away and that it was they who were being harmed. The group they many have targeted are in fact our own sons, daughters, nephews and nieces, sisters and brothers, close friends, and colleagues whose lives we made absolutely miserable through our judgement and total ignorance.

Who put us on this earth to cause such pain and suffering? Who set us up to refuse to treat people equally and respectfully and why do we think we get to be treated just as badly? It is time Nunavut and its leadership take a significant leap forward, not backward and immediately rethink what is coming out of their mouths on this issues.

People have had to struggle throughout southern Canada to overcome such unacceptable levels of discrimination and fear. It has been a long road to educate the public and achieve awareness that human rights cannot be denied, altered or set aside. We have to reconsider this in Nunavut.

(interpretation end) Mr. Chairman, I do not think we can get away with the way many in this House are talking. We should not be so comfortable in demonstrating our ignorance. We have no authority to do harm. We have no license to cause or contribute to unrest, social divisiveness and/or lynch mob mentality.

No matter which culture we are, we do not get to act out against others or to isolate or refuse to offer the same rights and protections that are afforded to all other citizens. There are those who wish to speak out against negativity but they are afraid because through careless reactionary remarks, including those in this House, they have been made afraid.

Teaching people to know fear and suffering in silence is not a lesson we should be teaching in Nunavut. I do not wish to teach my children hatred. I do not wish to pick and chose who I may be comfortable discriminating against.

I do not wish my friends and neighbours to know fear and hatred against any group who is seen as different from us. I do not wish to sit here quietly in fear allowing my very silence to appear to lend support to those who withdraw people of their rights in a democracy.

I do not want people to start to think we have lost our minds and not support exclusion, hatred and differing reasons to those we agree with versus those we chose to fear and misunderstand.

I do not want to sit among law makers who are in such a hurry to disrespect the law that says we are equal on this earth and deserve to receive equal treatment, equal access and equal respect.

During the Second World War, some of us are aware of the horrible treatment experienced by the Jews who were targeted and saw their entire careers, houses and possessions taken from them after they had become subjects of fear, hatred and discrimination.

They and their families were carted off to concentration camps where they were worked to death, were stripped of all their rights and died and were killed by a majority who thought they were less than themselves so they deserved no protection and no respect.

I am reasonable sure we all agree this was a terrible thing. Well, unknown to many people, there was a second group of people who were sent to those same camps, who were targeted along with Jews. This second group suffered the same treatment and daily indignities, loss of rights and personhood and eventual death. They were gay.

After the war, when the extent of these atrocities became fully known, the World Court agreed that this must never be allowed to be repeated. That humankind must never again sit back in silence when any group is targeted and seen as less than deserving of the same rights, protections and freedoms enjoyed by others.

World Governments were united that this must never be allowed to happen again, that all persons are created equal. There was an agreement at every level that all citizens must remain vigilant and be prepared to defend the rights of all people, in case, in the future, anyone could ever again have their rights down-graded, withheld, restricted or ignored.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I stand here today, not in silence, for that would condone what is wrong. I stand here and loudly proclaim the true need of every person to feel safe and secure in their society, to make a positive contribution, to be heard, to be acknowledged, to be respected, to have the same access and services, to be just as valued and connected as everyone else.

I implore you to remember our long struggle in Nunavut for our rights and to remain firm in your belief that no one else should ever be denied their rights either.

I urge this House to move forward in the spirit of respect and cooperation of unity and of connectedness and support this Bill to ensure your children and mine can grow up in a world that takes care of and serves all of its citizens equally well.

We can fight this Bill and show our smallness, our paranoia and our disdain for our fellow human beings, or we can embrace this Bill and lead the way as progressive, empathetic, and forward-thinking members of society.

Let's do the right thing, Mr. Chairman, human rights, respect, and equality for all.

I have stood in this House many times and quoted from the Nunavut Vision Statement. It calls upon us to create a government that is open and fair to all its people, that belongs to the people, that is accountable to the people.

This is the Nunavut we fought for. This is the Homeland that protects, acknowledges, defends and takes good care of its people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to welcome all the people who are in the Gallery, and who are here to listen to the debate on Bill 12. I welcome you all. We apologize that although we realize that they want to voice their opinions in this House we can't allow them to at this time because we using the British Parliamentary Rules. We have Ms. Williams, Mr. Puqiqnak, Mr. Netser, and Mr. Alakannuark on my list.

Since one of the Members had more than ten minutes, we will be fair to everyone; anyone who wishes to speak more than the allotted ten minutes; then they may do so. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I envy the Members from Iqaluit, MLAs having the constituents here in the House. Okalik's constituents, Ed Picco's constituents, and Mr. Tootoo's constituents are here, and I envy that. I wish that we could have our constituents here as well too. I'm sure that they will do an excellent job of representing them.

I would like to say, Mr. Chairman, in regards to Bill 12, the Human Rights Act, I would at this time to say to the elders and the people who are married to non-natives, there are many people out here that are married to non-natives, myself, for instance, I use myself as an example; we marry non-natives nowadays. When we talk about the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we talk about the Inuit being very respectful to other people.

It does not matter what colour or religion or sexual orientation they are. Say for instance, if a person has, if my spouse has a business or goes out hunting, some people do not like them.

A little while ago somebody said that the people, Inuit a long time ago were not respected by the Federal Government. It is a good thing we were not respected at that time because we can now stand strong and protect our rights because we learned from being mistreated that way and anyway, we were learning from that experience.

What we are dealing with today is not an easy task, but our Chairman mentioned that, this legislation is going a little bit too fast. Mr. Chairman, Inuit and the

Caucasians and Afro-Americans, Chinese people and any people that who in Nunavut in November, today this month, November 2003, is not acrimonious.

It does not matter what colour you are, you are able to get a job here in the Nunavut Government. We give the same thing, the same treatment for everybody, whether it be health services or other services because we already know that as people they have to be, there cannot be discrimination.

Bill 12, we are discussing it today is not very clear to some people. Like the Minister stated that and also the Chairman stated that they talked about same sex marriages. There is nothing in that legislation that deals with that, but it states, in the legislation, that there is something that deals with employment, medical treatment and other things.

Everybody has to be treated equally here in Nunavut. We should not be discriminating against other people.

I would also like to state that at the last Minister's lengthy consultation. I do not think they went to the communities. What they did was they asked for submissions, they got submissions from NTI and other organizations, but we did not go to the communities to do consultations on this legislation.

Whenever there is a very controversial legislation, we have to go to the communities to conduct consultations with them.

In regards to the Wildlife Act, we did some community consultations in Nunavut communities because it was a controversial bill. Same with the Education legislation. I think the people of Nunavut have every right to be able to hear about the Human Rights Act because it touches upon their daily lives. It has to do with everybody in Nunavut and they should be consulted.

When, as a community, as a Committee, all the things that we are not sure about, what we do is we consult the communities on it. I feel that this Human Rights Act should be brought to the communities and consult with the people because it's as important as the Education Act and the Wildlife Act.

We had a public meeting on October 1st but there were only 13 people who attended the consultation process. Maybe it was because we didn't really inform the public on it. Maybe that's why there weren't that many people who attended.

Mr. Chairman, today, we talked about love and it really hit the spot. It's good to have love but we have to teach our children and grandchildren properly on the rights of all humans because we have to be able to provide them good legislation. We're trying to make good legislation for our children. Somebody said that there is no relation between the church and the legislature. I wonder how much money the government would have left if the church did not deal with social issues.

Our government would probably be short \$800 million if the churches were not involved with social work and counselling. We have to look at them equally because there are many communities in Nunavut that go to church and we represent those individuals.

They elected us. Even though some people did not elect us, we have to be able to represent them equally. We did not put ourselves over here; we were put here by our constituents. We were elected by them and we have to have a voice for them whether they go to church or they don't go to church, it doesn't matter what they do, we have to represent them equally as a government.

There are many churches that deal with social issues and they also go to the hospitals and the correctional facilities and help out with counselling people. They also have rights too. Mr. Chairman, I will not be supporting this Bill at this time because I feel that the people of Nunavut will have to be consulted again to get their views. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when I started campaigning, I wasn't thinking that we would be dealing with legislation as important as this.

If any legislation passes, then we know that the people of Nunavut will be using it. We're dealing with Bill 12 at this time and these are very good discussions that the members are having because this legislation deals with people having to have equal rights.

To be able to look after people who live in poverty, who are widowed, anybody, everybody in Nunavut, I'm very happy about that legislation dealing with those parts. I grew up on the land and we survived off the land.

We did not have any counsellors and we did not have any written legislation and we were not taught any legislation.

What we did was we worked very hard to try to keep ourselves fed and to keep ourselves warm. We did not have any laws down, like there was various ways of dealing with people who lost their parents.

What they did was the younger siblings would sew for them, feed them when they lose their parents and clothed them. Even though there was no law dealing with having to take care of your fellow man. My mother or my sisters were mistreated, abused by some men. That is why I favour Bill 12 when it is dealing with people so that they cannot be abused, but there is always a but, in this world the people of Nunavut and people who live in the provinces, like we said numerous times and Members of this House said numerous times that we have a unique Government here and we are in a unique world where it is harsh weather.

There is no discrimination here in this House amongst the Members or the people of Nunavut. So, for that reason, I would like to say that Bill 12 deals with having equal rights for all the people of Nunavut.

It is good that way, but there is always a but, it was mentioned earlier about the churches and the Government and the religious people helping the Government by doing counselling in the churches, in the hospitals and in correctional facilities and somebody said that, like to me, this is not so.

If I am baptised, the Government has to take my baptismal certificate. Same with the churches, they have to have the same papers as the Government does. They have to be able to work together in order to share those paperwork. They have together on those.

So with that, Mr. Chairman, as elected people, we were put here in the House, we did not come here by ourselves, we have to be elected by the electorate out there. The people who put us here, say for instance, I will use my chair, which belongs to me, I always think that this is the chair that belongs to the people of Netsilik because I represent them.

This chair is not just mine, it also belongs to the people who voted for me and if I try to go against their wishes and I made an oath, I would break that oath if I do not represent them properly and I also told them that I would be working for them in this House. I wanted to be, I have to be able to follow their wishes and I have to be their voice.

If I do something against their will, it won't be right. And if I try to do things that I want myself, then I would break the law because I would not be representing my people.

There are some communities in Nunavut that opposes same sex marriages. There are twenty seven communities in Nunavut and that is what has been discussed on the radio throughout Nunavut. Some Members are saying that they will be supporting this.

You can't just try to use your own opinions. You have to be able to represent your people. I am making laws for my children and the younger generation. Our elders and our children have to be represented and we can't just approve something just because we feel that it should be approved.

We have to think of our people out there. In regards to Bill 12, I feel that we have only been a government for four years and this legislation has been about for quite some time because we are the first term members and all of a sudden we want to pass this kind of legislation right away.

I remember in 1999 when we had a meeting in the cadet hall and when we would go outside to take a break once in a while and some people would come to us and shake our hands. There was an elder. He asked me where I came from and I said Gjoa Haven and my name is Puqiqnak and then he said he's from Hall Beach and he said he remembers all things that I've talked about in the House.

We expect to be able to do the right thing and to help the people out there who have elected us but he did not want us to fast track any legislation because this is the very first time that Members of the Legislature has been elected. They wanted us to take our time to produce good legislation for the people of Nunavut and not to hurry through with the legislation and I always remember that.

Bill 12 is good because it's going to give everybody equal rights but at the same time it would go against the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit because if we're going to allow same sex marriage, it's going to go against Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

We don't have that kind of thing because when our children were very small, there were arranged marriages. It is not practised anymore. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I'd like to acknowledge the presence of the elders and you followed along with Mr. Puqiqnak's sayings where traditionally, couples were arranged when they were children. So I stand here today and praise the elders for their knowledge.

Mr. Chairman, as the newest member of this House, I am feeling confused seeing this legislation because the smaller communities were not consulted, communities such as Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet. The government and our Premier stated that there was consultation with eight communities. However, Nunavut has 28 communities and they are proud of their government. We are trying to introduce legislation without any consultation and this is not acceptable.

When Bill 35 was introduced, the Wildlife Act, all the communities in Nunavut were consulted as this Bill is important to Inuit.

Bill 12 is also an important piece of legislation but without any consultation I feel this is dangerous to me Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, we are often told in this House that we need to deal with things immediately in order to catch up to the rest of the country. In other cases we are told that we have not made progress in certain areas because we are still a young territory, with a very young government, only four years old. In this case, Mr. Chairman,

I think that rushing into these areas simply to be able to say that we also have a Human Rights Laws is not the right way to go.

Mr. Chairman, the other Provinces and Territories have had a lot more time than we have had to bring forward legislation to suit their needs and values. I believe, Mr. Chairman, we need to spend more time to do the right job and do the right thing.

Mr. Chairman, I just mentioned values, and I want to state clearly for the record that my opposition to this Bill is not based on hatred, unlike my friend Jack Anawak mentioned earlier for anyone or any group. I did not want to see anybody hurt or discriminated.

(interpretation) I have not seen women with women being discriminated against at work Mr. Chairman. They are not treated in that manner up here. People are proud of them up here, they work well. They are provided with housing from our cold harsh arctic environment.

(interpretation ends) Nevertheless the laws we pass, reflect our values, whether Members agree with me or not, they do. The fundamental law of Canada, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, recognizes, recognizes, Mr. Jack Anawak, recognizes the supremacy of God in the very first sentence. It begins by stating, "Whereas Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God, and the rule of law." I believe that the laws we pass in Nunavut must also reflect our values

(interpretation) and to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the process as people feel that it is an important tool. We are proud and we are happy with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I am frankly concerned that while we may pass this Bill today, which I hope we do not, we do not know what will become before us tomorrow. The issue of adoption comes to mind.

Mr. Chairman, I agree that the Government should not force people to live their lives in a certain way. However, I also believe that we, Mr. Chairman, we as a society have the right not to be forced by any one group into giving explicit legitimacy and endorsement of anybody's life or their lifestyles. Mr. Chairman, I will not support this Bill. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Next on my list, we have Enoki, Alakannuark, and Havioyak. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. You can call me whatever you want today. Now the time has come and this was introduced at our session in Pangnirtung and it has all of it in the back of our minds the whole time and I am glad it is here.

Now we can finally air our thoughts and a good debate is always welcome in the House. This Bill's intent is very good and today we know that, that all of the legislation that we have passed through this House have been written. We thought we had problems that we have had to deal with and a lot of the legislation was not to protect our rights. It feels like the laws are imposed on us. They tell us how to live our life when we, as Inuit, can live without any laws like we have for thousands of years.

The laws have, at times, become a disadvantage to the people because a lot of times they are no use to us whatsoever and yet we are always being told that we should be an open and accountable Government and we are.

I do not know how many people in Nunavut who are tired of being intimidated and why do we need the new legislation so that we can protect those people who are at a disadvantage?

There is already Federal legislation for the protection of human rights and why are we, as Nunavummiut are trying to make new legislation, which is exactly like the Federal legislation.

Why do we need to recognize our rights through this legislation, when in fact, they are already recognized through the Charter of Rights. And so, that is very hard to grasp for me as an Inuk. There was some comments made earlier that Inuit were always nice people, no matter what kind of person you are, that they will always be nice and inviting and welcoming to you.

But Inuit do have more important needs and there were a lot of mistreatment of Inuit in the past and then there are also legends that talk about the mistreatment of people, but which end with the triumph over evil and the redemption of the mistreated.

My Colleague stated earlier, I did not agree with him that Inuit have always been mistreated. Yes, we are well aware of that and so, our ancestors never even had or understood the concept of same sex couples because I've never heard of any legends or any stories of any of my ancestors that would have been in a same sex relationship and so I do not believe in this Bill and I don't believe we should be legislating this type of activity.

As Inuit, this is not our way of life. I agree with Mr. Puqiqnak's statements regarding the treatment and giving equal rights to everybody. Yes, I do like the intent of the Bill where it is not to discriminate anyone and if this Bill is passed, then maybe I could agree with his comments but because the people of Nunavut do not understand the intent of this Bill whatsoever, we shouldn't be enacting this type of Bill without getting prior consultation with the people of Nunavut.

I can say for sure that if there is no Bill like this, we have another to fall back on. The people are saying we're not passing this piece of legislation so that we can seem unwelcoming to those people. It is not so. We welcome any type of people into Nunavut and if anyone says that they are being discriminated against, then they can fall back and use the federal legislation for their protection.

So, why are we trying to enact this legislation for Nunavut? If we're going to be a territory, which will welcome same sex relationships with a small territory with less than 30 thousand people, are we over regulating ourselves?

Our Coral Harbour Member who stated, there was a hunter in Coral Harbour who wanted to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for traditional hunting and he was denied because it was over legislated and when this was introduced, we had a whole bunch of submissions and we were told that Inuit in Nunavut were in support of the Bill but they haven't been informed about the contents of this Bill at all.

This Bill's intent is very good but I don't think we should be legislating in welcoming those types of relationships and I don't even want to see them here in Nunavut. I don't want to see openly gay people walking around our streets.

It's less apparent when lesbians are together but Manitok's father made a statement on CBC radio that we shouldn't be discussing this topic. Yes, this, we shouldn't even be discussing and I say this because I'm representing the views of Igloolik and Hall Beach: they are all in relationships and I don't see any same sex relationships and if there is, there are maybe two or three.

I don't care if those people do not vote for me next time around in the election. Those are the comments I wanted to make because those are my views and I think we working too hastily on this Bill.

We have stated time and again in the House that we should use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the process. We should recognise Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and recognise the rights of Inuit. We don't need a piece of paper saying okay we're going to recognise Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit through this process.

The Government of Nunavut has Human Resource Policies that say the protection of different peoples and that you need a piece of paper in order to get that recognition in order to get employment with the government. That is totally against our beliefs as Inuit.

I will not be supporting this Bill; I'm not shy to say that in front of the public if anybody says derogatory words about me, it doesn't matter because I wouldn't be here if man and woman were not together.

If there's a community set up for same sex couples how are they going to reproduce; they are going to die off eventually. Fifty years from now perhaps this community would be eradicated because they cannot reproduce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Next on my list is, we are on general comments right now and as Ovide stated we have ten minutes for each Member to make

general comments and you can go over that since we allowed the Member to go over the time allowed. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would also like to thank you for giving me the opportunity for making my statement. I can see that we have many of our Iqaluit elders here in the House.

I'm starting to think that when we were elected, we were elected by the people out there and since now that we are sitting in the House it seems like we have shunned those people who have voted us into the House.

We are no longer representing our people if we will be supporting this Bill. I am an elder, I am one of the elders and I'm making my own comments. I can smile and also acknowledge the elder who is sitting in the witness table and the other elders in the gallery.

Bill 12, the Human Rights Act sounds good in principle. Even if this Bill isn't enacted it will eventually come back into the House and be debated again and we cannot stop any individual from their sexual preference.

We are a friendly territory and we are an open territory. But one thing that I cannot shun is the people who put me in this chair; they are standing behind me and I am their elected spokesperson. I want to be the one to make decisions for them; I came here to represent the people in my riding.

I have to keep in mind the needs and the wishes of the people who put me here and I will not support this Bill if the people in my riding oppose it. If I shun my people, I would see it as being a parent who is asked a question by a child and then just turns around and slaps them.

We could reconsider these types of Bills only after we have made a solid foundation for Nunavut. We have been here for a little over four years, but it feels like we just were elected yesterday.

This has been an extremely rapid phase. I do know that there is a misunderstanding out there but it is not a tradition to accept gays and lesbians or the issue of same sex marriages; it is something that came from the south.

I want to reassure the people out there that I 'm not opposed to anybody by race or colour but when it comes to this, it is something that I cannot accept. The reason why I'm saying that is that we have to deliberate on these types of issues only after Nunavut has itself on its feet.

We haven't even fully considered this Bill. We had a meeting here on this Bill but we didn't go to any of the communities to consult with the people. There is a

misunderstanding out there. I would like to say that I will be opposing this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make a short comment on this to be able to participate in the discussions that are happening here. It's getting late in the evening.

I haven't forgotten what I said earlier on. Two men or two ladies, if they are to be married, it is not the way of Inuit culture. That's not Inuit tradition. This is what I mentioned. If this is not our tradition, why are we pushing this issue?

This piece of legislation, to accept it or to not accept it, this is what we're discussing today. I've also mentioned, someone had mentioned from Kugluktuk, because he was discriminated by the government, he ran into problems.

This is what he said, where am I to go now because I'm discriminated against by government or others. I want to say that somebody has mistreated me. I want to tell someone and say how can this mistreatment by government or others, how can it be rectified?

He also mentioned the issue of fair practise. Maybe we'll go and see someone to bring this up but to date, he hasn't had a response. Why? This piece of Legislation that we are putting together, working on, it is for those who are having a hard time, maybe that is, maybe this is a way to go. This is a road that they can take.

Put two men, two ladies issues aside and let us say those Inuit that are having hard times and having problems, will have an avenue and maybe today, things can be rectified that are of that nature.

I want to mention that yes; I have looked at this document but have not fully understood it. They mentioned the issue of sexual orientation; Inuit tradition was not that way. That is why I am not happy with this issue of sexual orientation, what is it? What does it mean? I do not know.

Because of not knowing this issue and my thoughts coming from my heart and thinking of those people in Kugluktuk, maybe those ones who need an avenue because I have been mistreated, there is an avenue for me to rectify the situation.

And on the other hand, same sex marriages will become a problem also. But in this piece of Legislation, unless things are made very clearly, I will ask the Minister what does this imply, the sexual orientation issue or the wording?

When we mention these kinds of wording, Inuit tradition does not cover those and looking at this piece of Legislation, I have problems with it and I will be asking the Minister some questions for clarification.

There are people out there who are listening and or are looking at this Legislation. There are many questions that are left unanswered; this is how it is for me. I will be asking questions because I want to make sure that I understand.

As Uriash mentioned earlier and I, who put me here? When I hear this from those in Kugluktuk, I am just a voice for them. I will be their voice and be asking questions. What is this piece, what does this say, what does this mean? And we will be making things clearer.

They have also mentioned to me, Donald, if you do not fully understand, do not say yes or no. There are questions that need to be answered as for me, my thoughts, if people in Kugluktuk did not put me here, then I would have my own thoughts.

But because I was put here by those in Kugluktuk, I want to represent them. They have said to me, make things clearer, ask questions before you vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not want to further confuse the people, but I would like to look at the intent of the Bill, this Bill gives equality to the people of Nunavut. I would like to ask if you would let me, Mr. Chairman, talk about the people who put me in here and to also touch up on some of their thoughts.

This is a Bill for Nunavut, for the people that we represent. It is not going to be directed to anybody outside Nunavut. I will not say I am speaking on behalf of a religious body, or say that I am a religious person; I cannot say, because I am religious, that person is wrong according to this legislations.

We all know that only on Judgement Day, we will know whether we did right or wrong. It is not today. And even if I try to use that, it would be wrong. The Lord is Lord and only on Judgement Day will we find out where we stand and where we are going to go. That will be the day of Judgement.

Today, Mr. Chairman, I will be very open and frank on this issue. We have to stop discrimination today. We have to provide a brighter future for our children, grand children, and great grand children.

As legislators we are already hearing opposition, we are hearing people that we represent do not know what to make of this at this moment. We are saying that the people out there are misinformed and probably the reason is that there is no communication between the Member of the Legislative Assembly and the people in their community. I went to Pangnirtung to talk to the people in my riding, and we also heard that this Bill was first introduced a year ago. I went to see the people of Pangnirtung, and today I stand here with the direction provided from my constituents. However, when I am asked to vote I am unsure as my constituents have two opinions.

Mr. Chairman, if we say in the House that we are doing the wrong thing, then we have put a stop to this Bill. We can't do that. We also heard that we have to vote representing the people who put us in this House. In that light, and looking at the Human Rights Act, we should not base it on that.

What we hear out there is contradictory and we are confusing the people out there. We have to look at the intent of the Act and we do know that there has to be equality and protection to all the people of Nunavut.

As this is a very important Bill, I know that some of us have asked the people out there which way we should vote. As I said, Mr. Chairman, if this Bill is going to be put to a vote, I will know which way to go.

There are some people who are saying that we should delay this. I do not want to see a delay in this Bill. If we put a delay on it for another five years and then enact it in five years time, then we will finally find out that there has to be an amendment done again, five years later and the intent of the Bill would have lost its meaning.

I'm very pleased Mr. Chairman, that during Committee of the Whole, that I'm able to voice my thoughts on this Bill as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Pangnirtung. The reason why I wanted to voice my opinion is because this Bill promotes equality and fairness and we hear that there are many people out there that oppose this Bill and the rights of gays and lesbians.

That is not the intent of this Bill. This Bill promotes equality for Nunavummiut and I'm more concerned about my children, my grandchildren because they are our strength. But then again, even though that's the case, there are a lot of households and children and grandchildren that need that protection.

I don't see how we should deny them the protection. Our children and our grandchildren need protection. Do we want to deny them the protection? This is something that I would be very embarrassed about as a government. I would be more concerned about my family who live under our roof.

There are our children and our grandchildren who will be taking over our place in the future. The people have the right to live their lives the way they want. This Bill, even though I don't get a 100 percent support for it, the support for this Bill was outweighed by those who did not support it because they understood the intent of the Bill in promoting equality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Would you like to take a break or did you want to keep going. Okay, we'll keep going. There will be other things that we'll have to deal with. Mr. Nutarak, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Very briefly Mr. Chairman, because even if I make a lengthy speech, it's not going to fix anything.

When we were dealing with the Education Act, we went to several communities to find out what the wishes of the people of Nunavut were and with Bill 35, the Wildlife Act, again, we went to several communities to get a feel of what the thoughts of the people were about the Bills that we were considering.

Bill 12, that we're currently discussing, I can say that I don't know much about the contents of this Bill because I am not a Member of the Committee that considered Bill 12.

I can say that the residents of Pond Inlet share the same opinion. I hear bits and pieces about this Bill now and then. I can say that I'm just as misinformed or just as ignorant about this Bill as many of people of Nunavut. I think this is the first time that we're publicly discussing this Bill and in just an hour I have found out more about this Bill than an hour ago. I would like to know where the people of Pond Inlet stand before I make a decision on this Bill.

And the other issue I wanted to bring up was gays and lesbians and there are some people who are saying that this is not part of Inuit tradition and there are Inuktitut terms for gays and lesbians; they have names because of course there must have been gays and lesbians a long, long time ago; we didn't even know they had specific terminology, but there is.

I will oppose Bill 12 unless there are further consultations with communities. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are many people in Iqaluit who said that they weren't really clear on the legislation right now the way it is because they were not consulted. I thank them for attending the House tonight because they too are constituents of some Members here.

I think everybody knows what my stand is on this legislation. I have been misquoted on Nunatsiaq News and in the media saying that I oppose the Bill with reference to same sex issues. In 1981 the Federal Government of Canada already dealt with the sexual orientation portion of the legislation and in Inuktitut it states wanting to have a partner whether it is a male or a female, at least there is terminology for it now.

But sometimes even the English terminology is not quite clear. If I want to have two husbands or if I want to have six husbands or if I want to live with all females, or if I am a man and I want to have 4 wives or do I want to go with younger men when I am an older woman just to be able to be with them, to me that's what I see as sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is misunderstood now and has lost meaning. If it was in the legislation I would not approve the Bill, but because it is here I will not support it.

(interpretation ends) In 1981 the Government of Canada rejected the terms of sexual orientation because they could not define it and we know that. Up to today it has not been defined properly except by the gay community.

We have been told that the Bill is very good; I believe that it is very good except for that clause, sexual orientation. The committee has not done a very good job consulting, they did that for the Elections Act, the same committee, and they travelled all over the place with the Elections Act.

If they felt the Human Rights Act was as important as the Elections Act they would have gone out and consulted properly. The people that came here today from the Iqaluit community were all shocked and came out to say we do not understand what you are trying to do. And I said, no there were 15 people in a public meeting. How many people do we have in Iqaluit? About 5 thousand, 6 thousand, 15 people from that community that came out and I said we did not know about it. What is it?

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, Ed Horn has destroyed many lives. Ed Horn is known by many people in Nunavut. Ed Horn destroyed many young minds, so many young minds because he went to different communities and he abused boys.

If we had seen what was happening, would we accept it? Are we talking about, if we cannot like, if we accept what he did, then it is not right. There have been many young men that committed suicide that were abused by Ed Horn. That is why I cannot accept the wording sexual orientation in this Bill.

The Status of Women Council had a meeting in Iqaluit and I know all of them and I know who they are and I have spoken to them all. When they were trying to voice their opinions on this Bill, they too were told we should not be talking like that.

Who told them that? By the staff and they were not told to talk about against the Bill. They were given scare tactics, elders, women. They were scared and they were given a letter saying that if you are going to oppose the gays and lesbians, you cannot be a Board. That is the kind of letter that they got. Who has more say? Do the gays and lesbians? Not us? We welcome everybody. They have their own house; minorities have more rights than the Inuit of Nunavut. They have 100 percent of everything. They have all kinds of rights; they are not scared. They have all kinds of jobs that they want.

You do not understand this anymore because that is all we hear because we are saying that we do not understand this; we are going to not approve this.

It is like we do not have our own minds. We understand exactly what the Bill is all about. Are we going to change the laws of God? Are we going to accept the same sex marriages and give it a blessing? Is that what we want?

I do not think that we are going to change the laws of the Bible. There are many people in Nunavut who have their lives destroyed by being abused by those individuals that abused them sexually, by a man.

Those are teachers who they trusted who abused those men and many of them had committed suicide because they were hurt because it is not their custom; this is sexual orientation.

Mr. Chairman, today, it is scarier to have same sex couples nowadays. The Human Rights Act is really good, is very understandable and we are just going to put that piece in there to make it right, but what about taking it out and revise it.

Mr. Chairman, maybe because we have not had any lesson or any information about what happens in this world about human rights like sexual orientation and all that stuff, but that is probably why we are rejecting this legislation.

If it was our way of doing things, then probably we would accept those gays and lesbian couples. Mr. Chairman, in my community, I have heard them talk about this on the radio and I gave them information on the radio. I also visited the elders' homes to talk to them about the Human Rights Act, but I did not talk about same sex orientation. I just talked about human rights.

But as soon as they hear that part of it, they said no, we do not want to recognize those people and if it is going to be in that legislation, I do not want you to approve the legislation.

That is the way, like, the same sex couples are accepted in Nunavut, but they seem to have a lot more rights than any other human being. They could say to us, you know, they could say to us, as Members of the Legislature, you have no right to turn this down.

Before the people of Nunavut are consulted on this and I will not approve it and I could tell Ukaliannuk to go and talk to my father on exactly where the Inuit stand on this human rights when it has to do with same sex couples. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Are we almost done? Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a Legislative, we all have a responsibility and a duty to pass laws that benefit all Nunavummiut and this Human Rights Act protects all individuals in discriminatory practises; it protects minorities; it protects those who are most vulnerable in society.

No one, I think, opposes the intent of the Bill. The prohibited grounds of discrimination listed in the Act, discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, citizenship, place of origin, creed, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, pregnancy, etc.

The real issue before us, Mr. Chairman, is the matter of sexual orientation. Let us face the facts here. Remember it is no different than the rest of Canada or the world for that matter. The issue of same sex relationships is controversial and emotional.

Many Members of this House have strong personal views and beliefs based on their upbringing, based on their religious beliefs, based on directions from their constituents, which we have heard today to oppose anything dealing with same sex relationships or same sex rights and based on this, no debate in this House will change that.

Many of you will put those views aside. Although I do not agree with that, I do respect that. It is your prerogative as individual Members to vote with your own conscience or that of your constituents, but I also ask that you respect those views of others and that they are contrary to that such as mine.

My view that as a legislator is our responsibility is to put aside those personal views, put aside the constituency views it when we are dealing with broader fundamental human rights issues such as the Bill that we have before us today.

And Mr. Chairman I'm not an expert on aboriginal rights or discriminatory practices of aboriginal peoples, many of you certainly have experienced that or have more knowledge than I.

I do have some background being of Chinese/Oriental descent growing up as a visible minority in British Columbia. I am aware of ethnic discrimination practices that has happened in the past and some of those injustices of Chinese in particular, there was a head tax that the Government of Canada imposed to restrict or constrain the immigration of Orientals, and Chinese in particular, that wasn't put in place for Europeans and the right to vote for Chinese citizens wasn't until well after they were in the country.

Japanese citizens during the World War in which Japan was a part of, Japanese Canadian citizens were interred, put in jail, and they had their assets seized by the Government of Canada just for being Japanese.

Mr. Chairman the Charter of Rights and Freedoms came in decades after that wouldn't allow those types of practices to happen today. Mr. Chairman having said that, let's not put our heads in the sand and ignore the real issue of fair treatment of all individuals particularly those of same sex orientation.

I have heard comments, excuses that we are not ready for this Bill, there are other priorities, there's not enough consultation taken place; legitimate or not I guess some Members use those matters.

Bottom line is Mr. Chairman, either you are for or against treating all citizens equally. Our responsibility is to ensure fair and equal treatment of all members of our society and particularly Mr. Chairman those that are most vulnerable.

Mr. Chairman I will be supporting this Bill. Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Next on my list are Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Tootoo and Mr. Picco. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll make my comments brief on this topic regarding Bill that is before us. I do have some comments to make on it as well.

Perhaps I'll start with when the government first started coming up north I was also apposed to some foreign practices.

For ten months I was relocated to other communities for further education and because of that I felt it was a mistreatment of our people, on my mother and father, and if we are not going to take ownership of this legislation in Nunavut our children, our grandchildren will be subject to this type of mistreatment that we have felt in the past.

The legislation that we are discussing is to prevent the mistreatment of our people in the future. My father in front of me was told that if I do not go to school they will not be given the family allowance payment and those were the intimidation tactics that were used and that was mistreatment of our people and that will continue if we do not enact this legislation.

As well, in the Sanikiluaq area, we were relocated to other parts of the island against our will. We were moved around by the Federal Government and that was gross mistreatment of our people and this will continue if we do not come forth with this Legislation.

But I am proud to say that we are still living on the Belcher Islands regardless of what the Government's intent was and so, if we do not take ownership of this Legislation in Nunavut, then we will still be subject to the same discrimination and mistreatment.

We as Inuit, even if we do not have laws on paper, we still have ethics and rules to follow by. With today's new technologies and new processes, we have to ensure that we have written legislation in all aspects of our lives.

We as Inuit can continue to live without this type of Legislation, but with the changing times, we need this type of legislation for the Government's conduct and treatment of its people.

What I see with this legislation is that it can only benefit our people and promote protection of their rights. That is the intent of this Bill.

My Constituents did not understand the intent of the Bill as well because there were two sections regarding the same sex relationships and sexual orientation; it has nothing to do with this Bill.

That is a Federal Government jurisdiction and we, as Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut do not have the authority and jurisdiction over same sex marriages and we should just leave that at that because we have no jurisdiction over it and no matter how we talk about how we oppose same sex relationships and so on, it has no baring on what we are discussing today because we are talking about the protection of Nunavummiut

I keep coming back to it because that is how I understand the Bill and it is meant to benefit and protect the people of Nunavut.

I have grandchildren who are disabled and I want their rights protected by the Government and I do feel that this legislation would do this. And so, my grandchild would have that protection under this Legislation to ensure she is not treated unfairly because of her disabilities.

And so, with that, I will be supporting this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have two people left on my list. Mr. Tootoo and Mr. Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am very proud today to be able to speak in support of Bill 12, a Human Rights Act for Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, like all of you, I am sure I was very proud to be elected as a Member of this Legislative Assembly and I take, very seriously, the responsibility to enact Legislation that will benefit equally and fairly, all residents of Nunavut.

And I say that again, enact Legislation that will benefit equally and fairly, all residents of Nunavut, no matter what colour, no matter what color, what background, no matter what religion, no matter what gender and no matter what family status.

Mr. Chairman, the bill before us today speaks directly to that responsibility. A Human Rights Act for Nunavut would ensure that every Nunavut resident would be entitled to the same level of protection against discrimination as every other resident of Nunavut.

A Human Rights Act for Nunavut would mean that complaints of discrimination would be examined, investigated and resolved within Nunavut, instead of leaving such issues to a federal commission that may or may not have an appreciation for the context in which we live.

That's an issue that I've heard raised over and over again in this House by almost all the Members here. We want to take care of our own business. We don't need to ride on the coattails of Ottawa. We can do it ourselves. I think we are mature enough, contrary to comments that have been made to deal with such issues.

Mr. Chairman, when we look at the history of nations across the world, there are plenty of examples where minorities were treated badly, sometimes to the point of death by other groups of the same nation who believe that those minorities have less right to life and dignity, based on their ethnicity, based on their color, based on their religion or based on any other aspect of their beings.

Mr. Chairman, the history of the North is no different. Even today, we continue to hear testimony from individuals, from families, from communities across Nunavut who suffered deeply from the discriminatory practises imposed on them in the not so distant past.

Over the past few decades, efforts have been made across the world to change the situation. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms are good examples of progress made to defend and protect minorities.

To date, every jurisdiction across Canada, with the exception of Nunavut, as has been pointed out by a number of colleagues has enacted human rights legislation that provides some level of protection against discrimination.

Mr. Chairman, without this kind of legislation in place, when my daughter applies for a job in this territory, she could be denied employment based on the simple fact that she is female. Or let me put it another way, Mr. Chairman, because this legislation is in place in other jurisdictions in Canada, if your child traveled to Ontario, she could not be denied a room in a hotel just because she's Inuk.

Human rights legislation ensures that we are all treated equally. Nunavut should not be the only jurisdiction in Canada that allows individuals to be denied accommodations,

employment and the provision of goods and services based on discriminatory attitudes about someone's color, someone's race or any other aspect of their persons.

Mr. Chairman, I understand that considering this bill raises some uncomfortable issues that each of us must address. Each of was raised with a set of values, a set of morals and a sense of how we should treat our fellow human beings.

At the same time, each and every one of us has to consider how our role as a legislator and as a representative for the people of Nunavut impacts the lives of the people we represent.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that many of us chose to enter public office because we felt that we could contribute to the process of improving our society. Part of that process is working towards ensuring that the less fortunate, the minorities, the disenfranchised, are not stepped on, are not forgotten about, are not dropped through the cracks and are not the victims of discriminatory practises.

I think people need to be protected. The big cause of concern here seems to be the fact that sexual orientation is included as prohibitive grounds of discrimination. Well, like it or not folks, it exists out there.

This Act, by including it in this Act, that is not saying that this Government is endorsing, or denying, or denouncing any sort of behaviour. It is accepting the fact that these lifestyles are out there, and these people need to be protected. Everybody has to be protected and have the same rights as everyone else.

That is what this Act is, and it is not dealing with same sex marriages, it is not dealing with adoptions. We have heard that over and over again in this House here tonight. The confusion is being put out there. I do not know if it intentionally, or maybe people just do not, or will not understand it but it has absolutely nothing to do with same sex marriages, and same sex adoptions. It has to do with prohibited grounds of discrimination against all Nunavummiut for accommodations, for employment, and for provision of goods and services only. That is it.

I know that we have heard comments in here tonight that say, for example, the abuse caused by teachers. Let us not forget that it was not just the teachers that abused young people. Okay? Remember that. I think that we all know that it was just more than teachers that abused people out there.

I have also heard the fact that there is no terminology for homosexual. I was talking to someone and they were telling me that their elder aunt was telling them that there is. It was a word that they were never supposed to use. It was a word that even today, she whispers when she says it.

The Committee Members have heard testimony from an elder who said there are legends

of a man and a man being together, and a woman and woman being together, but to say that this had never existed before is not exactly accurate either.

What I have seen over the last five years here on a number of occasions is, if we do not agree with something, we are rushing, or it is not Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. This Bill deals with something that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit stands for, as far as I am concerned all people are treated equally.

Why we are here today? Inuit would not have survived if they did not look after each other, and help each other. If it was no you are on your own, sorry. I do not think that we would be here today. I think that is something that we cannot forget either.

Mr. Chairman, also we have heard that there have been issues around that. I am sure there is. Like I said, it exists, and by the simple facts and proof of comments made in this House, that it should be a prohibited grounds of discrimination.

Again that is not condoning or denouncing any type of behaviour. It is just saying that it is acknowledging the fact that any type of behaviour is out there, and that it cannot be used as a ground for discrimination. We cannot forget that.

In considering this Bill, I urge my colleagues to keep two important facts in mind, Mr. Chairman. Enacting the Human Rights Act will not give any special privileges to any group, minority, or otherwise. Enacting a Human Rights Act here in Nunavut does not take away any rights that have been assigned to Inuit through the Land Claims Agreement.

Mr. Chairman, I would conclude by quoting from a United Nations universal declaration of human rights. "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in the spirit of brotherhood."

Mr. Chairman, I believe in the principles expressed in these words, and I support of the enacting of a Human Rights Act for Nunavut and urge my colleagues to support this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Next on my list is Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this has been great, to hear the debate, to be able to sit here and it is almost déjà vu, I am sure for me and Minister Ng and Minister Thompson because six years ago, almost to the day, this same debate we did in Yellowknife and I remember going in, Mr. Chairman, looking up and the Gallery was packed solid.

A bigger Gallery, I do not know if there were 150 people there and you know something, Mr. Chairman, they did the same thing. They clapped and they come in and booed depending on what the people said.

When we are Legislators and you are making Legislation, you are elected to represent everyone. I do not choose my Constituents, whether they are black, whether they are brown, whether they are white, Catholic, Anglican, Pentecost, whatever.

I am responsible to do the very best job that I can, that is what I try to do. Now, I have a speech here it is like 7 pages long and I would like to just throw it away and say something here for the record.

Seven years ago, I voted for the Same Sex Legislation that we are talking about here and when we are not talking about same sex marriages because that is what people are saying. This is not about same sex, it is about human rights. It is not about marriages.

Bishop Andrew Atagutaaluk, people tabled letters here today and over the last few days, tabled document 144-1(6). Bishop Andrew Atagutaaluk says: 'Please understand that I do not intend in any way', Bishop Andrew Atagutaaluk said to put down any individual, Bishop Andrew Atagutaaluk said: 'We all know that God loves the whole world, all meaning,' this is his words, 'meaning all people and creations despite imperfect judging.'

Mr. Chairman, yesterday, my son, who goes to school here in Iqaluit and was born and raised in Iqaluit and he is a beneficiary under the Land Claims said, Ed, to his dad, and he did not call me dad, I answered, you call me dad, you treat me with respect and he said, dad, we are doing something on black people. Is it true dad, in 1968 black people could not go to the same washroom as white people? Is it true that black people could not get on the buses as the same people, same as white people? I said, yes, that is true. He said, what is this about respecting human rights?

Respecting human rights is what we are trying to do today, to respect people's differences. Respecting if they have handicaps so that we do not discriminate against them. That is what human rights is about. It is not about same sex marriages and I do not know why that keeps coming up because that is not what is in the Bill.

When this Bill was introduced one year ago as Members said, we have not even talked about same sex marriages because that was not even on the floor in this House. This Bill is about guaranteeing the rights of individuals.

This Bill is about no discrimination. I read the Bill last night, I read the Bill. Mr. Nutarak made one of the truest Statement I have ever heard anyone say in this House. I have not read the Bill; I am only basing what I have heard from people. I read the Bill last night, the legislation.

There is nothing there about same sex marriages. There is nothing there about that. It is about making sure people are not discriminated against because of their religion, because

of their colour, because of handicap, because of their sexual orientation. That is human rights.

Now, let me give you another example, Mr. Chairman. As Minister of Health, I know that we send hundreds, hundreds of Inuit, Nunavut residents to the south every single day for hospital treatment.

When they go to Ottawa, the doctor does not say, excuse me, you are not from Ontario, you are not from Ottawa and you go to the end of the line. Sorry, you are not going to be taken care of. They could not do that, you know why? Because in Ontario, they have a Human Rights Legislation; people should be treated properly and fairly and honestly.

That is what Human Rights Legislation does, is it ensures that people should not be discriminated against. Right now if someone tells me they're being discriminated against, the only opportunity they would have is to appeal to the federal law.

The federal law would have to go to the Supreme Court. It could be costly and so on. And it wouldn't involve or include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in it. The framework has ensured that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit would be involved in the Bill.

One of the things we talked about here, Mr. Chairman, is respect, respect for different people's ideas and views. I respect your views and I respect the views of the other Members here.

We're all elected to represent the views of our constituents and to make sure that we do the very best that we can do as I did seven years ago and I will do today to support legislation that enacts and supports people's rights.

That's what we're talking about here today and that's what I would do and that's something that I am proud to say. I wasn't born in Nunavut Mr. Chairman, but Nunavut is my home.

My children were born here and I have chosen to raise a family here. I want to ensure that at the end of the day, Mr. Chairman, that people are treated equally and fairly. That's what we're talking about.

Quickly Mr. Chairman, just to wrap up, we passed tobacco legislation over the last 24 hours in this House. There was a lot of opposition from bar owners, people who go to bars because they wanted to be able to smoke.

Just because they were against it, didn't make it right. Just because 30 years ago black people couldn't get on busses and trains, didn't make it right. They were being discriminated against because of their color.

Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that at the end of the day, I wasn't elected to judge someone's lifestyle choice; I was elected to pass legislation that would enhance and help people. I believe that is what the Human Rights Legislation does.

Mr. Chairman, I will be supporting the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to speak today on this Bill and it would be out of character for me not to express my opinion on this Bill.

I look around the room today and I was brought up in a strict catholic family. I went to a catholic school until I was in grade four or five and I had a deal with the Catholic Church and what was going to happen to me if I didn't follow all their rules.

I look around the room today and I see all the poppies. I remember my uncles, some of them I lost and why I'm wearing the poppy. The main reason was a group of people's views about another group of people.

Thank God, we had our country and Britain and a few other countries and millions of people died trying to defend other peoples views and that's why we're wearing the poppy today.

I have my views about other issues in regards to where I feel and where I was brought up, rightfully so or wrong. But today, it's funny that we're debating this and I respect everybody's opinion and it's great to hear to those opinions and the diversity, the background here.

We have a visible minority from what Kelvin Ng said and every time you turn on the TV. you hear about what happened to the Chinese when they were building the railroad and the land was taken away and they were persecuted probably more than any other people in this country.

It's not a surprise that Mr. Ng is supporting this Bill. The Inuit people in Nunavut, I represent a large constituency and the number of phone calls that I get from constituents based on being discriminated against in this territory by their employers. And I deal with that on a daily basis.

And I've sat in this House for the last five years and I listen to my colleagues talk about the discrimination against them over the last 30 or 40 years and this is the type of Bill that I hope will eliminate all that in the future.

That's all I have to say. I respect everybody's opinions here. I'm supporting the Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very important Bill and we weren't overly concerned about it when it was in the first and second reading.

I think that if we had considered carefully and looked at what happened to the Bill on the Wildlife Act, I think that this is one issue that we should look through carefully on behalf of the people who elected us to this House.

I like the wording in the Bill because it covers all aspects and it's easy to understand. It helps us give equal rights to all people. I'm sure that if my mother and father were alive, I'm sure that it would have been a bit uncomfortable if they told me which way to vote on this Bill.

I do have my own opinion on it, but I have to listen to the people in my riding. The two communities that I represent, I didn't consult with them because the Bill was in the hands of the committee and they decided not to go to the smaller communities with this Bill, which is not right.

There was only one meeting and there are many people who are confused about the intent of this Bill and I'm sure that this is the first time they are finally getting the intent of the Bill.

The media only concentrated on what could be controversial. I'm sure that we're only going to be getting the negative responses from the public out there but here is room for change and since we're deliberating this Bill, we have to look into the future and what we can do for our people.

Since I'm the last one making general comments, the next step would be to go into question period. We have to understand the Bill and its intent and we're going to be going clause by clause and our chair will probably say go clause by clause and we would agree.

Possibly, if we read it, we would be more informed about the intent of the Bill. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have read the Bill but the general public will not understand as the committee dealing with this Bill did not choose to consult with the communities when we start going clause by clause.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly are the only ones who are guilty if we did not put the information out there, not only the Standing Committee. It is up to us to inform our constituents about the Bills that the House is deliberating. We just assumed that the Standing Committee would be going out there to the communities so that the people of Nunavut would know what the intent of this Bill was. At this time, during the deliberation of this Bill, I don't know which way I'm going to be going to be voting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like another opportunity to make some statements on this Bill. I do know that no matter what I say, we have already made a decision on which way we are going to be going.

But even if that is the case, we are told that we should have positive legislation. But, we already know as the people of Nunavut are friendly and I doubt very much if the people out there, if the general population out there will understand the intent of this Bill.

Manitok was saying, had questions about sexual orientation. The people of Hall Beach and Igloolik do not understand what that means. We, the Inuit want the protection and promotion of the culture and language and because of that we cannot agree to this Bill and only after we explain the Bill to the general public, they possibly could be voted for.

In Toronto or Ottawa they might be performing same sex marriages and then this couple, couple of guys went down to the States for their honeymoon and they were denied entry.

We of Nunavummiut openly accept anybody who wants to go up here, but that doesn't necessarily mean that I will be accepting in law, they will always have jobs whether there is legislation or not, but I don't want to see anything like this approved in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, our committee worked really hard on this Bill and we debated in the committee room on this issue. We worked on this Bill for approximately a year and we have to. We did a community consultation tour on the Education Act and on the Wildlife Act and that took precedence over this Bill.

Again, we didn't have enough opportunity to go to the communities because of the scheduling of the House and the committees and with the opening comments that I made earlier on this Bill that it should be taken back to the House.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly could be going to their communities to put out the information out there, the government had the opportunity out there if they want because it was introduced by the government.

When the Committee go to the communities, after the community tours we go back to the House and make recommendations based on what we heard in the communities.

Even if we do go out there, it would seem that the Standing Committee, we are the ones who introduced and support the Bill. That is for clarification. We can always reintroduce a new Human Rights Act in the future. We are not going to die tomorrow, well we might die tomorrow, but there are many years ahead of us, where we have the opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Did we want to take a break? We do have other work to do. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a Member of that Standing Committee, as well I could not wholeheartedly agree more with the Chairman on how hard we worked on that. Due to scheduling and other issues, the Committee felt that they were not going to do any community consultations.

The Committee decided that it would put out a request for submissions that was put out and advertised in both newspapers, and I believe on the radio as well, for any interested parties to make submissions to the Standing Committee in relation to the Act.

I believe there were six or eight submissions that we did receive, and we looked at those. And also, Mr. Chairman, the fact the comment that was made that no one knew about the meeting here, the meeting after all this was done, they decided to have a meeting here in Iqaluit; that meeting was advertised in the media. I believe that it was advertised on the radio. I believe that it was advertised in the newspapers.

There were thirteen presenters at that meeting. They were interested enough to come out and go there. They were interested enough to make sure that they knew and read the paper, or paid attention to what was going on so they come and made their views heard.

Again, I reiterate what the Chairman indicated. Every single person that was at that Public Meeting supported the legislation. There was not one person, organization, or anything that was there that did not support the legislation.

As Ms. Thompson had indicated that it was only 13, well she said 15, but there were only 13. What is that in a community of 5,000? Those people showed the interest, and they made sure that if they had an interest in it, and they wanted their voices to be heard, to be there.

Other than that, what else can we do? We did all the advertising and everything else. That old saying, Mr. Chairman, you can lead the horse to water but you cannot make him drink. It might be applicable in some cases.

You can advertise, and advertise, and advertise. I have heard of constituency meetings where only one person showed up, and that is well advertised. If people are interested, they will make sure that they are there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. We will have to go into questions and the Minister of Health and Social Services, I believe, was going to feed us, so I would like to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Agreed? Opposed? We will take a 30 minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 19:15 and resumed at 19:50

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. There were no more general comments. Now it's time for the Members to ask questions. Any questions? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question about the Inuit not having enough information from the government as well as the committee members. Are we allowed to deal with the legislation that way? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are allowed to consult with our electorate. We were available to do that and some of the people were consulted.

It's up to the Members. If you don't want to vote on the Human Rights Act, it's up to you. You have been elected to represent your constituents. It's up to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask some questions again in regards to the Human Rights Act, which is before us today.

Some problems that have occurred in Nunavut, like there have been some people denied something. Those people who were denied something, have they been asked. Those people who have been denied something, have they been asked whether they think the Bill is okay? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have considered those before when we were drafting the legislation. If an individual was denied something and they wanted to bring it forth to the federal level they would wait for two to three years to deal with it.

According to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, if a problem arises, we try to deal with it as best as we can. Because we don't like to prolong the process of denying people, that's why we're trying to bring about this process so that these kinds of things do not happen.

According to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we will use that avenue so the public out there, the Nunavummiut can have this as legislation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I can get further clarification from the Minister, have you given information to the public, have you questioned those people who have been denied access to anything and how many are there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not really sure what the numbers are. There have been many people but they have not approached us. We don't really know how many people are out there and they don't know which government department to approach. If we pass this legislation, than that piece of legislation will be there to protect them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if this Legislation does not pass would there be something in place to help those people that have been denied something? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not a new thing. The Northwest Territories Government dealt with this as well. So, we are now in a process of doing it as the Government of Nunavut.

I know that this is not going to be the last time that we are going to be dealing with an Act such as this and if we try to have this Legislation passed, we can pass it today and have a piece of legislation to protect the human rights that people could refer to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Is it not dangerous that the communities in Nunavut have not been consulted on this very important Legislation? Is it not dangerous that if this Legislation pass and without consulting with the people in Nunavut, would that not be dangerous? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I can make this clearer, we are trying to make everybody equal. If somebody is discriminated against they can go through the Federal Legislation.

If there was to be discrimination against same sex couples, then they can approach the Federal Legislation and they can go through that Legislation. But we want to have our own Legislation regarding Human Rights here in Nunavut.

And I am happy to say we are able to make our own laws for the people of Nunavut and we want to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I feel that we are not in any danger because the Human Rights Act and the Charter of Rights will always be there whether or not we pass this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut, have there been any complaints brought forward to the Federal Government from the residents of Nunavut about any form of discrimination? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there have been some complaints to the Federal Government, but they have all been from non-Inuit. I have not known of any Inuit people who might have approached the Federal Government as I feel that many Inuit do not know of such legislation and that is why I feel it would be beneficial for Nunavut to have its own Human Rights Legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): There are no Inuit people who have made a complaint to the Federal Government for Human Rights violation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Residents of Nunavut have made some complaints to the Federal Government.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Has there been long time Nunavut residents?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I do not look at whether they have been long time Nunavut residents. They are all people, they all have the same rights. We cannot try to differentiate whether they have been Inuit or non-Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): The people of Nunavut have always welcomed people. We are not trying to differentiate what race they are or whether they are residents of Nunavut or not, then how come we are trying to get the Human Rights Act passed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So that is why we are trying to make everybody equal in Nunavut. We want them to have the same rights as anybody else and make everybody equal and everybody has the right to be employed and to have a future if they want to have it here in Nunavut and to be equally represented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I know we are all open to the people of Nunavut wherever they come from that's why we are dealing with the Human Rights Act, the reason why I'm asking this question is because the people who are long time residents and Nunavut born people are not the ones that are trying to make this legislation.

Perhaps there has been some elders who voiced their opinions about the Human Rights Act is that why we wanted to make the Human Rights legislation because you have asked the elders what they think. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation):

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I will get Lucien Ukaliannuk to respond to that question.

Mr. Ukaliannuk (interpretation): Thank you. The question that Mr. Iqaqrialu is asking is from the public's view or from the public. I have heard from them that when we get our own Nunavut government that we would be able to be involved and make legislation to help the people of Nunavut and it has been the belief of Inuit out there that they should be able to make their own legislation when they get their own Nunavut government.

And those are the types of things that I have heard about from the public out there and that is why we are dealing with the Human Rights legislation geared towards the people of Nunavut. I keep hearing that the elders are dying off and they want to be involved in making legislation and to be involved with the government.

So that is what I have heard from the public out there, if they want to be able to have their own Nunavut made legislation and they wanted to be involved in the government in their own government. That was my understanding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to what I heard, the people of Nunavut have been saying that they want to be involved.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, we have not dealt with, you have to be, you have to be able to provide legislation that is geared towards the people of Nunavut. That is why we are bringing about this legislation, if we don't have legislation like that then we will be controlled by outsiders.

We want to have our own legislation and according to the wishes of Nunavummiut, that is what we want to provide you with in the Human Rights Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So are you responding to me then, that the people of Nunavut can use their rights once this is enacted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what we're dealing with today is to ensure that those complaints that were once dealt with by the Federal Government will always be dealt with by the Federal Government if we do not take ownership to ensure that these complaints are administered within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Don't we already have that right through the court system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the Federal Government has the jurisdiction to review any complaints in Canada and as I stated earlier, the process takes quite a while because it's a Canada wide process.

Once the complaint is made, the review will take place outside Nunavut and if we enact this made in Nunavut human rights legislation, and then we can review complaints within Nunavut, once the legislation is set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): If I understand his response, have the Inuit of Nunavut have any rights? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): My apologies, I don't understand what his question is.

Chairman (interpretation): Can you clarify your question? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, are the people of Nunavut aware of his comments that they do have those rights outside the court system? Do they know of their human rights outside of the court system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this tribunal is administered by the Federal Government. We have no jurisdiction over it whatsoever and so we're not really aware of the processes that this federal tribunal is involved with because they have their own rules and regulations.

That is why many Nunavummiut are not aware and because the language usage at that level is English and French and they have no way of recognising Inuktitut in that process.

Once we enact this legislation, then we would have our own recognised set of values in the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The court system deals with those types of complaints and if this legislation is passed, will we set up our own tribunal within Nunavut so that they can put forth any complaints on any human rights legislation in a timely manner through the judicial process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. It's not a court system; it's a tribunal that is appointed with members. At this point it's a federal government appointee at the federal level and there is no representation from Nunavut.

Once enacted, we can appoint our own tribunal members who can review complaints for human rights violations; we can also make their own decisions within Nunavut and in the same process use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to his comments in response, the Human Rights Legislation, have they done a study regarding that in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I am sorry. I do not understand what his question is. Can he please clarify it?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At least I know what I am trying to say. I am asking him on his response that this tribunal that deals with complaints on any human rights violation, will legal authority be given over Nunavummiut? Will the jurisdiction be handed over once this tribunal is set up? If you can understand my question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this appointed tribunal would have to be versed in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. And if this Act is enacted, it will not go in effect right away.

Perhaps we will have to wait one year before it is implemented, because we all know that there are some outside forces that we have to inform, and that we have to comply with certain provisions. So it takes about a year to start implementing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you saying that this Bill, once enacted, will be brought into the communities to review what further improvements can be made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this Bill is enacted, then some amendments could be made to it, but we are going to have to find out exactly what

the status of the Bill is before we can make consultations and changes we would like to make to it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): If this Bill is enacted, it will be for the benefit of Nunavummiut, and human rights will be protected within Nunavut. How is he going to inform those residents just coming into Nunavut about their new rights in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are going to be setting up a tribunal, if it is enacted. This will be a permanent body that will deal with complaints on human rights violations, and there will be an Annual Report given to the Minister on its activities, and what assistance the Government can be to this tribunal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this Bill is enacted those residents outside of Nunavut who will be moving into Nunavut, will there be a mechanism in place for us to ensure human rights violations are tracked? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Federal Government does have a tribunal that reviews complaints and if there are any human rights complaints to the tribunal, that mechanism can automatically starts reviewing those complaints. This would be a made-in-Nunavut solution with our own Tribunal and its members would be Nunavut residents who would be more aware and responsive to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question. If we get down to our line by line process, I'll have some questions on that. I don't have a question at the moment but later on I will when we go line by line. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one question for the Minister. The Standing Committee had asked for the department to develop public information explaining the Bill. Can the Minister or his officials tell us why this didn't happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My apologies but we had a misunderstanding.

We were thinking that they wanted more information so we gave it to the committee to handle; I apologise that they had in fact requested that the government provide information to the general public.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee had asked for this information to be distributed widely to the communities of Nunavut, suggesting that it be inserted in all the newspapers and it didn't seem like it happened.

This is probably why we need to think about consulting with communities. When we do consultations with communities about the Bill, it's the department or the Minister's Bills, it's not the Standing Committee's Bill.

So, we cannot go out there and tell the people that it's a good Bill or not a good Bill because it's not ours. What I'm trying to say is that the department did not inform the communities properly, and that's why the Bill is before us today.

I would say again that people need to understand what is in the Bill. It affects them and affects everybody in Nunavut just as much as the Wildlife Act and the Education Act and other acts that we consult communities on.

This is unfortunate that it didn't happen, that the committee had recommended or suggested to the department. Maybe next time we could do a better job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes there can be a lot of finger pointing around here.

I introduced this Bill in October of 2002. We're now in November. We received a letter from the committee 10 months after I had tabled the legislation requesting information and we thought we were complying. We did not know that we were supposed to publicize a draft Bill and its contents. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: One last either comment or question. That's why we all need to understand that it's not the Standing Committee's Bill. It's the Department's Bill and

people need to know that when we do consultations with communities, we're not selling that Bill or we're speaking against it. It's a very important Bill and people need to understand what's in it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I fully agree, this is a very important Bill and I believe we all have a role to play as Members.

We talk to our constituents and try to explain what we're doing. We've had this Bill for over a year and I believe we've all had a chance to talk to our constituents and hear their reviews on it.

So, I'm not going to point fingers as to who did what, who did their jobs and what else we could do to make a difference, but the Bill is before us and it's our job now to decide whether to go forth or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Any further questions? Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we have comments that we are welcoming yes, that's a fact, needless to say we are a welcoming territory and that is not the question at hand. There is no protection for the guarantee of us being welcoming to everybody who comes into Nunavut, yes we maybe fair and treat everybody equally by being welcoming and nice to people but it's not in writing and we should have it legislated.

And so perhaps I can ask the Minister that once this Bill is dealt with, how will it impact me, I'm sure it will not impact on my day to day life, however if I was mistreated and my human rights were violated then we won't be doing our job.

What will it have, what kind of impact will it have on my day to day life and what are the dangers because I don't see any dangers in this act whatsoever? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes those are, that's a true statement. This Human Rights Act will not affect our day to day lives but only in the case where our human rights are violated then it's something we can fall back on.

If I go into a restaurant say down south and because I'm an aboriginal person and we've all felt discrimination at one point or another. This piece of legislation will enable us to have an avenue and an agency that can deal with those types of complaints; any Nunavut resident who was violated or discriminated against then can go to this tribunal and make their complaint. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: I really don't have any more questions I just want for the record to make a point that when my friend from Nanulik says that there is no separation between church and state and I'm saying there is because church is not God; there's a difference between God and church.

If God is mentioned in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, church is not mentioned because there are so many churches. But there has to be a clear separation between church and state.

The church does not have business in the laws of the government and nor does the government have business in the doings of the church. The government has to be able to treat all of its constituents equally without any bias. I just wanted to make that point. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I don't hear a question in there. I have no one else on my list for general questions. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Iqaqrialu's line of questioning, the way I understood the way this Bill is enacted the contents will be dealt with to add Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit concepts in there. Is that so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Perhaps once we are dealing with the contents, we will identify that in the clause-by-clause review because there is a Statement in there that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be considered and how the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be incorporated into the processes and the tribunal that will be appointed will also have to be versed on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit concepts and values.

It is in the content of the Bill and we can find out more of it when we go clause-byclause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no one else on my list at this point. Would you like to go line-by-line, clause-by-clause? I have no other names on my list. Bill 12. Human Rights Act. We will go clause-by-clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I was anticipating Clause 4. I put my hand up there.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed? Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 008 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 9 (5) OF Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a Motion here on this Clause of the Bill and as the Chairman of the Committee had indicated as there were a number of recommendations that the Committee put forward that if these amendments were passed, it would be appropriate for the Bill and help enhance the Bill and that is what these amendments we are going to be making are either, none of them are of a contentious nature and I am doing this as a Member of the Assembly and not as a Member of a Committee.

So, I just want to make that clear off the bat. Mr. Chairman, I moved that the Bill be amended by striking out Clause 4 and substitute the following:

For greater certainty, nothing in this Act shall construct so as to obligate or degredate from any existing Aboriginal Treaty Rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada under Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982.

And, Mr. Chairman, as the Motions were handed out, it is Motion #1, it is on the Clauses on Page 2 in English and Page 3 in the Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The Motion is in Order. All in favour. Manitok.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I was just following the usual procedure. The Inuit do not have treaty rights. It is only First Nations who have treaty rights. Why is it that we include the treaty rights of aboriginal peoples here in this amendments, or are we including the First Nations and their claims to harvest in our lands?

Why is it that we are including their treaty rights, or are we also including the First Nations or their treaty rights around the Churchill area and is it including the First Nations who have the right to hunt outside of Churchill and around the Arviat area? I am not sure why we are including treaty rights in here.

Chairman (interpretation): Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is protecting the rights of aboriginal or treaty rights and it is also following, well, this is for greater certainty and also to further protect our rights as Inuit. This is for greater certainty, this clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. I understand. Well, I do not fully understand it, but I am sure he is a lawyer and he can understand exactly why it is included, and it seems that it is going to be for further protection of the Inuit. From what I seem to understand, does it imply that Inuit already have laws? Thank you.

Chairman: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Inuit have rights spelled out in the agreement and those are our rights, to harvesting, for right of first refusal and so on. This is to enhance and further protect what is already included in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? That is it? Manitok.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. I just wanted further information. We Inuit have rights today. That is why we are debating this issue and they already have existing rights because it is outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, which in turn is protected constitutionally. Yet, at the same time, the Bill we are dealing with has no legal standing. Looking at both aspects, it does not make sense to me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is protecting the Inuit rights outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. It is not going to obligate or barricade any existing aboriginal or treaty rights of Inuit.

Chairman (interpretation): Manitok, no? To the Motion. All in favour. Opposed. Carried. Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: On the 7(1), you have sexual orientation. Can you maybe elaborate on that a little bit? Maybe definitions first of all for me to understand when you say sexual orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is one of the main reasons why there is a lot of opposition to this Bill is because one of the grounds that is being protected is sexual orientation, which involves having relationship between the same sex, like a male and a male and a female and a female having a relationship, sexual relationship or otherwise.

That is should not be used as a grounds for discrimination amongst all the other things that we list there including race, religion, or other reasons in there. It is one of the reasons why we have to have it in there for us to assume responsibility.

The Federal Government has told us that this has to be in there and it's defined in the courts, that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects everyone, and in particular minorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): For example, when we heard religion and the state do not go hand in hand so that we do not keep asking the same questions, let us not talk about religion, or the state and just focus on what is here.

Of course, it is going to keep coming up because religion is one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I can hear you. It is for their attention and for any other Nunavummiut, I guess, that is what you are saying.

When I first heard of this I said to myself, so the government is going to be recognizing same sex, and along with that you say that, and you put down same sex marriage. I am trying to understand it. I am hearing you that you are recognizing the same sex, I hear you on that too. I want to hear that you are recognizing the same sex.

When you say that it comes to my mind when you are saying, oh maybe this is where I have to be careful when you are saying that you are recognizing that there is going to be a same sex marriage. I worry about that.

Maybe if you can make me understand where you stand on that. You mentioned about the Federal Government; we are talking about the Nunavut Government. We have our own Government here that we should work with. When you mentioned Federal Government before it sort of throws me off when you say that we have to listen to the Federal Government.

Anyways, I am just saying please make me understand what you really mean by that, the same sex issue that you talked about. Maybe he is recognizing the same sex marriage, too. I would like further clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Bill does not deal with marriage. It is dealing with basic rights to services and other things that may pass on basic human rights of individuals.

I must clarify also there were comments made about pedophilia, and that is not the case. We are not trying to protect pedophilia. There are already laws in place to protect children. I must take exception to that. That is not what we are trying to do. We are trying to protect everyone. If there is going to be criminal activity, that's not what we're trying to do, we're not trying in any way to condone that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I'll repeat it for the record. So, what you're saying is that you're not recognising the same sex marriage in this act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are not recognising it in this Act. That is a debate that will happen perhaps later next year when the Federal Government debate their definition of marriage and it will likely happen after a federal election.

So, there will be time and opportunity for those that have strong views to present their views at that time. We are not dealing with it yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During our debate and listening to the comments that were made around here, I'll read the Inuktitut.

Clause 7, it's part two 27 (1), for the purposes of this act the prohibitive grounds of discrimination are race, color, ancestry, ethnic origin, citizenship, place of origin, creed, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, pregnancy, lawful source of income, and a conviction for which a pardon has been granted.

During our debate, we were told that there was nothing in there about sexual orientation. Now that we're going clause by clause, we find that we are recognising same sex couples. We are already preparing for the Federal Government's debate on the issue of same sex marriages and adoption and so on.

We're already preparing our legislation in anticipation of the federal Bill that is going to be passed in a year or so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's not what we're trying to do.

This Bill is for the Human Rights and has nothing to do with same sex marriages or unions. I don't know how much further I can add to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the sexual orientation, that would mean same sex couples.

A man and a woman, they live common law for over a year they are seen as a married couple. If same sex couple have been together it would be the same as, wouldn't that be the same as common law and then presumed or seen as married afterwards?

And since sexual orientation is here we are already accepting the union of our same sex couples and this is the reason why we are opposed to this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is not what we are dealing with. We are dealing with prohibited grounds of discrimination and that includes sexual orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No matter what you say, if sexual orientation is there then that includes everything and I don't believe what you are saying anymore. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I don't believe there was a response to the question. If you could respond to the question. One of the questions was if I was living common law for six months, then the federal government would see it as a marriage between the couple, that was the question.

The question was after a same sex couple have been living together for certain number of months would they be seen as a married couple?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not, we don't have the jurisdiction over the same sex issue, over same sex marriages; it is the federal government's legislation and we can debate it as much as we want in this House but it is the jurisdiction of the federal government.

I can try to respond to your question. We do have a separate piece of legislation where it deals with common law spouses and it's separate from this Bill. This Bill is the Human Rights Act and it is for all people.

(Floor) If a couple has been living together in a common law relationship, and are not married then the purpose of this Act is to protect them from discrimination. That is the intent of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the twentieth time tonight there is a propaganda campaign out there that all MLAs got and we got confused in the whole issue.

For the twentieth time tonight, does this Bill promote or endorse same sex marriages? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: No.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate on this issue again. It doesn't matter, whether they might be same sex couples. What it's trying to say that we have to treat them exactly the same way because we all know that they are out there. Is this recognizing those individuals and we have to recognise them the same way as anybody else? But it doesn't say whether they are going to be married or not, whether we are going to recognise them in marriage.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. If you want to respond to those questions maybe you could go to the witness table.

What I am asking is the Minister and his officials, and if you want to respond to those questions go to the witness table. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): I have the right as a Member of the Legislative Assembly to speak, whether I am going to be for it or against it.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay if you won't want to ask any questions. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I'm going to read it in English because I'm not really sure how to translate sexual orientation in Inuktitut because we do not have terminology for it.

(interpretation ends) There are many definitions of sexual orientation. We know that. I'm not a lawyer, but I'm pretty close to it by now. I don't know. I could probably defend myself.

Sexual orientation. It is very difficult for us who have English as a second language to understand it. We cannot seem to translate it well into our language. I understand we are not talking about people getting married, don't mislead us or manipulate us.

I understand that. Sexual orientation describes or defines the sexual attraction of one person to another person. Sexual orientation exists along a continuum that ranges from exclusive heterosexuality to exclusive homosexuality and includes various forms of bisexuality.

That is straight from the English words that I was able to gather from different lawyers from the country. That is what we are frustrated with. We are not talking about marriage. We are talking about a translation that does not fit in our culture because we do not recognising homosexuals in our culture. I don't know. That is the problem; it is difficult to interpret.

That is why we cannot - that's the question. Okay, that is the question. What is your definition of sexual orientation? To us, we do not want it being forced upon our children.

Chairman (interpretation): If you understood, Mr. Premier, perhaps you could give us an interpretation of that in Inuktitut.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, this is where the biggest concern is because people do not agree with what other people do in their bedrooms.

So, I think the Member did a fairly good job in describing sexual orientation. You can be very informed. The biggest concern appears to be that there is a big concern about males having relationships with males and females having sexual relations with females, and so, along with other sexual conduct, like heterosexual relationships that maybe existing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Is that it? Clause 7. I have no more names. Manitok? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that there was a person before I had my hand up. If I could read it again.

Under section 7, it is on (4), I will read the Inuktitut. It states in (4), Pregnancy and adoption. Whenever this Act protects an individual from discrimination on the basis of sex, the protection includes, without limitation, (A), the protection of the female from discrimination on the basis that she may become pregnant, or she may adopt a child, and (B), the protection of a male from discrimination that he may adopt a child. What does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One or the other might have to take a maternity, or paternity leave, is what it is talking about. Because for adoption and pregnancy leave, we want them to be protected for that even though if they are pregnant, that they are allowed to be in the workplace as long as they are able to work, as long as she wants to work, until she want to take pregnancy leave, up to the point where they want to take adoption leave. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I am sorry I did not see some of the Members who had their hand up. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back to 7(1), I wanted to ask the Minister about sexual orientation. Could these two people be married as well? If they are called sexual orientation, could they also be married? Maybe they got married in Ottawa to come up here. Could we still call them this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is what we have been trying to ask. This also could mean two women, two men that are married. So the Minister cannot tell us this is not so. He just told us that this implies that two people also could be married. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact that they are married does not change the fact that they are having, may be having sexual orientation. So we are not dealing with marriage. If there is marriage, I am sure there is some activity happening. We are not dealing with that. We are just focussing on discrimination that may take place on the basis of sexual orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): That is it? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The people who elected me, I stated that I would not approve this legislation, and I think that it would be better if some of the sections of the Act could be amended. That is just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a letter from one of my Constituents and I have to ask this question from one of my Constituents so I could get further understanding of the Bill. It is on 7(4) A and B, it states either can apply for adoption leave and whenever the Act protects an individual from discrimination on

the base of sex, the protection includes without limitation. My question is if a same sex couple adopts a child, would they be recognized under this section because it has been the concern of one of my Constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No.

Chairman (interpretation): That is it? Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): So, they would not recognize the same sex couples who have adopted a child then? We are not saying that the same sex couple can be recognized to adopt children. We are not saying that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, that is not what it says, it is in another Act and this one only deals with pregnancy and it states that if either individual is pregnant then this act prevents discrimination in their job. That is what it is talking about. We are not talking about same sex couples wanting to adopt children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Is that it? Are you done? Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like clarification here. According to Mr. Iqaqrialu's question regarding the issue of adoption and that is on the prohibited grounds of discrimination with protection of a female from discrimination on the basis that she may become pregnant or may adopt a child and be, I am having a hard time to understand that where that comes from.

Where does the issue of adoption come from? And we are seeing at the same time that it is not in our jurisdiction to deal with those types of issues and now you are trying to include it within the Act.

I am just confused as to why you are including the issue of pregnancy and adoption as prohibited grounds of discrimination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is meant to protect whom ever is unemployed, whether it be the mother or the father of the child. Employers know that these employees have the right to go on leave for a total of one year, according to the Federal Legislation and we cannot discriminate and disallow people from enjoying this right to have the right to be on leave and that is all it means is that those couples who are adopting or are expecting a child, it has nothing to do with same sex relationships. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Human Rights Act, I have a separate understanding, although I also know that the intent would be to recognise same sex couples to be able to adopt. Is that what it means in that section? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, for those pregnant women or expectant parents, they have the right to be on leave according to this legislation but again, let me say once again, it is not our jurisdiction to deal with same sex relationships and the recognition of same sex unions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no one else on my list for questions. Do we have a quorum? Clause 7. Agreed? Oki.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need to understand 7(1), race, colour, ancestry, ethnic origin, citizenship, place of origin, creed, religion, age, disabilities, sexual orientation, all these, they cannot be discriminated, two, three, four, right up to eight.

It means because you are brown, you won't be able to adopt, it's the same thing if you are a same sex couple, you can adopt. Is that what the act is saying, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look at 7(1), one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination is sex.

And if we go back to four, whether you are an expectant mother or an expectant father, you should not be discriminated against. So it applies to both and there are laws in place to provide benefits and this prevents potential employers from discriminating against expectant mothers, because employers will know the potential employee will likely seek leave and get benefits which will have to be protected for at least a year.

So under the acts that we are governed by it prevents potential employers from discriminating on the basis of potential mothers or potential fathers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): The way I understand it, in Clause 7(1, 2, 3, 4, A, B, 5, A, B, and 6 A, B, C, D) for that it's under 7 (1) (B); is that right Mr. Chairman?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, as I said, each one is different and it applies to some of the definitions in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I was told that I have a right to move a motion.

Motion 009 – 1(6): Clause 7 (1) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

(interpretation ends) on the prohibited grounds of discrimination, I move that subsection 7 (1) be amended by striking out the word sexual orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to amend clause 7 and strike it out. We'll take a break for ten minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 21:10 and resumed at 21:21

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. There is a motion on the floor and it reads. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Motion prohibited grounds for discrimination. I move that subsection 7(1) be amended by striking out the words sexual orientation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Discussion. Comments. Questions. To the motion. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm kind of feeling a little bit uncomfortable in making comments; however, one of the prohibited grounds of discrimination was that and if you strike that word out of the Act, we are going to say that we can treat them fairly but we will mistreat and treat those unfairly who are in same sex relationships and that we are saying that we can treat them unfairly if we strike this out. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the intent of the Bill. If we want the Bill passed in Nunavut and to ensure that we protect the rights of every Nunavummiut, if this is stroked out, the federal government will not give us the jurisdiction to deal with complaints of human rights violation.

I just wanted to make that clear that they will not give us the authority if we do not include this in the made-in-Nunavut legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get clarification on the words "sexual orientation" from our law clerk; what does it have to do with the intent of the Bill? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think the definition of sexual orientation has been discussed here at length. It includes the sexual attraction of a male to another male, a woman to another woman and a person who is attracted to both genders.

If this provision or the reference to sexual orientation is removed from the Act as a prohibited ground of discrimination, the courts will read it in and that is pursuant to a Supreme Court of Canada case from 1998, in which their true orientation was read into similar Legislation in Alberta that did not include sexual orientation.

So, the Bill will pass, but if challenged in the courts, the courts will definitely read sexual orientation in as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

If the Bill does not pass, we are left with the status quo, which is the Fair Practises Act and the Canadian Human Rights Act, which applies to human rights issues that arise in the context of Federal operations in Nunavut.

And it is my view as well that this Fair Practises Act if challenged, would also be subject to a successful Charter Challenge and sexual orientation could be read into that Act as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: McLean.

Mr. McLean: I am not a lawyer, I do not protest to be one. So, what you are saying effectively, if we strike this word out, the Federal Government's Legislation will overrule this if somebody challenges it? Is that how I understand it? I am pretty tired right now, too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am saying is, if it is struck out, the courts will read it into the definitions, read the section as if sexual orientation were in that section.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Our Premier had stated that because of the creation of Nunavut, that we can enact our own laws and apparently we do not have that authority to enact our own laws. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have limitations as to what authorities and jurisdictions we have and so we are just trying to take on further responsibilities and new jurisdictions so that we can set up our own made-in-Nunavut Legislation and set up our own tribunal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Queen was in town, when was that? Do we answer to the Queen as Nunavummiut?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Our Queen, her Majesty the Queen, I think when she was sitting in the Speaker's chair said that we, as a Government, have the authority to enact our own laws and perhaps, she said that without regard for the Canadian Government. So, perhaps Sue, can you please elaborate what authorities we have as Nunavut?

Chairman: Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms is Federal Legislation; it is part of the Constitution of Canada and all jurisdictions, including the Federal Government, Provincial Governments and Territorial Governments must enact laws that comply with the Charter of Rights.

Section 15 of the Charter prohibits discrimination on certain grounds that are set out in that Charter. So, any Legislation that this Assembly enacts must comply with the Charter. The Supreme Court of Canada case which I spoke about, made their finding on the basis that the Alberta Legislation, which did not include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination violated Section 15 of the Charter. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this word is struck out, we were told that we would be challenged in court and that we would lose.

With that in mind, you would think that perhaps if I ask it this way, if we strike this word out and it was challenged in court, we would lose the court challenge. If we did include it in there, do we as Nunavummiut have a right? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you going to respond to it or our legal advisor? Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, because we are bound by the Federal Government legislation; we're trying to take on new authorities and jurisdiction for Nunavut.

As I said earlier we can include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in this process and make it a more Nunavut friendly process for any human rights violations complaints. We can't go any other way because we have to follow the federal legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the motion, the way I understand it, that same sex couples, they don't want that recognised according to the motion and our law clerk said that even if we strike out the words we are still subject to court challenges and that we would lose.

And our Premier said that we have the right according to the federal legislation, we have to ensure that we use our rights. Perhaps, would we have a case in our Nunavut Land Claims Agreement rights under Article 23?

What authority does that give us as Nunavummiut in thinking about the human rights legislation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments, I said our rights are recognised under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and that has nothing to do with the recognition of same sex relationships.

The land claims agreement has nothing to do with that and those rights would not be protected under that legislation and so this human rights legislation is the only one that would recognise those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank Sue Cooper for clearing things up.

This word, if we strike it out, it will still be recognised by the courts as being there. And this wording for sexual orientation in Inuktitut has no definition as well. Lesbians or gays or sexual orientation, for instance, if I was in a bisexual relationship with another lady and with my husband, if I was bisexual, it opens that up as well.

(interpretation end) Bisexuality, I still keep going back to sexual orientation is not translatable into Inuktitut and the court is discriminating against us as a people with a language. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I will get the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Advisor to respond to the wording. Mr. Ukaliannuk.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ukaliannuk.

Mr. Ukaliannuk (interpretation): Can she please repeat the question?

Chairman (interpretation): Can you please state that question again, or your comment? Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): The Law Clerk said that sexual orientation, same sex couples, either lesbians, or gays or sexual preferences in bisexual relationships are recognized under sexual orientation. And that is what the lawyer said. Female/female, male/male relationships, or female in a relationship with a male and a female, in a bisexual union. That is recognized under sexual orientation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Ukaliannuk.

Mr. Ukaliannuk (interpretation): Thank you. That also existed in Inuit culture, albeit in a taboo sense. There is a word in Inuktitut language. Female same sex relationships are called in a sense, smoothies, and male/male relationships were called roughies. That is the definition in Inuktitut, and it was really we were told not to go that way.

We were always told not to have bestiality with animals. And so we were always forewarned. So there are words in Inuktitut for those. It is now only starting to come out. It existed in the Inuit culture. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): In your response, it is probably not in the Act regarding bestiality. It has nothing to do with the Act. What the Minister is asking is what the definition in Inuktitut for sexual orientation is?

We have been dealing with the same issue over the last six hours. That wording there. Is there anyone in here that can explain sexual orientation in Inuktitut?

I do not think that he can respond to that. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): We keep coming back to it, although we understand the meaning. Same sex relationship, gays and lesbians. That is all it is. What else are you asking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps when it comes to a vote, we will have a better idea, so we should just leave it at that. Until it is put to a vote, and we will see, through a recorded vote, who is for and against this Act? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I did not ask how you can explain what that means, the definition of that wording. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a motion on the Floor regarding the striking out of the word sexual orientation. Our law clerk Ms. Cooper stated that if we strike those out it will not stand with the boards and the federal government will not recognize, will not give us the jurisdiction and so for clarity I think in Bill 12 the biggest controversial section trying to strike out sexual orientation, I think that's the pivotal section in the Bill.

Does it have to be in there? Is it important for it to be in there? But we already know if we strike it out that it's subject to a court challenge. Is it the pivotal wording in the legislation? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No it's not the intent of the Bill but it's one of the prohibitive grounds of discrimination and that we should not treat anybody else unfairly on any of those bases. That's all it means, that we should not treat anybody unfairly on those bases. That's what it means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the motion. All in favour. (Floor) We will have a recorded vote on the motion. We'll start with Mr. Alakannuark for all those in favour. The motion reads, I move that subsection 7 (1) be amended by striking out the words "sexual orientation".

That is the motion. Those who are for the motion will stand and when their names are read out they could stand down again. For those in favour of the motion please stand.

All those in favour of the motion please stand. Mr. Alakannuark, Ms. Williams, Mr. Nutarak, Mr. Iqaqrialu, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Puqiqnak.

All those opposed to the motion please rise. Mr. Havioyak, Mr. McLean, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Picco, Mr. Ng, Mr. Okalik, Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Anawak.

All those abstain, any abstentions. Mr. Akesuk. Thank you. The motion is defeated. For the motion there were six. There were nine that opposed. One abstention. The motion is defeated. We are still on Bill 12, clause 7. Questions. Comments. Agreed? Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 010 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 9 (5) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a motion and its motion number 2 in the blue folders that were handed out to Members.

Also, this motion will cover five sections of the Bill that all contain and say the exact identical language that wish to be amended. So, in the interest of printing off five separate motions, the numbered clauses are in there.

I'll be reading the motion five times on each clause as we go through it. Just so you don't have five copies of the exact same thing except for one different number on it in front of you for confusion.

Mr. Chairman, I move that sub-clause 9 (5) of the Bill be amended by striking out "regardless of whether a practise referred to in subsection (1), results in direct discrimination or adverse effect discrimination, whenever it appears and by substituting, when a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in discrimination". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot to let everyone know where I was. It was on page 5. The first one in the English version and page 5 in the Inuktitut one. Clause 9, in English is right at the very top of page 5, 9 (5). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the Motion for the Motion. All in favour. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 011 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 10 (3) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just go with the actual Motion. I move that sub-Clause 10(3) and this one, Mr. Chairman, is on Page 5 of the English, it is in the last sentence, the last paragraph, of the Bill be amended by striking out regardless of whether a practise referred to in subsection (1) result in direct discrimination or adverse affect discrimination wherever it appears and substitute and by substituting when a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in discriminations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): The Motion is in Order. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Again on Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 012 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 11 (2) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over half way there and I will, the third one. Mr. Chairman, this one on the English version is on Page 6, 11(2), I move that sub-Clause 11(2) of the Bill be amended by striking out "regardless of whether a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in direct discrimination or adverse affect discrimination" wherever it appears and by substituting "when a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in discriminations". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the Motion. The Motion is in Order. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 013 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 12 (2) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This one is again Page 6, Clause 12 (2). I move that sub-Clause 12(2) of the Bill be amended by striking out "regardless of whether a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in direct discrimination or adverse affect discrimination" wherever it appears and by substituting "when a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in discrimination". Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman (interpretation): To the Motion. The Motion is in Order. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Again, Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 014 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 13 (3) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last one on this one. Mr. Chairman, it is Page 7 of the English version, Clause 13(3). I move that sub-Clause 13(3) of the Bill be amended by striking out "regardless of whether a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in direct discrimination" or adverse affect discrimination wherever it appears and by substituting "when a practise referred to in subsection (1) results in discrimination". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the motion. The motion is in order. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 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): Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 015 – 1(6): Clause 22 (2) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that sub-clause 22 (2), all good numbers of the bill be amended by striking out "May" and substituting "Shall". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 32. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 016 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 32 of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Struck Out

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that clause 32 of the Bill be struck out and the following substituted. "Public hearings, (32), a hearing before a tribunal shall be open to the public unless the tribunal at the request of any party or on the tribunal's own initiative decides that there are reasons sufficient to justify holding all or part of the hearing in private". Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the motion. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 34. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 35. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 36. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 37. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 38. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 39. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 40. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 41. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 42. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 43. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 44. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairman (interpretation): Clause 45. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 45. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is in regards to offence and fines. The fine is not to exceed \$25 thousand dollars. Where was this number derived from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have put that in place by looking at the different pieces of legislation and looking at the figures that were used for offences and fines. This \$25 thousand dollars could be reviewed at a later date and amended if required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 45. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 46.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 47. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 017 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 47 (a) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that Clause 47 of the Bill be amended by striking out sub clause A, and be renumbered accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the Motion. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The motion is in order. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 47. Clause 47. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 018 – 1(6): Sub-Clause 47 (e) of Bill 12 Human Rights Act be Amended

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that sub clause 47(E) of the Bill be struck out and the following will be substituted, (E), prescribing consequences for failure to meet time periods prescribed by the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): To the Motion. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 47. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 48. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 49. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 50. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 51. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the Committee agree that Bill 12 as amended is ready for Third Reading? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is going to be ready for Third Reading, I would like to have a recorded vote at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I believe that we are concluded this Bill. I would like to thank the Committee Members on the debate on Bill 12, and we will keep working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I move that we report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a motion on the Floor to report progress. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 12. We would like to report that Bill 12 is ready for third reading as amended and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker: There is a Motion on the Floor. We have a Seconder. Mr. Okalik. Motion is Noted. Motion is in Order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 12 – Nunavut Human Rights Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I move, Seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 12, Nunavut Human Rights Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in Order, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry. Mr. Speaker, I would, I would like to request a recorded vote on the third reading of the Bill. Thank you.

Speaker: Members, the record of vote has been called for. All those in favour please stand then sit down when your name has been called. Premier Okalik. Minister Kattuk. Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Anawak. Mr. Havioyak. Mr. McLean. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco. Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Ng. All those opposed, please stand and be seated when your name is called. Ms. Williams. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Thompson. Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Netser.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. The results are 10 for and 8 against. The motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading.

>>Applause

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders for the Day for Wednesday, November 5th.

- 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 36
 - Bill 41
- 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
- 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

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Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 5th, 2003, at 10:30 am.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House adjourned at 22:13