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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker Hon. Kevin O'Brien

(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark

(Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq

(Amittuq) Deputy Chair, Committee of the

Uriash Puqiqnak

Whole

(Nattilik) Deputy Speaker

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Finance; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Government House

I eader

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(Hudson Bay) Minister of Public Works and Services

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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)

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(Nanulik)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut Wednesday November 5, 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 Mr. Havioyak to say the prayer this afternoon.

>>Prayer

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 223 – 1(6): Socio-Economic Initiatives in Arctic Bay

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to update Members of this House on a socioeconomic initiative in Arctic Bay being implemented by a sub committee of the Nanisivik Working Group. This committee is co-chaired by DSD and Community Government and Transportation and encourages members from Education, Health and Social Services, Housing Corporation and the Hamlet of Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this committee has laid the ground work for several projects and events including the community healing commemorative event, the development of an Arctic Bay Development Corporation, a carving project including a very successful summer art exhibition held in Perth, Ontario, the annual marathon between Arctic Bay and Nanisivik, a business development week to be held in February of 2004, youth implement strategy including the establishment of a Youth Employment Coordinator, mentorship and coaching for local employees using CESO, projects related to the provision of housing and tourism projects incuding a multi use facility for tourists and for the community. The socio-economic committee has met several times in Arctic Bay, Iqaluit and in Pond Inlet and is scheduled to return to Arctic Bay in November.

The committee is dedicated to providing the people of Arctic Bay with the support, mentorship and training required for the residents to control the development in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank everyone who has participated in this committee making it a fine example of how we as government can utilize our resources for our common purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 224 - 1(6): New Funding to Expand Telehealth Services

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services has received an additional \$2.7 million from the Primary Health Care Transition Fund, he PHCTF Aboriginal Envelope to expand telehealth services in Nunavut.

This is exciting news Mr. Speaker, because the Government of Nunavut does have to match any portion of these funds. The PHCTF supports transitional costs of implementing sustainable primary health care renewal initiatives.

The PHCTF Aboriginal Envelope is designed to support initiatives specific to the renewal of primary health care services and to address the unique needs of aboriginal communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services received sixty three percent of the available funds. For Nunavummiut that means an additional \$2.7 million dollars to expand our telehealth community.

Mr. Speaker, there are currently fifteen telehealth sites across Nunavut. This additional funding will allow us to expand the telehealth program to another seven sites. This will increase access to care and specialized services not currently available here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, thirty Inuit staff across fifteen communities have been trained to use the telehealth equipment. Ongoing training is provided monthly using the telehealth units in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to continue working with our southern referral providers to expand the telehealth program in our Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 225 – 1(6): Recruitment of Additional Management Interns

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank goodness we are getting ready to head home.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues on the Department of Human Resources Sivuliktiqsat Program. Sivuliktiqsat is a management development program that began in January 2003, specifically designed to increase the necessary employment in the Government of Nunavut for director and manager level positions.

Mr. Speaker, we currently have eight interns in the program. That's a shame, out of twenty six thousand. Four in Iqaluit, one in Pond Inlet, two in Cambridge Bay and one in Gjoa Haven.

(interpretation) That is not very much out of so many people.

(interpretation ends) Each intern has a designated trainer and individualized learning plans that they're following to develop required skills, knowledge and abilities.

The training duration is a maximum of two years. They are learning on the job and are also completing course by distance education and attending group workshops.

Mr. Speaker, participation in Sivuliktiqsat is a very exciting employment opportunity for Beneficiaries. The Department of Human Resources will be advertising to fill the remaining six positions within the program starting this November. We will ensure that Beneficiaries are well informed of these new job opportunities through an extensive recruitment campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Premier Okalik.

Minister's Statement 226 – 1(6): Correctional Healing Facility in Kugluktuk

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to Members of this House regarding the establishment of a correctional healing facility in Kugluktuk.

The facility will House up to twenty low risk offenders serving short term sentences or being returned from the Yellowknife or Baffin Correctional Centres to complete their sentences.

Mr. Speaker, I am especially pleased that we are able to meet the needs of our residents of the Kitikmeot, so that offenders from that part of our territory are able to serve their time closer to their home community. By establishing this facility in Kugluktuk we will create up to twelve new positions and will be recruiting in the community.

I am also pleased to tell you that we are able to use an existing building from the hamlet for this facility. Fortunately, only minor renovations are needed before it can be used.

It is important that we provide facilities that are closer to home communities of offenders. Not only does this aid in the healing process, but it also ensures that Inuit cultural activities are an integral part of the rehabilitation process. These goals are in keeping with our commitment to healthy communities as reflected in the Bathurst Mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 227 – 1(6): Youth Identity Development Strategy

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to announce that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has completed a *Youth Identity Development Strategy*. Based on consultations across Nunavut, this strategy makes clear recommendations to help us work with youth to build a healthy sense of identity.

We know that identity and self-esteem are critical to our youth making healthy decisions for themselves. But we also recognize that youth know best what their challenges are and who they want to be. The goals, vision and recommendations in this strategy come directly from youth, from their successes, problems, ideas and dreams.

Mr. Speaker, growing up in Nunavut today presents challenges, but Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit also offers opportunities for youth to face up to these challenges with the support of tradition and family, elders and peers.

Nunavut youth made six clear recommendations in this strategy based on the following goals. Foster identity and pride, promote culture and language, cultivate leadership and role models and improve communications amongst youth.

The Youth Identity Development Strategy will help my department to focus its programs, grants and contributions towards priorities identified by youth, for youth. Later today I will be tabling the Youth Identity Development Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statement? If not we will move on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 720 – 1(6): Bill 12 – Human Rights Act

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Mr. Premier, and the Cabinet. I am happy to rise today regarding Bill 12, which was passed in the House yesterday.

Nunavummiut, I want you to know that you now have rights and we can start planning for the future, according to our rights. It is hard to say when it will be implemented. I smile to Nunavummiut now and I am glad and proud to say that we can now aim to meet the needs of Nunavummiut.

No one will now trample on our rights, and we are in the same position as in the rest of Canada. Thank you, Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 721 - 1(6): Remembrance Day November 11

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about November 11, which will be in a few days. I rise to remember those who fought so hard for our freedom during past wars, and who today serve in our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, as a symbol of our appreciation, and in remembrance of those who died for us, we wear these poppies. If they did not fight for our freedom, Mr. Speaker, we would not be here today. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to thank them and I encourage everyone to wear a poppy in remembrance.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank our past leaders who worked so hard for Nunavut, who survived the harsh climate to make it to today, and who had a vision that one day, we would have our own Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful that they fought hard for this, because today we do have our own Government. So Mr. Speaker, I wanted to acknowledge how grateful I am and join Nunavummiut, and you, Mr. Speaker, in thanking those in remembrance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 722 - 1(6): Country Food - Economic Development in Nunavut

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to discuss the possible economic development in Nunavut and in building an economic base for

Nunavut. We probably think that it is unattainable at this point, but because there is 26 different communities, I do believe that there are 26, at times, some people say 27, or 28, but I think that there are 26. We depend on wildlife, for instance in Coral Harbour there are walruses, and polar bears, and in Chesterfield Inlet, Igloolik and Naujaat it is the same, in any community. We still hunt to supplement the food that we have available today.

However, with the new technologies, for instance, Baker Lake might be requesting some muktaaq, and Rankin Inlet may request for some aged meat. I think there should be further consideration by the Department of Sustainable Development to further assist those communities that would like to get into the fish and meat economies.

The Government Researchers are always saying no, we cannot do that. We that are here today, if we work hard enough, you can use the examples of the Greenlanders, where they have a market in Greenland. We can reach that level if we work hard enough to ensure that we benefit through the marketing of our meats and fish. It would create more economic opportunities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 723 – 1(6): Debate on Bill 12 Human Rights Act

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my three communities about what we went through yesterday, I am sure that they are aware because of the media coverage of our proceedings from yesterday. It even made it on the National News.

We debated the issue of the Human Rights Legislation. The process that we used last night is the usual process because we do not always agree in this House on different issues. And for the communities that I represent, and perhaps other communities, for instance, in Iqaluit, I encourage them to take their children to Church more often.

We open with a prayer in the House all the time because it is part of our beliefs. We do believe that once the prayer is said that the day goes well. So I encourage those communities that I represent, the mothers and fathers to take their children to church more often to build their faith.

There must be room for religion in this House. Mr. Speaker, thank you for letting me be able to make this statement today. We have this right to say what statements that we have. To also inform the communities that I represent, I will travel up there very shortly, and I will find out exactly when I will be visiting my communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 724 – 1(6): Concern for Employees Laid Off in the Mining Industry

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say hi to both my grandchildren. I will see them today sometime in Kugluktuk. I rise today to talk in regards to the mining industry. When the mining industry closes down there is a lack of employment for the people working in the mines.

I would like to tell the Government to pay attention in regards to the employees who are not working anymore. Take the Lupin Mine, for example, there were many people who work at the mine who are unemployed at the moment.

I would like to make sure that the employees are looked after, because there is a concern for no employment. Many of them have worked for twenty-five years at the mines. The employees who were laid off possess a lot of knowledge in various trades. They can easily adapt to other employment opportunities.

I would like to see someone there to consult with employees. They need encouragement, although they have worked for a long time at the mining industry, to continue to try to look for employment.

For those young people who are getting into the mining trade, I would like to encourage them to continue. Let us not forget those who have worked in the mines because they had good training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 725 – 1(6): Human Rights Act

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the news media, I was reported to be the only Cabinet Member who opposed the Bill. I am not just going to join the cause with the Cabinet. I do not mind even if I am alone with my opinion in the world.

I do not mind speaking my mind. At times I do not always agree with my colleagues. It wouldn't matter if they took my ministerial appointment away. There are times I do not agree with my colleagues. I would like to thank my colleagues for giving me the opportunity to vote freely on my own.

Mr. Speaker, even though the media is pointing fingers at me, I do not mind that. Whether I am a Canadian, or Russian, if my mind is set, I do not like to be swayed, and I am not swayed.

Mr. Speaker, as the Minister for Education, I have been quoted through the media that the Minister for Education did not approve the Human Rights Act. Mr. Speaker, as a teacher, and as mother, I made my statements because I was elected here to represent my constituents.

Those are some of the reasons why I had opposed the Bill. Even if I am intimidated, no matter how people treat me, I do not mind, because I speak my mind freely. I am not concerned about losing my ministerial appointment and I made my statements in the House freely, and I am not intimidated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 726 - 1(6): Treated Differently

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I rise to make a statement about the four and half years since we became elected. I have had feelings of anger inside of me. I know that I am wrong. My father used to tell me not to get upset no matter how bad I am feeling. That was my father's advice to me and I still value his advice. He used to advise me not to stay angry from dusk until dawn

In the past few years, I have been hurt in my heart because I'm an elected member, and also because I come from Sanikiluaq. When people approach me outside the House and within the House, I have been harassed and I don't want to carry that bad feeling anymore.

Once I let it out, I will no longer have it inside of me because I was advised to live that way by my parents. If you let out your own issues and speak about your own issues, that means they come out from you.

That's the advice and after I voice my issues and pains, then they come out. I'm just like any regular person here. I would like to say that as a Member of the Legislative Assembly for the 4 and half years, inside the House and outside the House, my heart has been hurt because I was discriminated against because of the color of my skin and because of the community I come from.

Sanikiluaq residents would like to feel welcome here in this city and I myself would like to feel welcome here in this city. I know that the residents of Sanikiluaq feel proud to be a part of Nunavut as well as myself. We have to treat everyone equally and we should not discriminate against anyone no matter where they come from or no matter what language they speak.

They should not base their discrimination on the ethnicity and also on where we come from. We enjoy being and after I let these feelings out, I'm not going to stay angry in the House or outside the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 727 – 1(6): Co-op Store Dividends and Income

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too am happy that I'm able to take part and I would like to inform my colleagues here that we now have a Human Rights Act and we cannot be discriminated against.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my greetings to Hall Beach and send my love to my family. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about a concern by the community of Igloolik.

For all the communities that have Cooperative Stores, the majority of the community residents are shareholders of the coop. At the end of the year, we receive dividends. For example, perhaps my colleague from Cape Dorset is quite aware of this.

If I purchase groceries using my pocket money, the money remains the same. Part of the money I spend is put into the shares so that it could be allocated as dividend. It's a dividend that you actually paid for when you bought your groceries.

We've been experiencing many problems in regards to this because coop shareholders, every time they get the dividend, when the income support worker finds out that this coop member received dividends; they are no longer eligible for income support.

I believe it's a dividend; it does not come in the form of cash. You can't even cash it; you can only buy groceries with it. It's a coupon; it is also where this shareholder or Co-Op member, when they purchase the groceries, it is part of the money she had already paid. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, my Colleagues and Premier. I do appreciate all of the things that you do. I would like everyone to understand what I am trying to say that the Co-Op members who receive dividend; if they are income support recipients and if this individual receives a dividend, he or she is no longer eligible.

And every time they go grocery shopping, the monies she paid, she will receive as a dividend. The income support workers should not look at dividends as income.

Not just in Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, where there are Co-Ops in those communities, that is how it is.

I would like the Government to understand that the Co-op members who receive their dividend that do not receive actual cash. It is just the return on the money they actually spent as a benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 728 – 1(6): Scholarship for Fauna Kingdon

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last several weeks, we have had an opportunity to discuss a range of topics. Today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring some good news to the Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to inform the House about another scholarship earned by one of my Constituents and an Iqaluit resident. Mr. Speaker, Fauna Kingdon has earned several scholarships over the past year.

She has worked hard for her bursaries and scholarships and Mr. Speaker, last month, she was awarded another scholarship. This time, Mr. Speaker, she was awarded the very prestigious Xerox Aboriginal Scholarship and she is the first Nunavut resident to be awarded it.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, the scholarship is started at \$12 thousand dollars, \$3 thousand dollars paid to Fauna over four years to help her with her schooling.

The scholarship, Mr. Speaker, is based on high academic achievement and contribution to society. Mr. Speaker, it is important to point out that almost ninety nine percent of Fauna's education came from here in Nunavut. She attended school here, she went to high school in Nunavut and she is now in a University in Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, Fauna, I think, is an excellent role model for Nunavut youth and indeed, has served as a page in the Legislative Assembly and as you know, Mr. Speaker, is an excellent role model who has been involved on the crisis line helping people deal with issues like suicide and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you would join with me in congratulating Fauna, again, on continuing a great tradition of success with her academic studies and a great role model for Nunavut youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 729 – 1(6): Thanks Family and Constituents

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today might be our last day for this Session. I would like to thank my wife Rosie and my family and my friend Joseph, Lynn and Jenna for waiting patiently for the end of this Session and I will not forget my little grandchild Kevin.

And also to the people who I represent, I would like to also like to thank them.

And I would like to go briefly back to the Human Rights Act that we were dealing with yesterday. I have never wanted to use that word, my electorate, but I would like to use the phrase, my constituents, or the people who I represent. And I would like to thank them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my staff, Pat and Dorcus, and also all the staff of the Legislative Assembly, and the tireless interpreters, Thank you. There are also staff who we do not see in the House all the time. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Mali Curley, who is an interpreter/translator. I would also like to thank the people from Innirvik, my namesake and Mary as well as the others who work there.

I would also to say that we have been away from our home for three weeks, for some of us. We dealt with various things such as the Human Rights Act, and the Tobacco Act, and the Act to Amend the Liquor Act, the Act to Amend the NWT Business Credit Corporation Act, the Labour Standards Act, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, and the Nursing Act amendments, and also the Supplementary Appropriations, 2003-2004, and 2004-2005. I am over my time. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members Statements. Premier Okalik.

Member's Statement 730 – 1(6): Human Rights

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Members of this House that we were all working hard last night, because it was a very controversial Bill that we dealt with yesterday.

My mother, who had passed away, has also helped me with the Inuit ways of doing things. I also received a letter from our Bishop Andrew Atagutaaluk. I have always respected and obeyed my mother, and tried to do the things that she told me to do in my life to make my life better. To make good decisions, so with that I would like to just move on to focus on our future because some of the items that we talked about yesterday, stays in the House and it does not go back out. We are not going to be carrying it with us forever; we will be going into a better future together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 731 – 1(6): Debate on Human Rights

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will just start off by realizing that today will probably be our last day here for this Sitting. I wish all Members a safe and quick journey home, no weather delays I am sure they are anxious to get home. Minister Kilabuk and Kattuk are just smiling in anticipation of going home.

Mr. Speaker, I want to also take this opportunity to thank all the Members of this House for the debate that took place yesterday. I think it is important to remember that one of the whole principles behind a public government and democracy, is having debate on issues, whatever they may be.

Over the past five years I've stood up and argued against things, but that's what it's all about. We're not here to just rubber stamp it. If people have questions or concerns relating to whatever it is that we're dealing with here in the House, that's why we're here.

I respect the fact that all members have the right and were elected to do that. I just want to thank everybody for the debate that took place here yesterday because that's the kind of debate that needs to happen on everything.

That's the whole purpose of us being here. As the Premier indicated, as Mr. Kattuk indicated, it's done. We move forward. I look forward to moving ahead on other issues. We have a lot of other important issues that we have to deal with, within this territory.

Mr. Kilabuk mentioned the number of pieces of legislation that we're going to be dealing with and I look forward to all of us continuing the debate and raising the issues and concerns that we have on those things in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 732 – 1(6): Voicing Concerns and Views

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy that this is our last day.

I would also like to thank my constituents from Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk and I send my regards to my family who are waiting patiently for me. I would like to say my thoughts because it's good to air out your concerns and your thoughts.

Even though we argue or debate on some things that we clearly care about, that's the way it should be even though we're not upset with each other, we have to have a debate and questions and concerns aired out. We're able to do that and I appreciate everybody for doing that.

What I'm really concerned about is the elders and the youth because we have to be able to provide them with their needs and their expectations, because we have to work for them in this House as their elected representatives. We have to be able to provide them with their expectations.

When our constituents elected us they elected us to represent them. We have to be able to provide for their need, we can't just leave the needs of our constituents. We have to work for them. Are they just going to be following our wishes? I don't think so. We're not going to be just leaving them behind us.

We have to be able to work for them and represent them the best way that we can. So, with that, I would like to be able to tell the Members that we are looking forward to other work that we have to be doing and to remind the Members that when the people of Nunavut were going to get their Nunavut in this territory, that they had a lot of expectations and we have to make them realize their expectations.

We want our children to have a good future and we want them to be able to stand for themselves. Where are they going to be? I want to make a better future for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 733 – 1(6): Regards to Constituents

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever I stand up to speak, these two people on my side bother me. I think this is the last time that we are going to be meeting today and I would like to say hello to my Constituents.

Perhaps we will be going home on Friday. I just wanted to, I do not have very much to say, but this was made for me recently so I could wear it in the House and if the two individuals who made this for me are watching, I smile at them.

There are two people from Pond Inlet as well, Sheila and Crystal. I send my regards and also my grandchildren in Iqaluit. I send my regards to them. I think everybody knows my grandson and I send my regards to his little sister.

The term constituent was mentioned. Sometimes the Inuktitut language is usually a little bit difficult to translate into English and I do not want anybody to make fun of our language, but this is the way it is.

I wanted to briefly say that the Inuktitut language should not be a mockery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 734 - 1(6): Representing Constituents

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do have differing views as Members in the Assembly and at the same time, we have to represent the views of our Constituents as much as possible. With some of our statements, the Nunavummiut that we represent, are we not representing them anymore, are we just leaving them behind, which is the thought that many people have.

As a Government, perhaps for over four years, the representation has been apparent, although it has been long time coming, we are elected to represent the views of our Constituents and I was just recently in Ottawa with youth for the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program who are the future leaders of our Territory.

When I appeared before the Senate Committee, they were there to observe the activities of the Senate Committee and they were very proud to see young Inuit. The Senators barely see anybody interested in Senate Committee Hearings.

Because these young people are our future leaders, we should encourage and support them as much as possible and keep in mind that they will be running our affairs in the future.

We do the best we can to represent the constituents and the people of Nunavut and this new Legislation further enhances our representation in protecting the rights of people.

My parents used to tell me that I should not be talking about other people and how different they are and that only helps in that belief that we should not be looking at other peoples differences and that we should pass this knowledge down onto our children.

There is always room for amendments in this Legislation in the future and I am very proud that the Act will help our Nunavummiut as well as outside of Nunavummiut, for the residents of Nunavut who are down south will also be able to fall back on this Legislation from elsewhere in Nunavut.

And so, our job now is to ensure we take the information out in the open so people are aware of what their rights are. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Member's Statements? 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 to welcome to the gallery today three individuals Mr. Speaker. Two are Iqaluit residents with Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to start off by saying that Gary and Joyce Jones are doing yeoman service for the people of Iqaluit and Nunavut and they work and volunteer their time at the soup kitchen. They're involved in other projects around town to make life a little bit better in our community.

Mr. Speaker, Gary is well known. He goes to church every Sunday. I see him there. Rebecca Williams could tell you he has a strong and a fine voice. You know that I'm quite a singer myself Mr. Speaker. It's very difficult for me to keep up with Gary. Mr. Speaker, with Gary and Joyce today, thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Akesuk is quite a character. He's got quite a voice too. You can always over hear him when other people are talking.

>>Laughter

With Mr. and Mrs. Jones today is the Divisional Commander from Edmonton, Alberta, Major Bob Ratcliff. Mr. Ratcliff is in charge of Salvation Army for Alberta and the Northern Territories Division, including Nunavut.

I want to make sure I had this opportunity to welcome them to the Assembly. I was supposed to meet with them earlier this morning Mr. Speaker, but because the session time was changed, I wasn't able to do that.

I'm hoping at some time this morning to be able to step out and have a meeting with the Major and Bob and Gary and Joyce, so Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome them to the gallery and to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery and welcome to Nunavut. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My good friend is here to visit us, represented by Ed Picco, I would like to recognise Danny Eegeesiak, a good friend of mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Even when we don't see any visitors here we feel like visitors here. We're like a big family in Nunavut.

There are those who I have never met whosay that I'm quite famous and so I used to not know how to react to that but I'm quite pleased with the attention I get. Those who are named after my father, Iqaqrialu, I thank them and I send my regards to my grandchildren and my children.

Just be patient a little bit longer. I will be heading home on the 17th. This message is to my children to wait patiently, as they always wait patiently. And a big smile to all of Nunavummiut and my colleagues.

Although we go through some challenging and stressful times, it's all for the good and Mr. Speaker; you're becoming friendlier by the day. Perhaps, next month, you'll be even nicer next month during our session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I recognize visitors, just recently I was trying to be an interpreter in a booth. I was trying what those people in the booths were doing, and I want to recognize all the interpreters in the booths, that speak Inuinnaqtun. Because they have worked very hard and they can speak the language very well, I want you to recognize them as they speak the language very well.

It looks like it is a really easy job but these people have to work. The first person is John Komak, Joe Otokiak, James Panioyak, and Henry Ohokanoak. I want to recognize those Inuinnaqtun interpreters here. I want to thank them for being here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Kugluktuk has beaten me to the punch, but I would also like to recognize the Inuinnaqtun interpreter/translators. The three who are in the booth as he has mentioned is Joe Otokiak, John Komak, and James Panioyak, and also Henry Ohokanoak who I believe is in the back. Mr. Speaker, all of these highly capable individuals are from Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last evening in our long Session, some of us got hungry earlier than others. So I would like to recognize a guy who fed me, Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms, Jayko Ishulutak from Pangnirtung. So we went to bed not hungry, thanks to him.

Thank the interpreters as well from the Baffin region, Ooleepeka Ikkidluak, and Mary. Mr. Speaker, if you have never seen them, and you heard their voices, you can recognize them. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Anawak: Thank you. For the record, Kelvin, Joe Otokiak lives in my constituency of Rankin Inlet. I would like to recognize him. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will now move onto Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 696 – 1(6): Assistance for Workers Laid Off from the Lupin Mine

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me first. I will be speaking in Inuinnaqtun. I know that it is Inuinnaqtun Day today.

(interpretation ends) I want to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. (interpretation) I want you to realize what I said earlier today. Those people who have been laid off at the mine site in Lupin, they will be requiring some assistance to find other employment after they have been laid off in the Lupin mine site.

I would like the Sustainable Development Minister to assist these people to find other jobs in the mining sector who have been laid off from the Lupin Mine. I am wondering if the Minister has prepared for finding employment for these former employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we will have to review how we can provide more assistance to the employees who have been laid off. Employment opportunities are not always readily available in Nunavut, but we will

provide assistance by working together with them, by cooperating with the community and I am sure that there are CEDOs at the community level.

And if there are any employment opportunities in the other mining sectors, perhaps we can do the same thing when Nanisivik mine close down, we have been making plans for the workers who have been laid off and the Member for the High Arctic keeps asking me questions in regards to this. We will be able to review this and work on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for providing me with a good answer. Some of the Lupin employees were laid off; when will you be seeking jobs for them or maybe get some other training programs for the individuals who have been laid off? When can you start preparing to find jobs for the employees who have been laid off? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I myself, I do not know when I could create job opportunities, but I am sure that the staff who are laid off will, I am sure they can go and find work.

But as a Minister for Sustainable Development, I do not even know when I can create employment opportunities for them, but for the training program for the laid off employees, I am sure we can work together with the Department of Education to review to see what kind of training programs they require, especially for those employees who have been laid off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister for you're your answer. It is good to hear. I am just wondering, I am not asking to create jobs for these people, what I am saying is if you can find counselling for these individuals who have been laid off. Maybe find other employment for them. Have you talked to the employment officer in that community so that they have an opportunity to find jobs for themselves so they can get counselling to find employment in other mining sector?

Have you talked to the hamlet employment officers regarding these job opportunities that might be available in other mining sectors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can work with them and we will work with the employment officers as to how we can work with the training program.

Although I am a Minister for the Mining, we can look instead at trying to create other opportunities from the Department of Sustainable Development. I am willing to help and give you support and review how we can counsel these workers who have been laid off.

As I have stated before, the High Arctic Member was quite concerned about employment losses when the Nanisivik Mine closed. Yes, we have to be quite concerned about this Lupin Mine closure.

But there are more mining opportunities in Kitikmeot and Baffin Region. Yes, I am willing to look into this further to find out how we can work with the employees who have been laid off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 697 – 1(6): Martha Taleruk Centre in Need of Renovations

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not going to smile at you today like my other Colleagues have been for the last couple of days here. I am going home today and that is the only thing I am happy about this week.

Anyhow, Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and I have not been asking questions to him for the last five days because I made him a promise.

I was over to his house visiting, and I asked Pakak, who is the bad guy in the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut, and he points right over at me. And I say why, and he says because you ask my dad questions all the time and you're mad at him. And I said well I'd give him a break.

Since this is the last day and I have to ask the Minister of Health a question. Mr. Speaker, I really want to thank the Minister for setting up the Martha Taleruk Centre for gentle care in Baker Lake. Our elders now have a place where they have 24-hour care and I commend the Minister for doing that because it was a much needed facility.

But the facility that we're currently using was used as a youth facility and currently the building is over capacity now and it needs some minor renovations. Can the Minister tell me when he expects to put that on the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be able to go to Baker Lake and open up the facility with the Member. And indeed it is an excellent facility to be able to provide the 24 hours, 7 day a week care to our elders, which is very important.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, as the Member knows has been under tremendous pressure because of the financial situation within the department. However, Mr. Speaker, on minor capital, like the Member has talked about, there may be an opportunity to look at some funds to make some renovations, especially Mr. Speaker, in light of the situation, the facility is over capacity.

When I was in the facility there was a letter from Mr. Angmalik, who was a member of the board, for us to review that. We did do a review on it and Mr. Speaker, I would hope to be able to be in the position during the coming weeks where we could actually find some funds and allocate them towards making some of the renovation changes in the new year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 698 – 1(6): Target Date for Opening of Correctional Healing Facility

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Justice.

In his Minister's Statement, he talked about a healing facility in Kugluktuk and that it would be completed some time. This correctional healing facility, first of all, I would like to get clarification on whether you have estimates or a target date as to when that facility could be used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps in the next year during the summer, that's our plan to open the facility. They are now trying to complete some minor things and we'll have to find staff that will work at the correctional facility in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in his Minister's Statement, he stated that the facility would house up to 20 low risk offenders, I'm sorry, there would be 12 new positions and they would be recruiting these employees.

Mr. Speaker, can you ask for order in the House because it's very difficult to make a statement or ask questions when other Members are talking.

Mr. Speaker, in his statement he said there would be 12 new positions and as Kitikmeot residents, I'm looking forward to these 12 new positions. We don't have probation officers in the Kitikmeot Region.

These 12 new positions, will they be travelling to other communities such as Taloyoak as probation officers to work with inmates or people who are on parole or probation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I would caution Members to try to keep their side bar chatter down while the other Members are asking questions. Thank you. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These 12 new positions are going to be guards and they won't be able to visit other communities because they will be working in the facility just like the guards here at BCC.

They have to be guards. These 12 new positions will be guard positions for the new facility in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, I had asked questions in regards to the communities that don't have probation officers.

We've only got 12 probation officers within Nunavut communities. The correctional healing facility in Kugluktuk, once it's completed, the communities that don't have probation officers and this correctional facility will need probation officers. After the correctional facility in Kugluktuk has been completed, can we expect to see probation officers put in place in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The correctional healing facility in Kugluktuk is for inmates.

That's a correctional facility, and I'm sure it's going to benefit the inmates because the majority of inmates are sent to Yellowknife and some of them are sent to BCC and the rest of them are sent down to the facilities outside of our jurisdiction.

This facility will be geared towards inmates so that they could go through the healing program so as not to become repeat offenders. But in regards to probation officers, yes we've only got a few probation officers and for the communities that don't have probation officers, the social workers do provide probation services.

In the future, yes, we would like to see probation officers in place in all the communities but we lack funding. We are trying to work with the Federal Government to obtain additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Minister. I would like to ask another question. Those 12 positions that are slated to go to Kugluktuk for the correctional healing facility, will the community of Kugluktuk get the training only or will those 12 positions be open to the Kitikmeot communities or just Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut will run the correctional healing facility.

The jobs that are going to be given to the community of Kugluktuk and it will be open to anybody from the Kitikmeot Region, those twelve positions, whoever wants to apply for those positions.

It does not matter where they come from and we want to have Inuit employment. It will be open to Inuit living in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 699 – 1(6): Views of Nunavummiut on Breast Feeding Week

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the two Members who are beside me because they always treat me well. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The Minister made some Statement about breastfed babies. What were the thoughts of Nunavummiut when they had a week on that breastfeeding from the mothers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to first of all compliment the Member on these attire today, it is very nice vest. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of different vests that I have not been able to wear. I hope I get a chance in the next several weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I attended the breastfeeding contest, which was held across Canada to see which communities and which regions could have the largest number of people competing in breastfeeding.

I was with Thomasie Alikatuktuk, who is the President of QIA and first I thought we were there to judge the contest, but actually we were there to observe.

Mr. Speaker, the contest itself was to raise awareness for breastfeeding and the contest itself was.

Some Member: It's not funny is it?

Hon. Ed. Picco: No. The contest was there, Mr. Speaker, to raise the awareness of breastfeeding and as the Department has done, the Department of Health and Social Services, as well as many medical professionals have indicated that breastfeeding is the best for our children.

Mr. Speaker, indeed, we are trying to make sure that where possible breastfeeding is done and that we do not use, for example, Infalac or those types of baby formulas when not needed. However, there are instances where those need to be used.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that the majority, we are one of the highest, I think it is the highest rate of breastfeeding in the country and Mr. Speaker, that is something to be proud of for our children and for the nursing mothers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Breastfeeding, breastfeeding is the best as far as everybody is concerned. My question is if a person goes for medical treatment in Ottawa and they have to bring the baby because they are breastfeeding, but there was an occurrence where an individual was told that she was not allowed to bring her baby to that boarding home.

Is there a rule in place whereby you are not allowed to bring your babies that you are breastfeeding and are you not allowed to bring your baby who you are breastfeeding into the medical centre down south?

I just wanted to find out if there is a policy in place that says that you are not allowed to bring your baby who you are breastfeeding to a medical centre down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member had raised in the House, I believe about a week and half or two weeks ago, a concern where indeed, a mother had been carrying a child and was charged for that child to be staying at the boarding home and indeed, when the Member provided me with the receipt, we paid the mother because that was not acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, this Government has no policy in place that does that, a child that is being breastfed is not allowed to be at a boarding home or indeed be with the ascendant mother. There are no policies in this Government in sight stating that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said that there is no policy in place for the Department of Health and Social Services. I wonder if the boarding home does not want the child there, who would be able to look after the child, because there should be something in place where the breastfeeding mother should be told that they are allowed to bring their children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the case where a mother has to travel for a medical appointment, and is nursing a child under the age of one, where they are carrying them on their back then Mr. Speaker, I would expect that that mother would be able to take her child with her.

Mr. Speaker, the boarding home should not, and they are not in the position to turn away a child who is nursing just because they do not want the child there. The mother has the right to have the child with her.

If there is an instance that has arisen, that the Member is aware of, then we could deal with it. Like he did with the receipt, when he was able to give me the receipt, then we got the money for the lady. And if there is case where the mother has been turned away or if there was a concern with a child, and if we were aware of that, then we would be able to deal with. I appreciate the Member bringing the issue up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about little babies, less than a year old. The ones that are breastfed from their mother, they usually have to have diapers on and sometimes there are some single mothers that bring babies and they have to stay in those medical boarding homes.

What about the provision of pampers? Is there any way that there is a rule whereby, like the one that they have here in Iqaluit, for pampers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Inuktitut, Jobie said, *kutarvik*, so if I understand his Inuktitut, I think that he is talking about diapers, pampers. Is that what you said, *kutarvik*? Oh, okay. Pamper right? *Kutarvik*, *quingilitaq*. I would say *kutarvik*, ajjinga. I just want to make sure that it is the right word.

Mr. Speaker, depending on the situation of the parent, in the boarding homes, we do have available different types of disposable diapers. Mr. Speaker, and there is different sizes, depending on the child. There is newborn, there is size 5 to 12, and so on and so forth.

Mr. Speaker, those are usually available for the parent. I am aware where people have had to be medivaced out on medical travel, and they did not have any money when they left, because they did not have money. And when they got to Ottawa, were not able to have those types of things available. They could not afford to buy them.

In those cases, Mr. Speaker, we cover those costs and they should be available at the boarding homes for the parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 700 – 1(6): Public Information on the Human Rights Bill

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we end this Session when I still have a lot of questions to ask. I just want to get some clarification because I think that today is our last day.

We agreed to Bill 12 yesterday. I would like to ask the Premier whether the people out there in the communities of Nunavut, who are not familiar with the Act, how they are going to be informed on the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because the Bill was passed in the House yesterday and it will not be in effect for another year, and we would like to have the people informed of the Act, and we will be bringing out some informational items and some information to the public out there but I'm not really sure when that information will be distributed to the communities. As soon as we have them available, we will be sending them to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Igagrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate the Premier's response. Who will be going to the communities from his department or is it going to be just pamphlets and other information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not really thought about that at this time because we didn't really know if the Bill would pass yesterday so we haven't had any ideas or any ways of giving out; we don't know how we're going to do it right now but we will make sure we do our best in trying to provide information.

Or, I would like to hear from the Members or the public about how they would like the information distributed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My committee gave the Bill back to the House and urged the government to give out some information on Bill 12. Now that the Bill has passed, do you have any idea who would be giving out information to the public and communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be someone or some committee and we would be able to give out some press releases to let them know that there would be some information about Bill 12 that they should know.

We will do our best to give out the information on the intent of the Bill and we will do our best. If the communities wish, they can give me some ideas and we'll do our best to give out information on Bill 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 701 – 1(6): Youth Coordinator Position in Arctic Bay

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, I think he or she already expects the question.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development on the good news regarding Arctic Bay activities. I have three main questions just asking him to elaborate on the bullets listed.

One of them is the youth employment strategy, which will be worked on including the establishment of a youth employment coordinator. Can you tell me when this position will be filled? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We cannot say exactly when this position will be filled, but we would like to fill it as soon as possible to ensure the community benefits as much as possible as they have lost many positions. I cannot say exactly when it will be filled, but we will start working on it immediately so we can be ahead of the cleanup projects of the mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just below that, I would also like to ask, yes, I understand where he is coming from because it has to say when the cleanup will start.

And just below that bullet regarding mentorship and coaching for local employees using CESO. Who are you talking about? Who will be mentoring and coaching? Who are these people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps anybody can be a mentor and that is the wording in English. We will try and get best mentors possible.

Those who have long-term experience are the best mentors and we try to get the most experienced and when I was learning on the job, I had a choice of who I wanted to mentor me.

Perhaps these students enrolled in the mentorship and coaching program can have a selection of whom they would like to be mentored by. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just below that as well, in his Ministers' Statement, one of the most important would be if the projects related to the provision of housing because we have a major housing shortage in Arctic Bay and there will be three new houses built through housing.

So, I am just wondering what (interpretation ends) projects relating to the provision of housing means. (interpretation) Can you please elaborate what that means so that I can inform residents of Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me. I cannot elaborate on the issue of housing too much, but we have just made a commitment to the working group that we would work together to ensure that this project would be provided adequate housing.

There are the Departments from Sustainable Development, Community Government and Transportation, Education, Health and Social Services, Housing Corporation and Hamlet of Arctic Bay.

This working group will look at how we will try to ensure the availability of housing for any jobs that are created in that community through this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as well, another question that Minister is aware of is some of the residents of Arctic Bay lived in Nanisivik before the closure.

Have those families been considered whether they would be provided housing in Arctic Bay because some of them had had to live with relatives in Arctic Bay due to the lack of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is what it is for. This has such an impact on the lives that this would be one of the priorities to work on. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 702 – 1(6): Funding Cut for Home Care Workers

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in Igloolik there are some minor problems due to the lack of funding. Elders need homecare, and home visits. And the homecare employees, there has been a cut in pay for Homecare workers.

I think that there was an announcement by the Government that the pays and benefits of employees would not be impacted and so I am wondering how the funding for the homecare program is dealt with? Is it a Federal Government program? My question is for the Health Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think that one of the programs that we are very proud of is homecare. For the first time in the life of this government, or any government, we actually have dedicated trained people to take care of our infirm, our elderly, and our handicapped in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct this is a program that is facilitated through the Government of Nunavut, with dollars provided by the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any wages, or benefits cut to the employees under the homecare program because of the cutbacks being done by our department. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was in Igloolik recently, I was asked why there were cutbacks in wages, and that was news to me, Mr. Speaker, and so I did not have a response for him or her. And so he is at the same level as I am. I am wondering if he can look into the matter.

The homecare coordinator said that because of the cuts in wages, they need assistance and because they want this homecare program to continue, this is a concern. Is the Minister saying that there are no cuts in wages? Can he clarify who deals with this program regarding homecare program? Is it through his Office, or is it federally administered? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, the homecare program is facilitated through the Government of Nunavut through the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have not given any instructions to cut the wages and benefits of any of our homecare employees. This is the first that I have heard of the situation in Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, what I can do is to find out exactly what has occurred here with the Hamlet of Igloolik, as the Member has requested. And find out exactly why there has been a cut in wages and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps this is not run through the hamlet. They have a homecare coordinator at the Health Centre and he or she is responsible for the Program. It's not a nurse, it's a coordinator.

This employee who approached me is under the direction of this coordinator. So, I'm wondering if the Minister can get back to me this afternoon about what this all means and who runs the show. I know for sure the hamlet has nothing to do with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at any given time there are over 400 Nunavut residents who are taken care of through our home and community care program.

We're in the third year of the operation. There has been no funding cuts to the program. Indeed we're trying to enhance the program. So I will have to get back to the Member on exactly what has occurred in Igloolik with the costs and I will find that out as the Member said.

The Deputy Minister and myself will be here later today on the Northwest Territories and Nunavut RNA Bill or Act. I'll have an opportunity then to find out, when the Member is here, what exactly has occurred in Igloolik and I will let him know this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He committed to looking into the matter and it's good to hear that there have been no cuts in any wages and they will have comfort in knowing that there have been no cut backs. My question was whether the Minister could get back to me this afternoon and inform those employees who may be impacted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will get back to the Member this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 703 – 1(6): Plans to Increase Formula Funding For Schools

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question although it's for the Minister of Education, I hope that all her cabinet colleagues listen to it.

I know that education has been one of the top two priorities of this government since day one and I also understand that our schools are funded through a formula that is supposed to adequately meet the needs of staffing requirements and other resources that the schools need.

I understand that they haven't been funded to formula over the last couple of years and I'm sure that it's not due to the lack of trying on the part of the Minister of Education to make sure that our schools have the adequate resources that they need to operation.

Mr. Speaker, on the formula, I'd like to ask the Minister, I understand that changes were made as to when the enrolment numbers are being used to calculate the next year's funding for the school.

It was changed from November I believe, to October and I'm just wondering if the department has any plans to look at the new list, the new numbers that have come in after the current year's enrolment to accommodate, I'm sure all our schools have higher numbers than the previous year.

They have more students than they're funded for, so is the department looking at taking any action to try and rectify the discrepancy in numbers of actual students who are in the schools and the numbers that they're funded for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just a reminder to the Members that we have a little over 14 minutes left in question period and we have three Members who have yet to speak. So, speed up our comments. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding formula for the schools is being reviewed right now and according to the numbers enrolled, if there was further funding, yes, we will try and commit to increasing the funding given to the schools, but we will not go anywhere if Cabinet does not approve it no matter how much effort we put into it. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the other communities, I do know if the numbers are there, but I know for example in Iqaluit, there are 40 more students in the programs that are funded for and I know that that would roughly at least equate to one more PY plus the resources, probably around \$100 thousand dollars.

Can the Minister commit to having some type of a review process in place in the formula to re-examine the current numbers in the program over current number of students enrolled in the schools over the numbers that they are funded for to review on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are already doing that process. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister provide that information to the Members of this Assembly as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. Yes.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not to be accused of having two questions in one, does the Minister have any idea of when that might be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps on April 1st. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 704 – 1(6): More Funding Assistance for Carvers

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development regarding the carvers who sell their art to the Arctic Co-Ops as a means of income.

The carvers I know work very hard to provide for their families through carving and I am wondering what further assistance can be provided for these carvers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date there is assistance available for carvers. We provide funding for the purchase of tools through an application process.

We are trying to market carvings throughout the world to ensure that this industry is alive and well. We do provide some assistance through our grants and contribution programs for provision of carving tools. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his response. What I am trying to ask him is that the only place in the communities that they can sell carvings to are the Co-ops and they do have a limit of how many they can purchase. So, I am just wondering if there can be additional places where these carvers can sell their art. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The art of carving is quite difficult and marketing the art is even more difficult because many times in the communities, the Co-Ops are usually the ones who sell to galleries across Canada and so we have reviewed the matter to find out where else we can provide a market place for carvings from Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his response. For the assistance given to the carvers, what actual plans are in place to give them further assistance to provide a wider market place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do assist them any way possible; there is a Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association that we provide \$200

thousand dollars to annually. They also help to find other markets for carvings. We also work with Nunavut Development Corporation in the marketing of carvings and to find a wider market area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for the Minister's response. He said it's in the process of being reviewed. When do you think the work will be completed to find out other markets? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This work is ongoing. Since the creation of Nunavut it has been one of our major priorities to provide assistance for carvers and to find a market place for those carvers. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 705 – 1(6): Economic Development Plans

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

As an Inuk I honestly love to eat country food. I don't mind not eating vegetables myself. I think I'm sure I'll be healthy if I don't have any vegetables. Inuit, eat caribou meat whether it's frozen, aged or cooked.

We eat caribou any way it is prepared but there are many Nunavummiut who cannot get enough of these country foods. What has the Department of Sustainable Development done to try to sell traditional food? I know that we can sell and I know that we can sell country food to the communities.

For example, Baker Lake has no muktaaq and there are no walruses there or some communities would like to purchase country food to feed their dogs. I was wondering if the department has any plans or have they made any strategy to trade country food between the communities of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Operations and Maintenance estimates for the department, it states that there is \$45 thousand dollars set aside to be used by the communities for example, if there is no caribou in one community, that they could use this funding to go caribou hunting or get someone to ship caribou.

Last year I remember Cape Dorset had purchased caribou meat from Coral Harbour because the caribou was quite scarce in Cape Dorset. And yes, we have been looking at trading the country food between the communities, especially for the communities that lack certain kinds of country foods. The HTOs should assist on how we can treat country food in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Netser.

Question 706 – 1(6): Kivalliq Air Too Small for Medical Travel

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Health and Social Services. As I stated before, that a small plane, Kivalliq Air flies from Winnipeg which people on medical travel use, usually they transport pregnant women and elders.

We all know that First Air and Calm Air also have scheduled flights and they are very spacious. It seems like Kivalliq Air is still making fun of the Inuit of the Kivalliq. It is a very small airline and there are not washroom facilities and people get tired of being on the plane, especially when they are an elder.

People going to Coral Harbour at times are dropped in Repulse Bay. Joan Gibbons was also on her way to Rankin Inlet was dropped off in Repulse Bay, and she was pregnant. They left her at the Airport Terminal. If she went into labour, it would have been very embarrassing for the Government.

Yes, we are opposing the small airline. I was wondering if you could take that off from the medical scheduled airline travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to say very quickly that the Member representing the people of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet has done an excellent job.

Last week, he raised the issue; he gave me a letter. And Mr. Speaker, now he has provided me with information so we can actually follow up on what Kivalliq Air has done.

After his question in the House last week and in his letter, Mr. Speaker, I spoke with the Deputy Minister. I met with officials from First Air to confirm that when we have elders travelling, that we have women who are pregnant, and so on, that in all expectation, Mr. Speaker, when a jet is available, that they should be put on the jet.

Mr. Speaker, we will have to follow-up and redouble our efforts because the Member has brought forward an incident that demonstrates that this was not occurring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary? At this time I have no more names on my list. Members will note that Question Period is now over. We will move onto Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 155 – 1(6): Youth Identity Development Strategy

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Youth Identity Development Strategy. Thank you.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Tabled Document 156 – 1(6): 2002/2003 Public Service Annual Report

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I almost forgot. I'm glad that I'll be leaving today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 3 (2) of the Public Service Act, I wish to table the 2002/2003 Public Service Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, the 2002/2003 Public Service Annual Report provides information on the management and direction of our public service.

(interpretation) I would like to table this and recognise the dedication and contribution of our employees, our most valuable asset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Members, I have a document I wish to table.

Tabled Document 157 - 1(6): Members Guidelines and Information on Indemnities, Allowances and Services in the 2004 Election Year

It's the Member's Guidelines and Information on the Indemnities, Allowances and Services in the 2004 election year.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent for the Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act, for today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking consent to Rule 62-1 so that Bill 49 can have first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Minister.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 49 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I request consent of the Assembly to waive the one day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act for today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62 (1) so that Bill 49 can have second reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Minister.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends the Safety Act to clarify the definitions of employer and worker, requires the personal contractor or owner of an establishment to coordinate the activities of all employers at the establishment, to impose duties on suppliers of things used by workers or establishments, require employers to establish safety programs to allow for the disclosure of information under the Act in specific circumstances and to specified bodies, to enable safety officers to issue direction to address potential dangers, to enable the Chief Safety Officer to issue codes of practise to provide practical guidance with respect to the Act and the regulations and to provide the establishment of a safety advisory committee to make recommendations respecting amendments to the Act and regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in Order. To the Principle of the Bill. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 49 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration Committee of the

Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 36 and Bill 41 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair and in the accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 2-1(6), the Committee of the Whole will stay in Session until it reports itself out and before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, we will take a short break and return to the Chamber at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 12:41 and resumed at 13:30

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

Chairman (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. The Committee will now come to Order. During Committee of the Whole, we will be dealing with Bill 36 and Bill 41. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to deal with Bill 36 and after that, Bill 41. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Agreed? Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee to discuss the amendments proposed to the Workers' Compensation Act. These amendments are attempted to capture the administrative matters dealing with the Act.

This is a part of a major review conducted by the joint Nunavut and Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board. As of now, the report of the Legislative Review Panel covered all aspects of the Workers' Compensation Board, which would require major Legislative changes.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the amendments to the Workers' Compensation Board Act is to move to implement changes to the Legislative Review Panel recommended to both Ministers responsible of the Workers' Compensation Board in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

This is the first part of a two-page Strategy that will lead to developing a new Workers' Compensation Act during the life of the next Government.

One of the key objectives of the Bill is to establish a Government, a council of directors of the board. This will formalize the unique partnership that we have that is going to clearly define the appointment process for the board of directors under the shared agreement.

Mr. Chairperson, these pages will also allow Workers' Compensation Board to provide items such as the yearly maximum insurable remuneration to be set out in regulation and not through Legislation.

These changes will also clarify the board's power to acquire, hold and dispose of real property in Nunavut. This would allow for the board's ability to purchase facilities or to lease them.

The Bill also makes certain amendments of remedy, administrative and enforcement difficulties that have been arisen under the Workers' Compensation Act.

The attempt, Mr. Chairman, has to merge the Legislation between the two jurisdictions. There has been some very close working relationships that take in place to ensure that the share board has the same Legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Does the Committee's Chairman have any comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I am more than happy to share with the Honourable Member from Baker Lake, no secrets though.

It is nice to see you smiling today, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services is pleased that they had the opportunity to review Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act with the Minister and his Officials.

Mr. Chairman, Members recognize the intent of this Bill is to enact the number of recommendations made in the "Act Now" report that was tabled in this House in February 2002.

Mr. Chairman, during its previous reviews of the Bills relating to the Workers' Compensation Act, the Committee has commented on the somewhat unique circumstances facing Members of the Legislative Assembly both here and in the Northwest Territories, given the desire to maintain essentially parallel statutes.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee would again like to stress the need for the Government to make efforts to ensure that our Bills are introduced into this House in as timely a fashion as possible.

To date, we have been in the position of considering Bills after their parallel versions have been first considered and, in some cases, amended by our western counterparts.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, I would like to state for the record our appreciation to our NWT Standing Committee counterparts for their efforts at communication with us. We would strongly urge the Members of the Second Assembly to work towards a joint discussion early on during the two legislatures' terms of office with respect to WCB issues. This will be useful as both governments prepare to introduce further legislative changes in late 2004.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the concerns raised by the Standing Committee during the Minister's appearance.

This Bill provides for the appointment of a Workers' Advisor and one or more Deputy Workers' Advisors to assist individuals in navigating the often-challenging processes involved under the Act. The Committee learned that there have been a significant number of claims in Nunavut since division.

Members learned that although a Yellowknife-based Workers' Advisor is in place, the appointment of Nunavut based Deputy Workers' Advisors has not yet happened. The Committee would wish to strongly urge the Board to move on this issue, especially with respect to ensuring that Inuktitut service is available to Nunavut residents.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was pleased to hear the Minister indicate that he would have no objections to ensuring that the annual report of the Workers' Advisor is tabled in the Legislative Assembly, so long as no personally confidential information was contained that could violate individuals' privacy.

In addition to the obvious benefits for government transparency, the annual tabling of this report will assist future legislatures in measuring progress towards a workers' compensation system that is less adversarial than appears to be at present.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was interested to note comments from the WCB officials regarding the Board's willingness to explicitly recognize the role of traditional healers in the Board's operations and policies, should a suitable definition be developed.

The Committee would urge the Nunavut Department of Health and Social Services, especially the Minister, because I'm sure that he would agree, as given yeoman service to his department and that they work to co-operate with its NWT counterpart in this work.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee also encouraged the Board to consider the issue of workplace stress and its potential impact on people's mental and emotional health.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee noted that the Bill would move some areas into the realm of regulations. While the Committee has no difficulties with certain issues, such as the YMIR being dealt with by regulation in the interest of timeliness and responsiveness, the Committee would nonetheless introduce its usual caveat with respect to the trend towards placing too many matters under regulation.

The Committee would note, for example, that the WCB has apparently developed draft regulations regarding workplace smoking for the consideration of the Nunavut and NWT Ministers responsible for the Act. Although the Committee recognizes the ultimate prerogative of government to approve regulations, it would nonetheless wish to see draft regulations provided to the appropriate standing committees for scrutiny and comment.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee raised a cautionary note with respect to provisions in the Bill dealing with the exchange of individuals' personal information between the Board and other entities.

While the Committee recognizes the utility of a degree of information-sharing, it is nonetheless mindful of past comments made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner with respect to the need for extreme caution in sharing personal medical information. The Committee would urge the Board to approach this issue with due care.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening comments. The Standing Committee recommends the passage of Bill 36 to all Members. Individual Members, as I'm sure you are aware Mr. Chairman, may wish to raise their own question as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, chairman of the committee. I would like to ask Minister Ng if he has his officials with him, to go to the witness table.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the officials? Thank you.

Thank you. Minister Ng if you could introduce your officials for the record.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Mr. Chairman, is Mr. David Clark who is the Vice-President of the Workers Compensation Board in charge of Nunavut operations.

To my left is Mr. Michael Triggs who is the Corporation Secretary and General Council for the Workers Compensation Board of Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. According to our Rule 77 (1), you are allowed ten minutes for general comments as well as questions there after. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to highlight the chairman's opening remarks on this matter.

In regards to the worker advisor and the deputy worker's advisor to assist individuals, this part is very important for Nunavut and I would like to urge the Workers Compensation Board and the Minister to make sure as early as possible that we have a staff person in Nunavut to deal with Nunavut issues or clients.

We were advised that there are about 900 cases per year from Nunavut and I would just like to make sure that we've heard that there are positions, if not more than one, should be placed in Nunavut.

I'm sure that Mr. Clark would understand why he's doing the Nunavut part of the worker's compensation issues. I would also like to highlight the concern or an issue that, I don't think I'll be wrong to say that we had a case in Nunavut where a professional worker was found dead.

According to the public inquiry, it appeared that he committed suicide due to the work place situation. Those kinds of matters or issues need to be looked at by the board and the Minister as well to make sure that they are covered.

Some people have very high stressful jobs. I think this case that we had in Nunavut would be that kind of case and we don't want to see anything like that although it happened.

So, I don't have any further comments but those two matters that I wanted to make sure that they are heard and they are important to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. There is no one on my list at this point for general comments. If there are no further comments, are there any questions before we go clause by clause. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Today, Innuinaqtut language will be televised so I'll try to speak in Innuinaqtut.

Bill 36, is there anything new added to the Bill? Perhaps is it because of the naming of Northwest Territories that one of the main purposes why the amendments are brought forth?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, it is primarily to clarify some of the sections in the Act that may not be as clear as they could be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Perhaps I can ask the legal counsel what new changes there are in this Act, the Workers' Compensation Board Act.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Ms. Cooper.

Ms. Cooper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My review of the Bill indicates that it moves a number of items that were previously in the Act into regulations such as a yearly maximum that would be payable and things like how much will be paid for replacement clothing and things like that for workers.

It appears to formally establish the position of workers' advisory, which was something that was not, I understand it may have informally been there but was not formally established in the Act.

And it establishes, I think, as the Minister indicated, the Government's account for, to oversee the administration of the Act and the activities of the board and really the rest are more or less administrative matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Cooper. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): There is a board that oversees the operations of Workers' Compensation Board, is that so? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, there is, Mr. Chairman, and they will be referred to as the Government and its council for board after these amendments are passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Are there vacancies on the board or are the positions all filled?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, I missed that question. Could the Member please repeat that? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Make sure you pay attention.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Does the Workers' Compensation Board have a board or are they going to be newly appointed?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for that; I was consulting with legal council. Mr. Chairman, there is a board right now and they have the intent to have the current board members just continue on until their appointments expire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): How many board members on this? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is six members and a Chairperson. So, it is seven members in total and two of those individuals are from Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Why are there only two appointees from Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is because, Mr. Chairman, when the intergovernmental agreement was signed off between, at that time, the Interim Commissioner representing the Government of Nunavut prior to the establishment of Nunavut with the Northwest Territories Government.

That was what was put in place based on some of the historical caseloads and work from Workers' Compensation Board coverage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: What he told me is that is what about the boards. You are saying there is seven plus a Chairperson. By changing this Act, would there be possibility of maybe 50/50 in the board from both Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I indicated 6 plus the Chairperson, so seven all together for the entire board.

That specific make up, the composition and the board of where they would be from are not in the act itself. That's through an intergovernmental agreement from the Government of Nunavut now and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologise that I didn't say Thank you. I appreciate that you're smiling today.

(interpretation end) I just wanted to say there, when is the next agreement we discuss again? I'm just trying to get, maybe that question was answered earlier, as to when we will table this again.

Maybe you could give me an update on the agreement itself as in the number on the board and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the Government of Nunavut and myself as the Minister responsible took office, and the new Northwest Territories Government took office shortly after that and their Minister responsible, we agreed that, the new shared services agreement or intergovernmental agreement was agreed upon, there is no termination date in that agreement but having said that, both parties have the opportunity to terminate the agreement based on notice within the agreement.

So, I would expect once the new government comes in with Nunavut, there is a new government coming in right now, the Northwest Territories, that the next Minister responsible, the next government would have an opportunity to review their intergovernmental agreements and give direction to the Minister responsible, what they may want or not want to do in respect of those agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. General comments. Questions. Would you like to go clause by clause? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I can't see that little light when I'm sitting there. The board, are there any Inuit members or anybody from the Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not to my knowledge Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The boards are probably appointed from different sectors in Nunavut. Are the hunters also covered under the Workers Compensation Board for accidental death or accidents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, through the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Are there any further questions? If not, we'll go to Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act.

Find the page. Do you have the copies in front of you? Would you like to go clause by clause? Okay we'll start the clause-by-clause review. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is something that Ms. Williams talked about earlier and I said in my opening comments. It's talks about the establishment of worker's advisors and one or more deputy worker's advisors and I'm just wondering in the formal section in the Bill if the Minister could indicate when do they expect having these positions filled. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's not up to me as the Minister responsible to dictate when that would happen.

It's an operational matter. The board of the Workers Compensation Board would approve that formally through their business planning process with the Workers Compensation Board executive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the board been given any indication to the Minister responsible as to when they anticipate doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again, based on what I said earlier with Mr. Havioyak's question in respect of two new governments', two new Ministers responsible; there is a current agreement in the services that are in there.

That's how the expansion of the Nunavut operations came about raising concerns that Nunavut had about the Workers Compensation Board services being provided to Nunavummiut and they addressed in quite a significant way, some of those requests that we had and I would expect that once the new government's new Ministers that same type of issue would be brought forward.

I certainly will convey to our board of directors who sit on the Workers Compensation Board, some of the concerns that are being raised here today and have been raised in the standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess, the board hasn't conveyed any information onto when they're looking at filling these positions. Is that a correct interpretation of the Minister's response? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the area for the worker's advisors legislated, that office will report directly to the Ministers responsible and obviously there will be some consultations and input from the Ministers responsible to the worker's advisors office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess that like I said, I asked, there has been no indication as to when.

I'm just wondering if the Minister could convey to the board of directors as soon as possible that this is something that Members and the committee and this House, it's important to have filled here in Nunavut, as quickly as possible given the high number of cases that we found out about that go on here.

Given how much of a work load and a back log that might cause one person in Yellowknife to do not only, that person is doing all the, dealing with all of Nunavut's cases but also all of the Northwest Territories cases.

This would hopefully help alleviate some of the, if there are backlogs in dealing with people in a more timely fashion in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the Member's concern and that of some of the other Members as well, in respect of trying to enhance services to Nunavummiut, in particular in this area, worker's advisor.

During the Standing Committee review and it's not for the House here, we hand mentioned that there is workload on average of 44 cases for the current worker's advisor, the individual. That is the average per month; note that approximately 10 cases are Nunavut-based and so, we are not that worrying, it is a full-time position to be based in Nunavut. I mean that is not for me to determine right now.

But having said that, we also have to, I think we have to realize that the funding for this comes from the Access funds, which employers pay based on the rates for the Workers' Compensation coverage.

But again, if there is any a need there, certainly, it will be addressed and whatever warrants a full-time position or a part-time position, wherever the case may be.

We will make sure that to review that situation and maximize the issue of providing services as close to Nunavummiut as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I have no one else on my list. At this time, we will go back to Clause-by-Clause. Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I am sorry; we are not there yet. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Any comments? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In Clause 13 (1), (2), (3), my question is regarding subsection 3 is amended by striking out \$24 thousand dollars and by substituting the prescribed amount.

Can you please clarify what that means? Was the \$24 thousand dollars the ceiling and now what does that mean by striking out that amount? Perhaps our legal council can elaborate.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this specific number is for the coverage for hunters and trappers and against cost, I mean has been consistent with some of the other issues of taking things out of Legislation and bringing it, sorry, taking it out of Legislation and bringing it into regulation.

So, the Government of Nunavut would decide to raise that limit of coverage for hunters and trappers. We would not have to go through a Legislative change we would do it through regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. For hunters, if they lose equipment, either their ski-doos or their boat, say they have a big boat and a big outboard motor, can they be compensated for the whole amount or half or what percentage can they get back?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the harvesters, what coverage is specific personal injuries and loss of income, not so much assets or equipment; that would be more through the regular insurance process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. That is probably clear now that this is only for personal injury. 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: Clause 17. Agreed? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this Clause and it is (13) it is the last subsection in that Clause. I understand that the wording in there used to read someone who does not comply and it has been changed to someone who wilfully complies. I just want to ask the Minister to elaborate on why that change is made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I will let Mr. Triggs respond to this one, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Triggs.

Mr. Triggs: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason it was changed so wilfully was to make sure that there is no misunderstanding for the board and the person who was not compliant as to the reasons why they were not compliant.

If this was an accident, we don't want to be cutting off persons' benefits for that. It has to be wilfully failed to comply with our request. So they had the intention not comply when you ask them to do something. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Triggs. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, then I can assume that this amendment, the change in the wording in there is to try and get rid of some of the grey area around that to not unfairly penalize individuals for circumstances that may be beyond their control. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, that's correct, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. We're on 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. 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. 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? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this clause touches on one of the comments made in my opening remarks and in here it indicates that the board may disclose under the authority of the board, information to other agencies or department's of the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada or of a province or territory.

I hate to ask if that was in there, in the old Act also, why that's in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Mr. Triggs to respond to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Triggs: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was in the previous Act and it was under section 67 sub 12, I believe is the section it was in. We found that it was somewhat of a

confusing section and that's why we wished to re-write it to make it clear as to what was intended here.

The general idea behind the sharing of information is very limited information. We don't want to give out confidential information on people; this is more statistical information, primarily it deals with information related to employees so that for example, the Nunavut Finance Department wishes to have listed employees from whom payroll tax has to be paid. We have a comprehensive list of who our employees are.

The Department of Finance has a list. We wish to exchange that information so that people who are supposed to be reporting to the government, are doing that. We also wish to share information with the coroner's office and the RCMP, when there are fatalities and investigation on that.

The registrar of companies, each company is required under the laws to register with us and also with the Department of Justice to make sure that they're registered here. This is just to share the information to make sure that people have access to what they're supposed to have access to.

Also, sometimes with Labour Canada, dealing with investigations that they may conducting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Triggs. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Clause 77-1(C) and it is in accordance with the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I just want to confirm for the record that that Act would supersede any other requests on there, as long as the request was in accordance with that Act, that is the only way that information would be disclosed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Member is correct.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is another piece of legislation that we are going to be looking at and making some amendments too, here in this House.

Will any amendments made be included in here? Is there anything that falls in between what the Act currently has now, and what this one states? Will there be changes made to this Act to ensure compliance with the amended Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if there are changes made to the Access to Information Act that impacts our, or any government act for that matter, they would be amended accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Going back to 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): Going back to 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 46. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the Minister have Closing Remarks? Does the Committee after that Bill 36 is ready for Third Reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to thank the Committee members and the staff who are here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for appearing before the Committee. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we have done Bill 36, we would like to commence with Bill 41.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. The Committee would like to start off with Bill 41, an Act to Amend the Nursing Act. Minister Picco, the Minister for Health and Social Services, do you have any Opening Comments?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is just basically housekeeping. I am pleased to speak to Bill 41 today regarding amendments to Nunavut's Nursing Act. The new NWT Nursing Profession Act comes into force on January 1st,

2004. Nunavut needs to amend its Nursing Act by this date to ensure coherence with the NWT Legislation.

At present the practice of nursing in Nunavut is regulated by the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories (NWTRNA).

Nunavut's Nursing Act recognizes the authority of the NWTRNA to regulate the profession of nursing in Nunavut, including the licensing of nurses.

In order to insure the continued regulation of the practice of nursing in Nunavut, the Nunavut Nursing Act must be amended to ensure continued compatibility with the new Northwest Territories Nunavut Nursing Act.

This Bill will ensure that Nunavut's nurses will continue to be registered through the registered Nursing Association of the Northwest Territories. This Bill will recognise the changes made with the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association to the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and therefore will be named the RNANWTNU, to consequentially amend several Acts pertaining to the health profession as a result.

Failure to amend the Nunavut Nursing Act by the January 1, 2004, will force the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to administer two different Acts for two different bodies of nurses which it is not equipped to do so.

This could result in a variety of legal complications related to the regulation of the practise of nursing in Nunavut, education programs for nurses as well as penalties under the Act itself Mr. Chairman.

At the appropriate time, I will be moving an amendment to the Bill to reflect the changes that we had discussed with the committee. With that, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I would like to ask if the Committee Chairman has opening comments. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Health and Education has had the opportunity to review Bill 41 and we are pleased to be able to make some comments today on the proposed *Act to Amend the Nursing Act*.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee understands that this Act is to amend the Nursing Act so that we can be aligned with the Northwest Territories Nursing Act, which was just recently amended.

The proposed legislation would allow for nurse practitioners, who have extra training in addition to regular nursing training, to work in Nunavut and, as a result, the Bill also

proposes some consequential amendments to various other Acts which make reference to health professions.

The Committee fully supports the concept of nurse practitioners bringing their extra level of expertise to Nunavut. During its deliberations on the Bill, the Committee raised two main issues.

First, Members noted that residents occasionally question whether they have received appropriate or adequate service from their community nurse. The Committee felt that there is a need for the Government to conduct an information campaign directed at the communities to inform community members of the expected roles and responsibilities of nurses in their communities.

The second issue of concern to Standing Committee Members related to the handling of complaints about nurse conduct or practice. Members felt that, as the Association representing nurses from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories has its central office based in Yellowknife that measures should be put in place to ensure that adequate representation from Nunavut, and in particular from someone who is not a health professional, do you include them on the board or Committee involved in handling complaints?

Mr. Chairman, when the Standing Committee met with the sponsoring Minister to discuss the proposed Legislation, Members were pleased that the Minister and staff committed to addressing these issues in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee understands that the Minister will be bringing forward a Motion that will further facilitate the involvement of Nunavut residents in the complaints process. Members are pleased that this issue has been addressed so promptly.

That concludes my Opening Comments, Mr. Chairman.

The Standing Committee of Health and Education supports the Bill and recommends the passage of the Bill to all Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak, and the Chairman of the Committee. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Picco if he could go to the Witness Table with his Officials.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist the Members?

Thank you. I do not like to use the Mr. because it is not an Inuktitut way of doing things. I know it is a good word, but I just want to say Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to be here to represent Bill 41, an Act to Amend the Nursing Act and I would like to hear the comments or the questions from the Members. Thank you, chairman Iqaqrialu.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. If you could introduce your staff, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Chairman, with me today is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services on my immediate right, Mr. Bernie Blaise and on my immediate left, Mr. Peter Allison a Legislative lawyer from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. According to all of our rules in the House, you have 10-minutes for General Comments and you can have 10-minutes to ask questions before we go Clause-by-Clause. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Just a short comment on the Bill Mr. Chairman.. I would be very happy if this Act to Amend the Nursing would be done properly and if they could work, the nurses could work properly. This summer, if you would count the number of nurses who went in and out, there would be at least 20 of them altogether in one year.

But I will be very happy if this Legislation or the amendment to the Legislation could better help us staff our communities and we have been having a lot of problems with the airline scheduling as well.

Because the nurses in the community do not have time to take time off and they are overworked. I heard when I was in Igloolik, that the European nurses somewhere in Switzerland or in Iceland that they have a nurse in charge that come from that area and she is going to be nurse in charge in Igloolik. The Act to Amend the Nursing Act probably doesn't have very much to do with what I'm talking about but I feel that we're having a lot of problems with ticketing on the airlines because they're using a lot of airline tickets, the nurses because of the change of staff all the time.

I really appreciate the communities being provided with nurses as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a short comment in regards to your comment.

When the nurses come into the communities, usually they don't have certificates or proof of their profession when they come into the communities. For example, in my community of Kugluktuk, there was an elder who was ill and there were complaints from the community nurse at the nursing situation.

I will say this in English.

(interpretation ends) When the patients are misdiagnosed, sometimes the nurses in the communities have no idea how to diagnose an ill patient. Perhaps, if we're to screen the nurses who come into the community as to what type of professional practise that they had, so that you know.

This is probably not intentional but because, maybe for the lack of experience that sometimes the nurses don't have the know how to diagnose a patient. Sometimes they treat the patient and send them home with Tylenol.

They have no idea. They didn't diagnose the patient as to what type of illness they have and when I hear this from the community, when the nurse diagnoses a patient and says, take some Tylenol and perhaps you'll feel better by tomorrow.

The situation deteriorates when the patient is not diagnosed. That would create a longer illness and it creates more health problems for the patients. This is just a suggestion that perhaps we can look at because when the nurses in all the communities, when they do their profession, they should diagnose the patient and I will be asking questions in regards to licensing the nurses or proof of certification.

This really relates to how an elder is diagnosed because we're all getting to that age and it's a big concern. Perhaps in the near future, we can perhaps get an update as to where this is going. Perhaps in the near future. That will be my question in regards to that concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. We're all getting older. Are there any other general comments? If there are no more general comments, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we're talking about nursing, I have to say my piece.

The Act to Amend the Nursing Act that we're dealing with at this time deals with the hospital; public health centre and the other nurses all have different levels of education. I know that under the Act, the Standing Committee has scrutinized the Act.

There is also a difference between the nurses in the hospitals and nurses at public health and nurses in the communities. It's very hard for them to work. We have had a nurse in Arctic Bay for 20 years and she has a relief nurse that goes there every so often.

I would like to say, during the Committee of the Whole, that communities have to look after their nurses very well and to interact with them and to realize how hard they work. Looking at the hospital here in Iqaluit, when you go up there, you can see that they have very professional nurses up there and they're all women.

Although, there are some doctors who are males, I would like to say that I appreciate the work that they're doing and I would also like to say that the nurses have to be looked after properly because they're looking after people's health.

If they have to take more training, they should be provided with more training and for them to have a rest when they need it so that they can look after the sick. In regards to an Act to Amend the Nursing Act that we're dealing with at this time I feel that they have to have a license and good training and a good work experience and to be looked after by the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. I have no more names on my list. Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a question in regards to the licensing of the nurses.

As we know, the nurses come into our communities (interpretation end) just for an example, licensing nurses, how often are then renewed? Is it for a lifetime or depending on how much training you get annually?

I'm just trying to get a picture of how often the nurses are checked to make sure that they're properly trained to look after our patients in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I think we had some good comments from the Members. I appreciate the comments from Member Williams on making sure the nurses are well respected and treated well in our communities.

Quickly on the licenser issue, Mr. Chairman, let me assure the Members of the House that no nurse can practise in Nunavut unless they're licensed. They have to be accredited and one of the ideas under this Act of course is that the licensing body includes designation with the Professional Nurses Association.

On the yearly basis, nurses are followed up on their license or issue and in most cases, Mr. Chairman, yes it is usually on an annual basis. That is my understanding of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): That is very reassuring when the license of the nursing profession are reviewed, I guess, we can reassure our communities that these professionals are reviewed. As you were saying, the licenses of the nurses are renewed every year.

(interpretation ended) Before the licenses, do you give them a test before they renew the licenses to make sure that they are still at the same level? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just checking on the processes that we have in place, like, for certification and so on. I just want to go back to that quickly.

When nurses apply for a position, they have to have the certificates to prove that they are, for example, the RN, Registered Nurse, in the bachelor of nursing and so on and that has to be certified before you are given an offer of employment.

The agency nurses who come up, those are nurses that we would hire on a casual basis to fill in and so on.

The same thing, the nursing agency demonstrates and shows the qualifications of the person involved so they make sure that they are licensed when they go into a community and that they actually can make the diagnosis.

You know, we just talked about it earlier, the Member Havioyak talked about earlier.

Secondly, on the professional development side, so they can recertify and gain more skills, one of the things we think that we can bring forward here under the profession development is the usage of the telehealth that we just talked about.

In the Member's community of Kugluktuk, we have located the special practises unit of Health and Social Services, where we do all of the licenses insured through that is where the registrar is located and so on.

So, that is some of the work that has been put into place. Thank you, thank you, Itsivautaq Iqaqrialu.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Chairman of the Standing Committee's Opening Remarks had indicated the Committee fully supports the concept of nurse practitioners bringing their extra level of expertise to Nunavut.

I am just wondering if the Minister can elaborate, a little bit, I guess, on there it say extra training and additional nurse training. If you can elaborate on specifically what types of areas that are meant by that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the Deputy Minister to just maybe give a correlation between the designations that are earned, like, for the nurses as well as the professional development aspects and the qualifications of each as outlined in the Chairman's Opening Comments. Mr. Blaise.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blaise.

Mr. Blaise: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we are looking at right now, I think with the new telehealth technology is nurses who work in the field, medicine is a changing environment.

So, our hope in the foreseeable future is that we can, using this technology, provide ongoing education in dealing with paediatric cases, children with all kinds of challenges, mental health patients so we can educate the nurses in the field, again, on a regular basis, monthly, weekly, to provide additional training or knowledge that they require to do the work. Additional training in obstetrics is a good example as well.

So, I think we have the opportunity to improve the level of skills and knowledge of our nurses in the field. We have to consider, as well, that most of our nurses are coming from the south and they come to a region where there are basically, they have no physicians in most of our communities, so their knowledge base that they would be used to practicing, or where they would have been trained, would not have the same degree.

So it takes more off of them to acquire the skills to be able to function properly. In order to provide support, each Nursing Station is assigned a physician, on call 24 hours a day. So it the nurse requires assistance, then they can call that physician on a regular basis, and they do that, I know, consistently.

I would hope right now that we know that we have to improve the level of training and ongoing education for our nurses and other professions. That probably is well one of the reasons why our turnover rates are so high, it is because we are not only isolating them, but we are not providing what we call professional development on a regular basis.

We have recognized that in Health and Social Services, Mr. Chairman, and we hope to be able to change that. I think the technology and the tools that we are putting in place provide us a tremendous opportunity to achieve a very different level of training for our nurses for the foreseeable future. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on providing professional development, and I know that this issue is pretty deep, the current Deputy Minister, and I am sure that the Minister will recall that one of the retention packages, or the things that they put out, that the Department put out there to retain nurses with a signing bonus that was paid to the Registered Nurses.

I know that there are instances, I know of here in the College for sure, and I am sure in some of the communities where you have nurses who have been there, some of them, over 20 years. That may have been because of where they went to school, that something,

a certificate that says a Registered Nurses Assistant, rather than an RN. If they had gone to another jurisdiction, it would have been an RN.

Is there anything taken into consideration? I think the density that Mr. Blaise had indicated that the workload and the type of work that you deal with here in Nunavut, is much different than you would deal with in the South. It is because you are alone in a lot of cases, and you have to deal with things. You cannot just say, "Oh, go see the doctor down in the next Medical Centre, a mile or two down the road." You cannot do that; you have to deal with it.

It is a pretty demanding place to work. As a result of that type of exposure, that type of work over the years, individuals learn a lot more.

Is there, in here, any looking at professional, or taking ones experience, work experience, an actual experience of working in the field here in Nunavut into consideration in looking at the designations that they have assigned to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will just ask the Deputy Minister to elaborate a little bit on this. The issue around the Market Rate Supplement, and why we introduced and everything was based on a pandemic shortage of nurses that we see not only in Canada, but indeed North America.

The Market Rate Supplement was part of the recommendations that we brought forward and tabled in the House under the Naujaat Report, which was 23 recommendations from nurses in the field, and so on, for the recruitment and retention of nurses.

I think that we were successful on that. We are about 80% right now with staff indeterminate and term nurses. We have somehow to pick up the slack on the other 20%. Part of that will be our own nurses through the Nursing Program.

The issue on the temporary Market Rate Supplement itself was based on the nursing shortage, in this case, there were some people who fell through the cracks because they were certified nursing assistants and didn't qualify under the Market Rate Supplement as designated and defined through the collective agreement process because we had to go through our partners of the NEU.

I'll just ask the Deputy Minister to elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Blaise.

Mr. Blaise: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of the supplementary has been a contentious issue for some time. And again, I think in working with Human Resources

we have decided that we should conduct a review looking at salary scales of nurses across the country.

We have agreed to a process that will hopefully start very shortly to look at all of that. There are a number of provinces and territories that provide educational allowances and I think that's a key issue for nurses, as it should be.

I think this process is about ready to be undertaken anyway. The supplement, it does not seem to be something that's working currently. It's not really achieved the outcomes that I think were predicted originally.

I think it's kept us going but I don't know whether or not it will work for the foreseeable future. So the process that we've taken with Human Resources, Mr. Chairman, is to establish a review process for all of the nursing salaries both for those in health centres and hospitals and public health as well.

So, at this point I really can't give you more information than that, other than I think that a review is necessary in order for us to ensure that we're at least competitive with the rest of Canada.

As far as whether or not a nurse working in the north gets a higher level of salary, as you know, this is all regulated through the collective agreement. So, we're basically working with the unions at this point in time to work with us in trying to examine the whole issue of nursing, not only from a perspective of salary, but also looking at retention and as of next month, Mr. Chairman, we will be putting in place a Nunavut-wide retention and recruitment committee that will involve the union. It will also involve Mr. Chairman, Human Resources and representatives from the front line staff nurses and other departments as well.

So, our hope is to begin to look at and address the issue of the turn over rates but also to examine the salary issue for nurses and other benefits that we feel would be more appropriately aligned with things that we would need in the north and that's the purpose of this review.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blaise. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it's quite clear, as the Minister indicated that there are some people who fell through the cracks on that last, on the whole MRS process.

I would like to ask the Minister to commit, to make a commitment to those people who fell through the cracks, the things that cause those problems and for those cracks to be looked at and taken into consideration when developing and working with the union on coming up.

He had indicated that they're re-evaluating job descriptions and you know, that whole process with, right now, with things like experience and what the actual, aside from the certificate or designation that they hold but another factor that might be considered is, what they do, that they actually do.

Because I know that in cases, as I'm sure the Minister will be more than fully aware of, these individuals often trained a lot of the nurses who came in on what to do here because they've been here for so long and they've done it, even though they don't have the formal training to do it, they're actually doing it.

So, I just want to get a commitment from the Minister that that will be looked at in that review process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have a committee in place right now working with the Department of Health and Social Services and as well we have involvements in the Nunavut Employee's Union and Human Resources from the Government of Nunavut to review that program so, I would commit to the Member that that's something that we will be able to review, to look at the issues in the areas around who is eligible for the Market Rate Supplement in cooperation with our partners at the Nunavut Employee's Union and Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Anything else? Are you done? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is about the nurses in the communities.

I think the Deputy Minister used the term field but they're out in the community and they're by themselves out there and many times, they are new and they've been there six weeks or something and they are also given extra duties like to do more administration for Social Services.

Why is that being done? They are already over worked. You already have a very high turnover and you're giving them extra duties to do social work issues and they also do a lot of counselling, social counselling because people go to them. Why are you giving them more duties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. The job of a nurse has changed drastically in the last 20 years.

The equipment and technology that nurses use are now complex. We know ourselves just sitting here, about technology changing, the internet, with faxes and with other

telecommunications equipment, the new telehealth equipment that we have installed, as well as some of the diagnostic tools that nurses are using.

With that type of technology change, there is a lot more administration work and so on. We're trying right now, Mr. Chairman, within the Human Resources and the Department of Health and Social Services to review exactly what the Member is talking about, the work load to see if there is an opportunity where we would actually have an administrative assistant for example.

One of the reasons why we moved away from the earlier First Air contract in the Baffin Region was because we had nurses filling out tickets for airline travel. The nurses aren't the ticket agents. They're not travel consultants, they're nurses.

So, what we're trying to do is move the administration and buracreacy away from the nurses and let them do more nursing and we're looking at ways cooperatively in how we can accomplish that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To sort of add to Mr. Havioyak's concern about licensing and ability to diagnose properly, and I think that is key.

We work them so hard and they have to worry about a whole bunch of things in the community, plus we want them to do a whole bunch of paper work for the social worker or the other staff in the nursing station.

I'm more talking about the communities. So, if we're going to look after our professional nurses in the communities, we cannot be adding extra responsibilities and duties to those already there. There is so much for them already to do.

It's more of a comment than a question. I just needed to point that out that they not be given extra responsibilities because they have enough things to do already with sick people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. That was a comment. If the Minister would like to make a comment to the comment that was made. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member. She has made some valid points. We have moved, I think, very quickly in the last several months now in bringing in more staffing, different specialized staffing.

At one point in the history in the last few years, you'd have just one type of standard nurse/practitioner in the community, a community health nurse. Now we've brought in more expertise, for example, psychiatric nursing and so on.

We've put a home care program in place in every community. That wasn't there before. We've actually taken some of the work that the nurse would have to do outside of the center, so that they can actually concentrate more on the diagnostic side.

So, all of those things are well taken and with the primary health care transition program that we'll be bringing forward and approved just recently by Cabinets we should see another huge change in the way healthcare is being delivered in Nunavut.

It takes time; I think we have made some good steps, but there is still a long ways to go, as Members know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I have no more names on my list. Are there any further questions from the Members? We will go on to Bill 41, An Act to Amend the Nursing Act. Do you have the copy in front of you now? Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed? I am sorry, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you. It is under 8.

Chairman (interpretation): Please specify which Clause you would like to ask question on.

Ms. Williams: On Clause 8.5, the part that says it is talking about a person may bring an option for recovery of reasonable charges for professional services, advice or visits and the cost of any materials or appliances supplied by the person during the time a person was a registered nurse, a nurse practitioner or temporary certificate holder. Who is temporary certificate holder? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just looking at the definition of temporary certificate holder in consultation with Christine Collin.

The temporary certificate, I am just going to read out the qualifications; a temporary certificate holder means a person who is registered under section 23 of the Nursing Profession Act under the Northwest Territories.

And that temporary certificate holder, for example, could be the person who has proven their registration and so on and then would be working on a temporary nature in Nunavut, like a casual agency nurse who is hired for her six week period.

So, they would have the temporary certificate because they have already proven that they have registration, they have now received their full-time certificate of approval certificate.

But just for qualification purposes, I would just ask that Mr. Alison to confirm that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Allison. I am sorry.

Mr. Alison: That is correct, that is what the temporary certificate is intended to do. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alison. Do you have any further questions? Are you finished? We are on Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a Motion. Mr. Chairman. I move that the Bill be amended by the addition of the following after Clause 12. I believe the motion now is just being passed out, so I will give the Members a chance to receive the motion. The motion now is being passed around to the Members so I will give them an opportunity to receive the motion

Chairman (interpretation): I think it is all passed out now, so you go ahead, Mr. Picco.

Motion 019 – 1(6): Clause 12 of Bill 41 An Act to Amend the Nursing Act be Amended

Hon. Ed Picco: Do the translators have a copy in the booth to follow along? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would move that the Bill be amended by the addition of the following after Clause 12, 12.1, the following is added after Section 8, Terry. Terry. 8.1, a Board of Inquiry will be designated under subsection 41(1) of the Nursing Act (Northwest Territories), and it shall hear complaints in accordance to Sections 41 to 43, and subsections 44(1), (2), (4) (5), and (6), of the Nursing Profession Act (Northwest Territories).

Testimony, testimony of non-residents witnesses, 8.2 for the purpose of obtaining the testimony of a witness who is outside of Nunavut, the Nunavut Court of Justice, on application by the Executive Director, the complainant, or the nurse, who is subject of the complaint, without notice to the other party, may make an order appointing the Examiner to obtain the evidence of the witness, under the rules of the Nunavut Court of Justice, with any modifications that the circumstances may require.

Civil contempt, Section 8.3 (1) an application to the Nunavut Court of Justice, in accordance with the rules of the Nunavut Court of Justices, proceedings for civil contempt of court, contempt of court may be brought against the witness (A) who fails (1) to attend before the hearing of a Board of Inquiry after receiving a notice to attend. (2) to produce documents, records, or other materials as required by a notice to produce them, or (3), in any way to comply with a notice referred to in subparagraph 1 or 2, or (B) who refuses to be sworn or affirmed, or answer any question allowed by the Board of Inquiry before whom the hearing is being conducted.

Moving on, Mr. Chairman. Unprofessional conduct (2). If the witness referred to in subsection (1), is the nurse who is the subject of the complaint, the failure or refusal may be held by the Board of Inquiry to be unprofessional conduct.

Compellable witness. 8.4 (1), a nurse, or any other person, who has in the opinion of the Board of Inquiry, is a compellable witness in a hearing into that complaint.

The nurse as a witness, (2) a nurse may be examined on oath, or affirmation on all matters relevant to the hearing and shall not be excused from answering a question on the grounds of professional privilege, or on the grounds that the answer might (A) tend to incriminate the nurse, (B) subject the nurse to punishment, to punishment under the disciplinary provisions of this Act, or the Nursing Profession Act (Northwest Territories), or (C) tend to establish the liability of the nurse, Section 1 in a civil proceeding at the instance of the Government of Nunavut or any person.

Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. Or Section 2, the prosecution under an Act of Nunavut, or an Act of Canada. Quickly winding up, Mr. Chairman, evidence not to be used (3) if the answer given by the nurse is (A) tends to incriminate the nurse (B) subjects the nurse to punishment or (C) tends to establish the liability of the nurse.

It may not be used or received against the nurse in any civil proceedings or in any proceedings under the Act of Nunavut except in a prosecution or proceedings in respect of perjury or the giving of contradictory evidence.

Here in lies the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. To the Motion, questions? To the Motion. All in favour. Opposed. Carried. We are on Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): 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. Agreed? Does the Committee agree that Bill 41 as amended is ready? Does the Committee agree that Bill 41 is ready for Third Reading as amended? Thank you, for coming, Mr. Minister.

The Bill is good for the betterment of Nunavummiut in regards to their nurses because sometimes we have a lot of problems in the communities in regards to nurses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the Bill. Minister Picco do you have any final comments?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Iqaqrialu and Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say very quickly that we really appreciate the support from the staff. I just want them acknowledged in the Gallery.

Lori Idlout, who is the Director of Policy and Planning for the Department of Health and Social Services, I just wanted to especially thank her for the good work that she did on the suicide task force over the last several weeks for the Members of the House because it was the House Motion. So, thank you.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco and the staff. At this time we have no more agenda, no more items to discuss on our list or agenda. What is the wish of the

Committee? What is the wish of the Committee? Sue, thank you very much for your help. What is the wish of the Committee? But I have been asking that two times and there has been no response. Enoki.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): We would like to report progress, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a Motion to Report Progress. Agreed. Opposed. Thank you, very much for attending this Session and our Session is winding down; we have done quite a bit and we are able to do a little bit more procedural stuff than before. Thank you very much and I would like to have the Speaker come in to the House. Thank you.

Speaker: Sorry for the delay Members; we were just awaiting the Commissioner. We hear that he's in the building. We'll start with Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 36, and Bill 41 and would like to report that Bill 36 is ready for third reading and Bill 41 is ready for third reading as amended and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Bill 36 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

Bill 41 – An Act to Amend the Nursing Act – Third Reading

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable for Cambridge Bay that Bill number 41, an Act to Amend the Nursing Act be read for the third time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add before I complete on the motion, that this is probably one of the last Bills that the Member for Cambridge Bay will be able to second in this House and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank him for his compatriotism, his friendliness for the last eight years. I'm sure the House would join with the Premier and me in thanking Mr. Ng for his service to this House and seconding this wonderful Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. Question has been called. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 41 has had third reading. Item 22. Orders of the Day.

Before we proceed to orders of the day, Mr. Quirke, would you please ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the Chambers to give assent to the Bills?

Assent to Bills

- Bill 12 The Human Rights Act Assent
- Bill 33 The Tobacco Control Act Assent
- Bill 36 An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act Assent
- Bill 37 An Act to Amend the Liquor Act Assent
- Bill 40 An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act Assent
- Bill 41 An Act to Amend the Nursing Act Assent
- Bill 42 An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act Assent
- Bill 43 An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act Assent
- Bill 44 Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 1 2003-2004 Assent
- Bill 45 Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No 2 2003-2004 Assent

Bill 46 - Appropriation Act (Capital) 2004-2005 - Assent

Bill 47 - Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 3 2002-2003 - Assent

Bill 48 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 4 2002-2003 - Assent

Commissioner (interpretation): Thank you. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby assent to the following Bills; Bill 12. The Human Rights Act. Bill 33. The Tobacco Control Act. Bill 36. An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act. Bill 37. An Act to Amend the Liquor Act. Bill 40. An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act. Bill 41. An Act to Amend the Nursing Act. Bill 42. An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. Bill 43. An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act. Bill 44. Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 1 2003-2004. Bill 45. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 2 2003-2004. Bill 46. Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004-2005. Bill 47. Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 3 2002-2003. Bill 48. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 4 2002-2003.

Thank you. I wish all Members a safe return home. Thank you, very much.

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders for the Day for Tuesday, December 2nd.

- 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
- 20. Report of Committee of the Whole
- 21. Third Reading of Bills
- 22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Quirke. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, December 2^{nd} , 2003 at 1:30 pm in Iqaluit.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House adjourned at 15:23