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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)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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

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

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

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

**Glenn McLean**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunig)

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

**Donald Haviyok**  
(Kugluktuk)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**Patterk Netser**  
(Nanulik)

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

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

**Rebekah Williams**  
(Quttiktuq)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	4658
Ministers' Statements .....	4658
Members' Statements .....	4662
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	4669
Oral Questions.....	4670
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	4691
Returns to Written Questions .....	4691
Reports of Standing and Special Committees .....	4693
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills .....	4699
Tabling of Documents .....	4699
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills .....	4700
First Reading of Bills .....	4701
Second Reading of Bills.....	4702
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	4703
Report of Committee of the Whole .....	4712
Orders of the Day .....	4712

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday December 2, 2003 ..... 4658

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

228 – 1(6): Minister Kilabuk Absent from the House (Akesuk)..... 4658

229 – 1(6): Congratulating Lucie Idlout (Okalik) ..... 4658

230 – 1(6): Curriculum Successes in Nunavut (Thompson) ..... 4659

231 – 1(6): Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program in Nunavut Communities (Picco)..... 4660

232 – 1(6): Tourism Industry (Akesuk)..... 4661

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

735 – 1(6): Congratulations to Rangers and Cadets (Nutaraq)..... 4662

736 – 1(6): Say No to Drugs Tour Congratulate Kitikmeot Corporation and NTI (Puqiqnak). 4662

737 – 1(6): Proper Pronunciation in Inuktitut (Irqittuk)..... 4663

738 – 1(6): Congratulations to Kathy Angutialuk and Tuuma Netser (Netser) ..... 4663

739 – 1(6): Water Situation in Kugluktuk (Havioyak)..... 4664

740 -1(6): Progress Review in the Legislative Assembly Last Sitting (Tootoo)..... 4665

741 – 1(6): Progress to Date on the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut (Alakannuark) ..... 4666

742 – 1(6): Progress of Nunavut Since the Creation of Nunavut (Iqaqrialu)..... 4667

743 – 1(6): Substance Abuse in Nunavut (McLean) ..... 4667

744 – 1(6): Congratulate the Arctic Bay Cadets (Williams) ..... 4668

745 – 1(6): Whale Cove Meeting Cancelled Due to Windy Conditions (Thompson) ..... 4669

746 – 1(6): Sanikiluaq Arena – Artificial Ice (Kattuk) ..... 4669

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

707 – 1(6): Housing Rental Scale (Nutarak) .....	4670
708 – 1(6): Office Space in Schools (Williams).....	4672
709 – 1(6): Decentralization for Smaller Communities (Puqiqnak).....	4673
710 – 1(6): Alcohol Education Committee (McLean).....	4675
711 – 1(6): Auditor General’s Report on the Power Corporation (Tootoo).....	4676
712 – 1(6): Update on AIDS Cases (Havioyak).....	4680
713 – 1(6): Public Housing Rent Scale (Alakannuark) .....	4684
714 – 1(6): Compensation for Bad Gas for Hall Beach Residents (Irqittuk) .....	4686
715 – 1(6): Rental Scale (Iqaqrialu) .....	4688

**E.**

**Returns to Written Questions**

Return to Written Question 021 – 1(6): Lena Pederson Boarding Home (Picco).....	4691
Return to Written Question 020 – 1(6): Request for Proposals (Clerk) .....	4692

**F.**

**Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

007 – 1(6): Final Report on the Review of the Official Languages Act (Williams) .....	4693
---	------

**G.**

**Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

Committee Report 023 – 1(6): Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act (Tootoo) .....	4699
Committee Report 024 – 1(6): Bill 35 – The Wildlife Act (McLean).....	4699

## H.

### Tabling of Documents

158 – 1(6): Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy (Kattuk) .....	4699
159 – 1(6): Response to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services Review of the 2001/2002 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commission (Okalik).....	4700
160 – 1(6): Responses to Petitions 9 -1(6) and 10 – 1(6) (Clerk).....	4700

## I.

### Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1 <sup>st</sup> -June 30 <sup>th</sup> of 2004 - Notice.....	4700
Bill 51 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004 - Notice .....	4700
Bill 52 - Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 - Notice.....	4700
Bill 53 - Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003-2004 - Notice .....	4700
Bill 54 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) - Notice .....	4701

## J.

### Motions

020 – 1(6): Clause 6 of Bill 49 An Act to Amend the Safety Act be Amended.....	4707
--	------

## K.

### First Reading of Bills

Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1 <sup>st</sup> -June 30 <sup>th</sup> of 2004 – First Reading .....	4701
Bill 51 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004 - First Reading .....	4701
Bill 52 - Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 - First Reading.....	4701
Bill 53 - Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003/2004 - First Reading.....	4701

**L.**

**Second Reading of Bills**

Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2004 – Second Reading..... 4702

Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004– Second Reading ..... 4702

Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2, 2003/2004 – Second Reading. 4702

Bill 53 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003/2004 – Second Reading..... 4703

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday December 2, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, 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. Alakannuark to say the prayer this afternoon.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Members. Before proceeding with the Orders of the Day I would like to respond to some correspondence from the Commissioner of Nunavut. It states:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following Bills during the sixth session of the first Legislative Assembly:

Bill 50 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1- June 30, 2004

Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3, 2003/2004

Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2, 2003/2004

Signed by the Commissioner of Nunavut, Mr. Peter Irniq.

Proceeding with the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 228 – 1(6): Minister Kilabuk Absent from the House**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Members that Mr. Kilabuk will not be present today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Premier Okalik.

**Minister's Statement 229 – 1(6): Congratulating Lucie Idlout**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lucie Idlout. Lucie was awarded *Best Female Artist* at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards on November 28 in Toronto.



It is the first time an Inuk has had the honour of winning this national award. Lucie was nominated for her album “E5-770 My Mother’s Name”, and she dedicated her award to her mother, Leah Idlout.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating our talented recording artist Lucie Idlout, and to recognise her contribution to the arts and her promotion of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2. Ministers’ Statements. Ms. Thompson.

### **Minister’s Statement 230 – 1(6): Curriculum Successes in Nunavut**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform you about three new curriculum initiatives in schools across Nunavut.

The first initiative is a new course for grade 10 students in Inuktitut Language Arts. Inuit educators and elders created this course during the summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education is also working on Inuktitut curriculum for kindergarten to grade six for elementary schools.

In September a group of elders and kindergarten to grade six teachers went to Baker Lake to film a unit on preparation of caribou meat. The four parts of the unit will be aired on TV, on Qaujisaq, in January of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, those units will be used in schools in Nunavut to enhance the Inuqatigiit Inuktitut Curriculum.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker I believe that this initiative shows how working in collaboration with the private sector such as the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation benefits education in Nunavut and impacts all people inside and outside of the school system.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce the implementation of a new curriculum in high school called “Aullaajaktut”. Elders, community resource experts, educators and representatives from Health and Social Services, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Justice and NTI helped in the development of this curriculum.

I believe that the process for developing this curriculum is unique and was built on the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as well as on the principles of Pīnasuaqtavut.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the material in this course will help our students to address many of the challenges they face including dealing with suicide, supporting their peers and becoming active volunteers in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the important initiatives that will help our schools and meet the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Minister's Statement 231 – 1(6): Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program in Nunavut Communities**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin my Minister's Statement I wanted to take a very quick opportunity to thank Mr. McLean for his support of my CD. I would hope to be able to ship several hundred copies to Baker Lake by plane in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate fifteen Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) workers who attended a workshop in Pangnirtung on November 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from Igloodik, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, and Cape Dorset attended.

Mr. Speaker, the CPNP has three primary goals; provide nutrition education for pre/post natal women, provide food to pregnant and breast feeding women and promote and support breast feeding.

The CPNP trains community members to deliver nutrition education programs to women in their communities. One of the goals of the CPNP is to build community capacity and positively influence the health of pregnant women and their babies, as well as their families and most importantly their communities. Mr. Speaker, this community based initiative is just one example of how the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to bringing care closer to home and supporting healthy communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, workers were trained in nutrition during pregnancy, nutrition labelling, breastfeeding promotion and support, infant nutrition, nutrition screening and counselling and more. Elders contributed greatly to the training and sharing traditional knowledge around pregnancy, breastfeeding as well as feeding infants.

Mr. Speaker, the group attended other events including a sewing night, a grocery store tour and cooking class where muktaaq stir-fry was a hit!

Mr. Speaker, this was the first of two Nunavut training workshops for CPNP workers in Nunavut. The second will be held in Cambridge Bay in January where eight Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities will be represented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 232 – 1(6): Tourism Industry**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to bring Members of this House up to date on the steady progress of Nunavut's Tourism industry this past year.

After extensive consultations with tour operators, guides, outfitters and lodge owners throughout the territory, we released Nunavut's first ever Tourism Strategy this past spring.

The strategy was approved at Nunavut Tourism's annual general meeting in Rankin Inlet in 2002. Following the release of the strategy, Nunavut Tourism, our main tourism delivery agency, received an additional \$1 million per year from our department towards the implementation of the strategy.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this strategy is a building block towards a blossoming tourism industry which is something wanted by all Nunavummiut. However, we cannot develop our tourism industry alone. We need the support of our federal, territorial and provincial partners and public investors. We need to show them that this territory has, without question, solid potential to become a thriving and lucrative tourism industry.

I am also pleased to report that we have enhanced our relationships with both federal and provincial partners.

In July 2003, we signed a Memorandum of Intent with the Government of Manitoba. This new relationship will improve implementation of tourism development improve the network of tourism product providers and increase marketing opportunities.

To further enhance Nunavut's tourism potential, we are working with provinces and territories to develop a National Tourism Strategy that promises to recognise the North, in particular, as being unique and distinct, but in need of increased investment and support.

(interpretation) Finally, my department is actively working to strengthen services and programs in our communities. We provide loans and grants to tourism operators for equipment and business start up costs, and we are continually developing and upgrading our parks, attractions and visitor service facilities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I believe the strategy, and the developments we have made, prove we are committed to showing the world that a taste of our tradition and glimpse of our spectacular land will capture the imagination of both tourists and adventure seekers looking for a truly memorable experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? If not we'll move onto Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 735 – 1(6): Congratulations to Ranger Cadets**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate some individuals. These people have won awards in the last three years with the Arctic Rangers for Tunnuniq Riding. Akuilaa Kautainak, first in command, Pat McDermot second in command, Lena Inuaraq, Lucassie Isuaqsak, Janet Merkosoak, Georgie Piugaattualuk, Roseanne Arnakallak, Alex Anaviapik, Jennifer Kautiannuk.

Those are the cadets who are going to be going to Yellowknife for competitions. If you are able to watch them on television please do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 736 – 1(6): Say No to Drugs Tour Congratulate Kitikmeot Corporation and NTI**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to send my regards to Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven and my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the five Kitikmeot communities that will be visited started from December 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> from the Kitikmeot Corporation and NTI on the 'Say No to Drugs, Stay in School' tour of Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Charlie Lyle, the president of Kitikmeot Corporation. James Ittuluk, NTI vice president, and the person who is known throughout Northwest Territories, George Tukeroo and John Tays for going on this tour to spread this very important message to our youth.

Mr. Speaker, our youth need to see their role models expressing an interest in them. It is important for role models to visit the schools and speak to the youth about important issues. Mr. Speaker, substance abuse is a real problem in our communities and the cycles of abuse must be broken.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the people in the communities to attend the public consults that are being held in the evenings and to discuss the presentations with their children.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that it takes a community to raise a child. This is most evident with respect to substance abuse. All adults must strive to be good role models in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to finish by thanking Canadian North, Nunasi Corporation, and the Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission for co-sponsoring the tour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 737 – 1(6): Proper Pronunciation in Inuktitut**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the MLA from Iqaluit for inviting us back to Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Minister of Education has made an announcement in regards to the curriculum successes in Nunavut. We have to teach our students in Inuktitut and the proper usage of the language and that is evident today.

Mr. Speaker, the reason why I brought this up is because we are trying to follow people who mix Inuktitut with English words. Idlout, there is no such word for Idlout, for example, in the proper Inuktitut language; it is Illauq, with a q at the end. Even our Inuktitut names are pronounced improperly. For example, I can use my colleague, Mr. Netser, as an example, which does not mean anything in Inuktitut. The proper pronunciation is Natsiq, and also Tootoo, which does not mean anything in Inuktitut, if it is not said properly.

I am very pleased that the Minister of Education has made this announcement and that we will have instructors who are proficient in Inuktitut, and we will teach the proper usage of our language. We also have to realize the teachers who are graduating out of these programs are very young and their Inuktitut is not fully developed.

I want to say that, but they are inventing new words and their Inuktitut is not fully developed by the time that they are teaching our children. For example, you have to make proper pronunciations like "qaikauqturit", Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 738 – 1(6): Congratulations to Kathy Angutialuk and Tuuma Netser**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will probably make a change with my surname and spell it properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last month the people of Coral Harbour celebrated the graduation of two students, Kathy Angutialuk, and Tuuma Netser, who is our youngest son. He is now attending Arctic College. I would like the

Members of the Legislative Assembly to congratulate Kathy Angutialuk, and Tuuma Netser who graduated last month.

(interpretation ends): Mr. Speaker, on about the second weekend of November, Coral Harbour celebrated the graduation of two students, Kathy Angutialuk and Tuuma Netser, was my youngest son who is now here in Iqaluit taking post secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my Colleagues to extend their congratulations to Kathy Angutialuk and Tuuma Netser. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 739 – 1(6): Water Situation in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, as I mentioned or it was mentioned before, one of the Ministers would not be here but I will direct this question to that Minister.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the water situation in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Kugluktuk, my Constituents, have been struggling with the issue of drinking water. Between muddy water in the spring and salt water in the fall, it seems like Mother Nature has full control over the water supply.

Mr. Speaker, the new water treatment plant opened in the spring of 2002 at the cost of over \$1 million dollars did not function as intended and almost half a million dollars was spent on it.

Mr. Speaker, we have recently passed the 2004/05 capital budget and \$50 thousand more dollars will be spent on the water treatment investigation.

Mr. Speaker, last month the people of Kugluktuk, yet again, had salt water instead of drinking water coming out of their taps. This is especially frustrating given how hopeful we were that the new water treatment plant would solve our problems.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we cannot do battle with the Mother Nature. Instead, it may be necessary to move the intake for the water treatment plant further up the river.

Mr. Speaker, a lot of money is spent on this every year. In addition to inconvenience there are also health and safety issues whenever water is switched off for days at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister responsible is pursuing funding on the federal infrastructure program to ensure that long term, viable solution is found to achieve quality, dependable drinking water for Kugluktuk. I encourage him to continue his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking Community Government and Transportation questions during question period about this very issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 740 -1(6): Progress Review in the Legislative Assembly Last Sitting**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to welcome back my Colleagues to Iqaluit for our final sitting of this first Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, all Members of this Assembly have strived to raise issues that they believe to be important for their Constituents, their communities and Nunavut as a whole.

I would like to take this week to reflect on some of these themes and issues that I have concentrated on and make some comments about the progress we have made in the journeys still to come.

Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that I have endeavoured to work on is Government accountability. I would first like to say that when we compare the Nunavut of today to the Nunavut of April 1, 1999, progress has been made in a number of areas.

The budget estimates and financial reporting that the Government provides to the Legislative Assembly for scrutiny and approval have certainly expanded in terms of detail and completeness.

Obviously, more work remains to be done, and I am glad to have had the opportunity as Chair of the Standing Committee that reviews the public accounts and the Auditor General's reports to have made a contribution to pressing for improvements in these areas.

Mr. Speaker, a number of reports that the Committee of this House has made has resulted in action by the Government. For example, the Government listened to Members on this side of the House when we recommended the estimates process be changed to allow for a review of capital during the fall so as to help achieve greater efficiencies and costs savings.

Mr. Speaker, there have certainly been some areas where I have been vocal in criticizing what I see as deficiencies. The contracting and tendering practices of the Government need work. In my view, we still do not see annual tabling of who won what tender or RFP, and the Government's leases still appear to be shrouded in mystery.

Mr. Speaker, Members on this side of the House have been vocal in pressing for timely tabling of annual reports and other legally required materials. This constant pressure has resulted in better performance in this area, although it still could be better.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be asking the Minister of Energy questions about the financial status of the Nunavut Power Corporation in light of information that is contained in that body's most recent set of financial statements.

I certainly expect this particular Minister to be eloquent and fulsome in his response to me. And that would be the very best. I certainly expect that it will be a healthy exchange and that is what accountability is all about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 741 – 1(6): Progress to Date on the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also thank the people in my riding of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk in our last days of the First Assembly.

I am very pleased with the progress that we have made. As the Nunavut Legislature, we have been given the opportunity to make improvements and we hope to see further improvements in the upcoming years, and we hope to see the Inuit culture and language used more within the Government.

As was mentioned earlier, our language is evolving to keep up with the times. As you know, I used the Nattilik dialect. We have to use the Inuktitut language properly. I can use an example of Taloyoak, but the proper pronunciation would be Talurjuaq. That is just an example. We have to promote the proper usage of Inuktitut.

I wanted to make those comments. I would also like to thank the Minister of Education for building us a new school, which will meet the school population requirements in Kugaaruk probably for the next five years. I would like to thank the Government for supporting my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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



**Member's Statement 742 – 1(6): Progress Since the Creation of Nunavut**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I smile too, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. Since the creation of Nunavut, Clyde River was the first community to get polar bear and narwhal tags. We no longer have to wait, and it seems like we have finally regained the Inuit culture.

We can now harvest polar bears and narwhale without having to wait for the opening of hunting seasons or to comply with the number of tags that are given to my community. This is operated by the people of Clyde River.

And last of all, I was just recently in Broughton Island and I have always felt welcome in Qikiqtarjuaq, but the airline route goes from Clyde River to Qikiqtarjuaq and Pangnirtung and sometimes we cannot go into Qikiqtarjuaq if we have weather problems. That increases the operation and also disrupts the route of these three communities when a plane cannot go to Pangnirtung, there are no routes going through Qikiqtarjuaq.

And thirdly, as a person from Clyde River, my riding is called Uqqummiut, but then again, in the Clyde River tradition, the proper name of that riding should be Akurnnirmiut or the people in the middle.

I am responsible for two communities and I think that we will have to make a change for that riding for the next Member of the Legislative Assembly for Akurnnirmiut and Uqqummiut, as this is what Inuit have used for a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 743 – 1(6): Substance Abuse in Nunavut**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first off, I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for being very generous to Baker Lake in the last four years and especially with the establishment of the Martha Taleruk 24-hour care center. Our elders now have the opportunity to stay in the community and be cared for 24-hours a day by a qualified nurse.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the issue of substance abuse in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, Members are all aware that a liquor plebiscite was recently held in Baker Lake among other communities.

The people of Baker Lake decided to create an Alcohol Education Committee. Mr. Speaker, I would like to caution the people of Baker Lake that the Alcohol Education Committee will not solve all the problems surrounding alcohol abuse in the community.

Mr. Speaker, the creation of the Alcohol Education Committee is only one step towards stopping alcohol related crimes. We cannot fool ourselves into thinking that bootlegging will disappear. Bootleggers will continue to find ways to bring alcohol into the community.

To make a real difference regarding alcohol use and abuse in any community, the community must work together. Every person has a responsibility to educate the youth and be a good role model.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge all community members to pull together and utilize the resources that are available. There are two community drug and alcohol workers who are available to help people learn about and cope with drugs and alcohol related problems.

Mr. Speaker, with the holiday season coming, more people will have an excuse to have a holiday drink. I would like to remind people to drink responsibly and choose a designated driver to ensure that everyone gets home safely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 744 – 1(6): Congratulate the Arctic Bay Cadets**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I have a bit of a cold. I rise today to extend my appreciation. I had gone up to Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord just recently for two weeks and the high arctic communities are very far and the sun does not rise any more in those communities.

Karen Inutiq, my CA, I would like to thank her and also Leah May-Qaqqasiq; Leah May, she is my CA in Arctic Bay, I would like to thank her for being my CA and also my colleague beside me, he had congratulated the cadets in Pond Inlet for winning and I think he forgot Arctic Bay. Arctic Bay cadets, too, were also mentioned as cadets who have won. Inuujaq Sujuq, Leevee Paniaq, Jolene Attitaaq, TJ Nungak, David Uujukuluk, and also Apak Taqtuq. These cadets had also won awards along with the Pond Inlet cadets.

I would like to remind Mr. Nutarak that the Arctic Bay cadets also won too and also would like to congratulate the cadets and their parents for supporting their children. I would like to thank the instructors for the cadets for helping the young people and the children and for training them appropriately, properly along with their parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 745 – 1(6): Whale Cove Meeting Cancelled Due to Windy Conditions**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I had tried to go to Whale Cove to meet with the Chairperson of Adult Education. We tried going there through a charter and we even saw the buildings and the lights but the airport side of the community was windy so we were unable to land and we had to return.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to notify the residents of Whale Cove that I know that there are Arctic College students there but they don't have a facility or an instructor and the community is quite concerned about this issue and we are working on this issue.

The new learning facility for adult education is a possibility. I'm sure it will be able to become complete with the cooperation and assistance of the local people. Mr. Speaker, I was going to meet with the education authority over there. I apologize for not being able to meet with them, however Mr. Speaker, once I'm able to make it there I will try to make it there after the session is over here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 746 – 1(6): Sanikiluaq Arena – Artificial Ice**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a brief comment, but I too would like to congratulate the government.

The issue that I keep bringing up is about getting an artificial ice maker in Sanikiluaq and I'm very proud to say that the artificial ice maker is now in Sanikiluaq and it is now ready to be installed.

I'm sure all the residents of Sanikiluaq are pleased to see that and I will see you sometime soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased that I have the opportunity to recognize an individual today, Jack Qamoqaq my older brother.

I'm very pleased that he's able to make it here to the Legislative Assembly. He's been working for the government for a very long time. He started out with the Department of

Public Works. He was moved to municipal government and he's still working there as their public maintenance man.

He's much better than I am, he's older than I am and he's always supportive of me in any way that he can. Also our cousin from Taloyoak, although I have heard his name or her name but I would like to welcome that individual to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, my colleague went ahead of me when I was going to recognize this individual. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual, right behind me from Taloyoak. To provide some background on this individual, he comes from a Search and Rescue Team and they have to work with very challenging tasks and they have to try to help people to survive. He is now training with the Coast Guard here in Iqaluit, and I would like to recognize him, James Aiyaut.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Oral Question 707 – 1(6): Housing Rental Scale**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier in regards to the Housing Corporation. Since the Housing Corporation is a Crown Corporation, as well as the Power Corporation, does the Premier have any jurisdiction over those two corporations, or do these two entities make their own decisions in regards to how much money should be paid by the homeowners? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, according to my knowledge these two corporations have two Presidents and they have, as a Government, they have a Minister. As a Government we set out their roles and procedures and we advise the Presidents to abide by their policies and that is part of what the Government responsibilities are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were first elected, we stated that housing was our first priority and the issue of rental scales have been of great concern of late. The public housing tenants were quite concerned and during the first year of our mandate we had requested the Government look at the rent scale and how we can improve the rent scale. It seems like the regular Members have never seen any responses to that; perhaps the Minister has the authority to make changes to the rental scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members know, there have been quite extensive debates about the new public housing rent scale that has been put in place. There was extensive consultation, not only with local Housing Authorities that put together the recommendations which are the basis of the new rent scale, but also with all Members, not just the Standing Committee, but all regular Members had an opportunity, because of the interest in the new public housing rent scale and the impact on the majority of their constituents to be involved in that process.

I recall, quite specifically, as one of the first things I did when given the responsibility for the Nunavut Housing Corporation was to approach the Standing Committee and other Members had joined in at that time to go over the review of the new public housing rent scale. The tenant to owner program, I believe as well as that time, was another new initiative that was underway and there were quite a lot of detailed discussions on those matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it was last year that there were plans to be announced later in 2003 on when construction of units would be completed and so on. We later heard that they were not going to make any changes to the program and also to the rent scale.

Just reading the material or information in regards to this, it seems like there were going to be improvements made. Could the Premier take a look at this sometime in the future? I had directed my question to the Premier, but the response was given back to me by the Minister of Housing Corporation, I was directing my question to the Premier. I was wondering if the Premier is willing to reconsider this in the year 2004. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as all Members know in this House, any new Legislature, any new Government has the prerogative to review programs and policies that the past Government has in place and if they feel that they are not appropriate, need correction, need revisions, need to be taken off the books, need to be enhanced, that is their prerogative to do.

And I would think that the second Assembly of Nunavut and the second Government of Nunavut will take that prerogative to review their programs and policies and to see what changes are required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 708 – 1(6): Office Space in Schools**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and Services. My question is, in my Constituency of Arctic Bay there are three or four social services workers who do not have office space.

Right now, they are working out of their homes. Say, for instance, if I had a problem and I have to go to social services and I want to go and see a counsellor, I would have to go to their home.

My question is when will the office space that is going to be put in the school be completed? We know that they are working on this at the moment but we would like to know when they are going to complete it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been a question raised by the Member a couple of times. The last I heard that the office space will be completed is perhaps at the end of January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he just guessing or is it going to be finished towards the end of January? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not just guessing, Mr. Speaker. I have been told by my staff that it would be completed in January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that the Government employees have to have a good working environment because they do a lot of work for the people of Arctic Bay.

Part of the school that is going to be utilized for office space by social workers is not adequate, so I just wanted to ask the Minister when they will be providing new office space for the social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has raised this question before, but I will respond by saying that this is just temporary office. It has been renovated.

As to her question for a new office facility, what we will do is give provide them with a temporary office at this time and we have not thought about putting up a new office facility.

In terms of providing a new facility, we can only provide temporary office space at the moment. My officials have stated that we will be dealing with this matter in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that this is just a temporary office facility at this time and it cost him quite a bit of money. But my question, Mr. Speaker, is, are there any plans in place to build a new office facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the old school facility will be finished first and be utilized as an office for those employees and we will think about what steps we will be using after we renovate the school and then think about what facility we might be able to provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 709 – 1(6): Decentralization for Smaller Communities**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for decentralization.

First of all, on decentralized communities in Nunavut, the Minister has stated that decentralization is near completion. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for decentralization in regards to the communities that have not been decentralized.

Can we expect more decentralization for the non-decentralized communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good that we going to be completing the decentralization process very soon. As for the smaller communities we have been working with them, especially through the Department of Sustainable Development as to how all the communities of Nunavut could be further assisted.

As our life in this session is nearing its ends we do cannot do a lot. We should deal with this matter in the second assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always mentioned that I have two communities that I represent, one that is decentralized and one that isn't. You can see the difference between the two.

For example, Taloyoak is a non-decentralized community and we lack housing. Last week, the Co-op hotel, because it is so old, had to be closed down by the fire marshal. My constituency assistant and I have an office there.

We had to vacate our office but we did not have any office to rent. We were given some open space by the hamlet to work in.

Mr. Speaker, Taloyoak is a small community. I would like to ask that these non-decentralized communities, such as Taloyoak, be assisted by the Government. There must be office space and there must be housing available. Mr. Speaker, can we expect housing to be provided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member. It is not just Taloyoak that lacks those facilities. It is all non-decentralized communities. There are 10 decentralized communities and there are 15 more non-decentralized communities. Taloyoak is not the only community that is lacking facilities and we have to provide those facilities to all the communities.

It is good that some of the communities have decentralized Government, which is good, but we also have to provide some for the non-decentralized communities in our near future and we have made plans with the Department of Sustainable Development for economic development for those communities.



As a Government we cannot do it alone; we must also have help from the private sector in opening up opportunities in Nunavut. It is evident that this will have to be looked into in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that it is not just Taloyoak; I was just using Taloyoak as an example because it is in my Constituency. I just used it as an example because I know that community and I realize there has to be facilities for other non-decentralized communities, not just for Taloyoak.

As you said that Taloyoak is not the only community, but have you done a review on whether or not those non-decentralized communities will be given facilities because they lack facilities?

Have you done any review or studies on those non-decentralized communities whether facilities such as what I am talking about will be put in those non-decentralized communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was that the Department of Sustainable Development have reviewed some economic development initiatives for the non-decentralized communities and they have made a report to help the non-decentralized communities to create more economic development opportunities in those communities.

That is what we have done thus far and we don't want to forget about those non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Oral Question 710 – 1(6): Alcohol Education Committee**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Liquor Act.

Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake went to the polls last month to vote on whether to establish an alcohol education committee. A strong majority of the voters said yes to the question. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the voters of Chesterfield Inlet voted on a similar question in early 2002, but the regulations to establish their committee have not yet been approved.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is can he commit to the people of Baker Lake that their wishes will be respected and that the regulations for the new Alcohol Education Committee will be finalized before the end of 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I commit to doing it as expeditiously as possible. A problem we are running into now is it is early December. I can't commit to the end of 2003 given that; also I don't set the timetable for Cabinet meetings; somebody else does that. It would depend really, Mr. Speaker, on having the regulations drafted, having them go through the Cabinet process and then having them put in force. I would expect that that would be some time in the new year, Mr. Speaker, to be realistic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The life of this government is quickly and rapidly coming to an end, and it's no secret that there might not be a lot of us around soon, and I'm not pointing fingers at the Minister in charge of the Liquor Act or regulations, but, Mr. Speaker, can the Minister commit that he'll try to have this committee established before the end of March of 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, even though I may not be the Minister responsible at that time, there certainly will be a follow up at the officials level to have the regulations drafted and whether it is this government or the next government, I mean that process will not stop as a result of the change of government, that is why we have continuity with the administration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Minister can't commit to an exact time indeed. But, can the Minister commit that by at least March 2004 that the Alcohol Education Committee will be in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, recognizing that I will not be accountable for that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Oral Question 711 – 1(6): Auditor General's Report on the Power Corporation**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, in the last auditor's report on the Nunavut Power Corporation, the auditor had indicated a couple of alarming notes in there and I would like to quote from that

report. It states that the “Corporation exceeded its borrowing limit set by the Nunavut Power Utilities Act” and also that he “wishes to draw attention that the Corporation has encouraged significant operating losses and has increased its debt by approximately \$29 million since its commencement of operations in April 1, 2001.”

And it goes on to indicate that, “some of the reasons for these losses include inadequate controls over spending resulting from significant weaknesses in financial management practices.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could expand and elaborate on exactly what the auditor meant when he says “inadequate control over spending resulting from significant weaknesses in financial management practises.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to note Mr. McLean had said something about the energizer bunny and I would appreciate that, going back to the old ageless saying about the person and their ears, they keep getting longer and the nose kept getting a bit more pointy so I think he should keep that in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to answer this question on behalf and for the people of Nunavut. First of all, I had an opportunity to sit down in my office with the Auditor General, Mr. Roger Simpson, the principal from the office of the Auditor General for Canada.

It is important to note, Mr. Speaker, like many jurisdictions in this country, the office of the Auditor General for Canada provides a very good accountability and transparent mechanism to be able to review the operations of the Government and in this case, a crown corporation.

Those statements, as Mr. Tootoo pointed out, have been tabled publicly. So, everyone is aware of what has occurred. I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Auditor General for Canada had pointed out some serious issues around the accountability procedures, spending practise and so on with the Power Corporation.

I would like to take the Member back to June of 2003 when we were in Baker Lake when I tabled the first report of the Auditor General for Canada and the Power Corporation review of the audited financial statements and executive summary.

At that time, we were looking at a little over \$5 million dollar deficit imposed on our rates because at that time, we were not sure if the problem was on the expense side or the revenue side.

Subsequently to that, as Mr. Tootoo just pointed out, the Auditor General pointed out some serious concerns with the administrative as well as the financial aspects of the Corporation.

And Mr. Speaker, we have moved very quickly extending from that report, we have hired three new accountants, we have hired a new Chief Executive Officer and we also have a new Chief Financial Officer in place.

We have also, as a Government, set up the Crown Agency Council which oversees the operations of crown corporations and, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that we have, very diligently, followed up on the Auditor General's comments very seriously in these reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I guess I do not have to ask my question as what is the Corporation doing about it, he has answered that already, but I would still like to ask the Minister if he could elaborate on exactly what some of those issues regarding inadequate controls and of an overspending and significant weaknesses in financial management were with the Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member had an opportunity to read the Auditor General's report when I tabled the concerns in the Power Corporation's budget itself.

He has referred to it and so I do not know why he would want me just to reissue them or re-ask them or re-speak them here, but I can point out that there were several issues, including in the way capital assets were being counted for, the expenditure controls themselves, the way billings were being done, there were concerns with the accounting practises of the Corporation, there were issues around the way contracts had been put in place, the way supplies and materials have been accounted for.

But, Mr. Speaker, the most important thing to point out, I believe, was the Auditor General for Canada says, we do not make this stuff up, the Auditor General pointed out there were concerns with the expense issues of the Corporation, but the biggest issue for the losses that we have had over the last two years have been that the rates have not changed since 1998 and that there is a deficit in the revenue stream of the Corporation.

That is something that will be fixed with the General Rate Application, the GRA that has to come forward and, Mr. Speaker, we would hope to have that in place probably by April 1<sup>st</sup> that has to go to the URCC, and a presentation has to be done. There will be public meetings at that time and it would be a transparent process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister answered another question that I don't have to ask and I thank him for that.

The Minister had indicated a number of areas and one of them was expenditure control and the way contracts are handled and the way materials and stuff were purchased. Can the Minister indicate more explicitly what some of these concerns were in those areas and when he became aware of them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of points, as the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, similar to what we see with other corporations within governments and falling on the lines of the genesis of the Power Corporation comes from the Northwest Territories, the Minister has a board of directors.

Mr. Speaker, they oversee the monthly, day-to-day operations of the Power Corporation and I must say that in the last couple of months coming out of the second audit we have strength of the board again by putting two very credible and capable people on to the board, including one being a lawyer and the other being a very senior former civil servant of the government.

Mr. Speaker, some of the issues around expenditure controls may have been implemented and we've changed that so that the appointment of the Chief Operating Officer as well as the Chief Financial Officer have to be involved in the dual diligent process for these types of expenditures including the contracting and the accounts receivable.

One of the biggest issues on the management side was the accounts payable and that we had several accounts within the Power Corporation that were over 60 and 90 days haven't been paid. That caused some concern for us.

Prior issues Mr. Speaker, around the way the corporation was doing its billings and have actually come up here in the House for in some cases we were 90 days behind the actual billing date. What that means Mr. Speaker is that you would get your bill on October 1<sup>st</sup> but the bill would have been for the month of July. Those things have been changed Mr. Speaker by bringing in the new accountants that we just talked about earlier by looking at the logistics as well as the administrative aspects of the corporation and by implementing the recommendations coming out of the Auditor General's Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister had indicated earlier and the preamble of, you know it's been a long time, significant amount of those loses are the result of not adequate rates to cover off the cost of producing electricity. He had

indicated that they're looking at it. Can he indicate when we expect to see the power rate increase in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess just a couple of facts of life, as any business here in the western world unless you're under their control the communist monopoly you cannot continue to supply goods and services at the same price continually for the same year, every year. In this case Mr. Speaker, by December, by January, a little over one month from now, Mr. Speaker, it'll be the year 2004.

Our prices, our rates for electricity have not increased in six years while the cost of operations, decentralization, increases in wages and benefits, and including the cost of water have increased. So, how can't you, that's a good point Mr. Tootoo, how can you expect the Power Corporation to create a profit when the rates haven't changed.

So, I don't know when the rates would go up Mr. Speaker, I don't know if they will go up. The Power Corporation has to apply for a GRA, a General Rate Application. That General Rate Application has a public process. It has to be scrutinized by the URCC, the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Speaker, and they have to hold a public hearings and so long and they have to demonstrate.

Mr. Speaker, there are two major points here that I want to get on the record and those points are number one: right now everyone rate here in Nunavut is based on a subsidy of Yellowknife. We haven't been part of Yellowknife for four years, is that acceptable? Do we base a rate now on what the norm is in Nunavut? Number two, should you continue the current rate structure and that each communities pays the actual cost of it's generation of electricity. Some communities for example here in Iqaluit, it's cheaper than say for example in Grise Fiord, which is more expensive.

Those are the types of questions that the Power Corporation needs to ask. In the meantime, those rates do not increase, then, Mr. Speaker, we would expect losses to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Haviyok.

#### **Oral Question 712 – 1(6): Update on AIDS Cases**

**Mr. Haviyok:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister is aware that yesterday was the Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Day.

Can the Minister update this House on where we stand in Nunavut with respect to the incidents of HIV and AIDS cases in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, AIDS Day has been very successful after coming into being several years ago.

Mr. Speaker, as a Government, throughout many communities of Nunavut, we participated in HIV and AIDS awareness. I wanted to take this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, very quickly, to say that the deaths recently of Mr. Todd Armstrong of Pauktuutit, who did yeoman service, many Members here remember Todd on behalf and for AIDS awareness across Nunavut and indeed the circumpolar north is much recognized and to pass on the very best to his surviving family.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is still very low with actual confirmed cases of HIV in Nunavut. However, Mr. Speaker, we believe one of the reasons probably for that is many people are not being tested.

We do not have a force test situation or policy in place. When people present themselves at a health center or at the hospital, for example, and they have been contacted for STD, a Sexually Transmitted Disease, they are offered the opportunity for HIV testing. In many cases, people do not take us up on that. So although our rate is low, we know that the rates of sexually transmitted diseases are high. So, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that there can be some congruence or some similarity in those numbers and I think that people in Nunavut should be aware of that.

We have a very high sexually transmitted rate and there is a very strong possibility of the concurrent HIV or AIDS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask another question then by saying, okay, you mentioned first that the reason being low that not too many people are being tested; what is the Department doing to encourage the public to be tested, through ads or pamphlets? What is the Department doing to encourage testing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, any person who presents themselves to the hospital or to the health center for STI, Sexually Transmitted Infections or Sexually Transmitted Diseases are automatically asked do they want an HIV test.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, because of the stigma that is still associated with HIV many people do not feel they should be tested. What as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker is if we look at the rates for STDs, which are very high, for example, right now in Nunavut, the highest number of cases of STDs include Chlamydia and we know that when the medical professionals will tell you when you have that very high rate, then there is a good possibility that some of these other STDs, for example, in this case, maybe HIV because

it is also spread by infected blood products or indeed injecting needles, not just through sex.

So, Mr. Speaker, we would suggest that because of those instances, there may be a higher number of HIV infection that has gone undetected.

We do not force people to take an HIV test; it is voluntary, and that is the reason why we feel that maybe the number may not be an accurate picture of what could be out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'll try it another way. I wanted some examples for more awareness to the general public, especially to the high schools in Nunavut. What are the type of activities you are doing to this thing in the increased awareness of the risk of HIV and AIDS in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, preliminary rates from Health Canada for 2001 show Nunavut to have the highest rate of gonorrhoea, and Chlamydia in Canada. For example, Mr. Speaker, 12 to 14 times the national rate.

We see this as a very serious public health issue, Mr. Speaker, and the Member has been pointing out, I think we have been very proactive not only through public health, through our CHRs in the communities, but also through education.

I know for example, Mr. Speaker, my kids in school, my daughter yesterday was doing a project on herpes and on STDs and she is only 13 years old. So I know that that type of education is going on.

In the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, we have introduced trilingual posters and pamphlets explaining the situation with STIs and STDs, and those were distributed to every health centre, and hospital and public health office in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Members will remember, for example, and I said this earlier when we partnered with Pauktuutit, we introduced flavoured condoms. Those flavoured condoms, at that time, Mr. Speaker, were seal and muktaaqa flavoured, and walrus flavoured. The Members may remember I dressed up as a condom man and passed out condoms, and indeed there were some concerns from the Arctic Winter Games people; there was a complaint made about that.

Mr. Speaker, although that may seem a little funny, it is a very serious aspect because we know through Public Health that most children, most young people who are at risk from the most recent sexually transmitted diseases, respond more to these types of



advertisements, these types of messages, than the scare factor stuff. I think that that is very important to point out.

So, Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work going on, but the best way to make this point very clear, is through questions like the Member is doing in the House, to continue to reinforce these situations.

When you have 12 to 14 times the sexual rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea then, Mr. Speaker, that is a very serious issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to again to make sure that the general public, residents of Kugluktuk, for example, I know that some people are not taking this very serious. Sicknes is going around in the world and I do not want to see it increase in Nunavut, but it always makes its way, it comes up North and stays here. We have to find a way to control that.

I want to ask the Minister again as a residence, or a home, how a person can find more information on the statistics of not the other sexual diseases that are spread out, but especially in AIDS and HIV area. I would like to know how that is being increased awareness at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I want to sincerely thank the Member for raising the issue. I do not think in the last four years, as the Minister of Health, that we actually had the chance to discuss this more than maybe twice, or three times.

Mr. Speaker, any member of the public can get information on AIDS, HIV, or any sexually transmitted disease from the public health office, from the health centres. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Department of Education is doing excellent work in bringing more awareness around and Mr. Speaker, to stop the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

There are condoms Mr. Speaker, out there that help stop the contact. So, Mr. Speaker I would not recommend the practice of unsafe sex by not using condoms and so should be looked down on indeed Mr. Speaker, that's why in many public health offices and health centres condoms are readily available. We need to be able to stop the spread of diseases.

It's important to point out Mr. Speaker, that almost 50% of Chlamydia almost half of the cases of Chlamydia do not show, which means Mr. Speaker; you would not have typical signs of it. That's why Mr. Speaker, when for example, when a woman's pregnant, that

tests for STIs are regularly done because a lot of the cases the disease does not show itself and you would not know you're ill.

Mr. Speaker, very quickly, without intervention those infections can include a toxic pregnancies which means Mr. Speaker, miscarriages. Mr. Speaker, infertility, meaning being not allowed to have any more babies again if it's not treated, pelvic inflammatory diseases, pre-term delivery and transmission of these sexually transmitted diseases during birth. This is very serious stuff.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think the people of Nunavut, all members of the public should be aware of these issues and like the Member had stated earlier through education and school as well as at public health and so on that method should continue and with World AIDS Day here I think it's very important to point that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 713 – 1(6): Public Housing Rent Scale**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation in regards to the public housing rents.

Of course, in public housing we have to pay the rent and also the price of groceries and cost of living is very high. Those are some of the examples. If an individual entered the work force in Nunavut, they have to pay a percentage of their earnings for rent and the cost of living keeps increasing.

In view of the cost of living increasing and also families have dependents that they have to feed, when their rent is increased there are times they cannot even afford to pay their groceries and to buy their clothing or to cover their basic needs.

In view of the cost of living increasing, how are you going to consider coming up with solutions to these? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier the response to the same question from Mr. Nutarak, the new public housing rent scale was put in place after extensive consultations and recommendations from local housing authorities including managers and boards for representatives.

So, this wasn't done just a matter of something done on paper without some thought put behind it. We recognize that there are some individuals who have been impacted at first because of the fact that there is income being captured now that wasn't captured before because we actually use the criteria of income reported on the income tax forms.

So, having said that, we also said that if there are problems with the new rent scale that the government, through the housing corporation would revisit that. We did have a major workshop six months after the implementation of the new rent scale last time when we were here in October that took place.

There haven't been any significant issues raised from the local housing authorities who are implementing the new rent scale to date, but having said that, as I said earlier, if there are problems we'll continue to make adjustments as required.

The new rent scale is a lot more fair and a lot more transparent than the past rent scale; a lot more understandable and that I think is by enlarge being improved for what was there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the response from the Minister clearly. My question is when are you going to renew the rent scale in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to say, like I said, it would be up to the next Government, the next Minister responsible to review all programs and policies that we have. I can tell the Member that the rent scale that was replaced, the old rent scale has been around for over a decade.

If Members really remember, I mean there are some things and this is the first time that the major revision about the public housing rents was put in place by this Government and this Housing Corporation in consultation with our stakeholder partners, the Local Housing Authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister had stated that since the old rent scale has been used for ten years and since this is a new rent scale, my question is how long do you plan to keep this new rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for as long as it works. Thank you.

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

**Oral Question 714 – 1(6): Compensation for Bad Gas for Hall Beach Residents**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for petroleum products.

I already notified the Minister at the last session and I asked him the question prior to that and he did not respond to me before the end of that last Session. But we have our Session here for three or four days.

My question was at that time, we had experienced some bad gas in our community and we used that bad gas for about approximately three weeks. I just wanted to find out, after their study or a review that has been done, what is the Department going to do about compensating my community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The response that I had given to the Member at that time is the response that I have today. The experience with bad gas that the community of Hall Beach had when they were moving the gas from the pipes to the tank, apparently there was water contamination. That is the reason they had experienced the bad gas or gas with water.

There have been no complaints from any individuals from Hall Beach. To this day, we have not had any complaints by the people of Hall Beach.

So, we are not really sure exactly what we could do for the people of Hall Beach as there were no complaints from any individuals. If we were to be given a prior notice or a notice after the fact, then we would have been able to do something about it, but to date, we do not have any responses at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister stated that the people of Hall Beach have not made any complaints. I am the representative for the people of Hall Beach and I have received numerous complaints because I listen to them.

Even if the Minister's department did not get a complaint from the residents of Hall Beach, the Department should be able to do something about it and the Department knew that there was new gas put into the old tank, and it was contaminated with water. And we already notified the Department of that.

Although there have not been complaints from the hunters, they encountered problems because of the water contamination of the gas. The question that I have, and have had is on the gas that was used, that was contaminated with water, and used by the hunters, are there any plans in place to compensate, or to discount the gas that the hunters used? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no response other than the fact that at that time when we first found out about the contaminated gas, the very first bad gas situation was very well documented with complaints from the public.

To date my staff have notified me that there has not been any individuals complaining about the contaminated gasoline from Hall Beach, so I have no response to what the Member wants me to do, because I have no knowledge of what kind of damage was done to the engines of the hunter's machinery. So I do not have any new responses to the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the representative of the people of Hall Beach and as a Member, as the Minister is aware, that he has stated to us that there has to be an artificial ice provided to the people of Sanikiluaq. So as a representative for Hall Beach, I am representing them by saying although there have not been any individual complaints, that there should be something done about the contaminated gasoline that they used. If that gasoline that is contaminated with water is still there, what is the Department going to do about it?

My question, Mr. Speaker, is they had to pay the same price as before, and the people who purchased gasoline that was contaminated with water, can they get a discount for the gas that they purchased at that time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because the Member does not represent the people of Sanikiluaq he will not hear about complaints coming from Sanikiluaq. We hear complaints from the communities through you as their representative. For the people of Hall Beach, we hear about those communities and the people of Hall Beach did not make a complaint to my Department or Petroleum Products.

We have not seen any written complaints and people wanting discounts on the gasoline that they purchased and if there were any damages to those engines of those hunters, they have not stated to us that there have been any un-repairable damages caused to their engines.

I do not have any response to that up to today, but when we found out about the contamination of the gasoline in Hall Beach what we did was we brought more gasoline from one community to Hall Beach to replace the contaminated gasoline. As I said that there has not been any individual or collective complaint from that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Petroleum Division knows that this gasoline was contaminated with water and the people did not like it so what they had to do was get some gasoline by plane two times to Hall Beach. For that reason, the Petroleum Products Division knew that there was a contamination of that gasoline.

As far as I am concerned the people of Hall Beach used that contaminated gasoline so they provided a discount.

That community should be given a discount from the previous gas that they bought. Only when it affected all of Nunavut, then something was done about it. Is it because just one community experienced contaminated gasoline, are we not going to be able to get any discounts whatsoever? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have always stated when communities, wherever it might be in Nunavut, are experiencing gasoline problems or petroleum product problems or they run out of a certain petroleum product then would help them out that is why we provided them with gasoline from Resolute Bay.

We did some testing on that gasoline from Hall Beach and could not reach any conclusive results other than the fact that it was contaminated with water.

I have no response to the damage; I have no response for that right now because there was no real damage to the engines of their machines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Members will note that question period is now over. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask for unanimous consent to extend question period for one other Member? Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period for a Member. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Oral Question 715 – 1(6): Rental Scale**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now have the question period to myself. Thank you for your consent.

First of all, I would like to make a comment before I ask a question so that my question will be more understandable. This is a question to the Minister of Housing Corporation.

There was a motion in the House that the Special Committee on Housing Report brought into the house but that was never dealt with properly in the House.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, in my communities of Clyde River and Broughton Island we don't have a very big population. In regards to the rental scale, the recommendation was that we wanted more home ownership rather than to stay in public housing.

We are lacking in housing, and I just want to know why they have no choice but to occupy public housing. Only three individuals have had their rents go down.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation that we are provided \$20 million dollars for housing; would the new Assembly be able to provide better rental scales in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess it's hard to gauge very subjectively what you mean by a better rental scale and maybe he's talking about no rents for anybody in the ideal situation, but the fact remains, Mr. Speaker, that the government has to pay for housing somehow and it's heavily subsidized now because of the money, the limited dollars that we have in trying to maximize provision of public housing, whether it's through private home-ownership assistance program or through social housing programs.

So, it is a difficult balance that the Housing Corporation has, and like I said earlier any government in any legislature, any Minister, new Minister coming in has the prerogative to review their programs and policies and if there are problems there, they will move to make those amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have no other choice but to occupy public houses in the communities. There are people who own their own homes and pay a little less than the ones who live in public housing and yet, we have no other choice but to occupy public housing.

The \$20 million dollars that was set aside is very good to hear, but I think we have to look elsewhere for someone to provide us with housing. As one of the Members stated, the money that the individuals receive, as soon as their salary is increased their housing is increased right away.

We would like to be able to reach 85% Inuit employment, but it just seems like we have a barrier where the more money that you make, the more money they take for rent. It just

seems like we will not be able to reach the 85% target of Inuit employment because the more money you make the more they take off for rent.

I wonder if the next Government would be able to do a better job or to provide a better rental scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** That is a hypothetical question, Mr. Iqaqrialu, but certainly Minister Ng will attempt to address it.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact the Member is incorrect in that if your salary goes up in this current year, your rent will automatically go up. That was one of the recommendations to try to encourage individuals to start work, or further themselves. It happens though, in the following year, so there is a grace period for that.

And at the same time 85% is not taken off your income. I am not sure what the Member is referencing in respect to the 85%, but that is not the case as well. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I make a mistake in my question, I apologize. If I could ask another questions. Is there a policy for public housing that you could provide as a Department, a policy for rental scales to break down how much rent that you pay into the house and what it is being used for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we can provide the new rental scale once again to the Member. The rents that are received go to the local Housing Authorities to pay for the power, to pay for the fuel, to pay for the maintenance of the public housing unit. That is where the money goes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity. The people of Nunavut have to be able to understand what they are paying for. Will you be providing us with a breakdown of the expenses that are put towards rent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Order. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would agree that anybody who is paying rent, what that rent is comprised of, and there was consultations, extensive consultations, public meetings in every community prior to the implementation of the



new rent scale. So there was ample opportunity for everybody who was interested to become involved.

Having said that as well they can continue to go into the local Housing Authority offices, get copies, have it explained to them, and have it laid out before them, exactly how it works, and how it impacts them individually.

There are many opportunities and if that is not happening, then certainly it is the Housing Corporation staff can work with the local Housing Authorities to make sure that that does happen as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members will note that question period is now over. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, can I ask to return to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery for just a minute.

**Speaker:** The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

#### **Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the person behind here, Mr. Herman Avaalak Bruce who I adopted from his mom before I was married.

He is an excellent mechanic and he can fix anything and he needs a job. I think he is the most experienced mechanic in Nunavut and also his daughter Savana Bruce Manitok, Manitok Savana Bruce, who is in Churchill, we send our regards from myself and her father. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Picco.

#### **Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

##### **Return to Written Question 021 – 1(6): Lena Pederson Boarding Home**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to a written question asked by Mr. Donald Havioryak on November the 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

1. What is the policy for the assignment of beds at the Lena Pederson Boarding Home in Yellowknife?

The residents from the Kitikmeot region receive priority for the bed assignment. Unilingual elders receive first priority then assignment of bed locations in the home is allocated based on client need and medical condition. Women and men are segregated in different areas of the home.

2. Are residents from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak and Kugaaruk travelling to Yellowknife for medical purposes given priority over Nunavut residents for accommodations at the Lena Pederson Board Home?

Mr. Speaker, yes. All Kitikmeot residents are given first priority.

3. Are Nunavut residents travelling to Yellowknife for medical purposes given priority over non-Nunavut residents for accommodation at the Lena Pederson Boarding Home?

Yes, Nunavut residents travelling to Yellowknife for medical purposes are given priority over non-Nunavut residents for accommodations at the Lena Pederson Boarding Home.

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

Clients sign a travel consent policy prior to the medical travel which outlines client responsibility, client rights and benefits and that the no alcohol and drug policy, fire health regulations for occupancy are also strictly followed.

5. Does the Lena Pederson Boarding Home meet all of the contractual requirements for the Nunavut Department of Health and if not what specific contractual obligations are not being met?

Yes, under the request for proposal process outline requirements prior to the contract assignment.

6. If the Lena Pederson Boarding Home does not meet all the contractual requirements of the department what options are being considered by the Department to ensure compliance?

That question is not applicable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Quirke.

#### **Return to Written Question 020 – 1(6): Request for Proposals**

**Mr. Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table on behalf of the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation a return to Written Questions 20-1(6). Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Ms. Williams.

### **Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

#### **Committee Report 007 – 1(6): Final Report on the Review of the Official Languages Act**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with our Committee's final report on the Review of the Official Languages Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee to review the Official Languages Act was created by a motion of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on February 26, 2001. The Committee is made up of five members of the Legislative Assembly. Myself, as the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Donald Havioyak, the MLA for Kugluktuk, the a co-chair, Ovide Alakannuark, MLA for Akulliq, David Iqaqrialu, the MLA for Uqquqmmiut and the Honourable Peter Kilabuk, the MLA for Pangnirtung.

Members Anawak, and Kattuk also served on the Committee and I would like to thank them for their contributions. The mandate of our Committee was to review the provisions and operations of the Official Languages Act in accordance with section 29 of that same Act.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the review process began by consulting with key stakeholders, organizations, and the Government of Nunavut departments in order to ensure that the Special Committee had a good understanding of what language policies and services are currently in place, and what language concerns are seen as critical issues. Developing solid baseline information was seen as a necessary precondition for carrying out the comprehensive and effective public consultation process.

The Special Committee would like to acknowledge the participants and input of such bodies as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the former Nunavut Social Development Council, the three Regional Inuit Associations, the Francophone Association of Nunavut, Inuit Heritage Trust, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Taskforce and the Nunavut Literacy Council.

(interpretation) The Committee would also like to extend as special note of appreciation to the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut, Ms. Eva Aariak, for her participation in the Committee's work, and the extensive materials provided by her Office. And Ms. Eva Aariak, who is here. Thank you.

The Committee's review process also involved the collection of information from every government department on its capacity to provide services in Nunavut's Official

Languages. Its current initiative related to language policy and services, such as signage forms and documentation, as well as any short and/or long-term initiatives relating to language use in Nunavut.

The Committee met with representatives from every department to review and discuss the information provided.

A summary of the compiled results is included as an appendix to this report. The committee heard a number of presentations on language activities in other Canadian jurisdictions including Nunavik and the Northwest Territories as well as Greenland and other jurisdictions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as you will recall the Special Committee tabled the income report on progress in March 2002. The interim report contained four recommendations which were presented in this House.

Mr. Speaker, the government tabled its response in December 2002. The special committee's position with respect to the government's response included in the final responses and includes the following.

The Special Committee recommends that regular updates be provided to all Members of Legislative Assembly regarding the ongoing development of government's language policy, its status, the implementation policy and evaluation of the ... Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I'd like to remind Members to try to stay in the House while the reports are being read. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Special Committee recommends that regular updates be provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly regarding the ongoing development of the government's language policy, its status, the implementation plans and evaluations to follow its success.

The committee reiterates and clarifies in position by recommending that the following sectors be designated as essential not only in the first coming government-wide language policy but also through regulation under the new Official Languages Act.

Essential sectors should include any division responsible for public safety including travel and transportation, health and social services, education and any division responsible for administration of justice.

And the Special Committee recommends that initiatives undertaken by institutions outside of the territorial government's jurisdiction, such as the federal government, Inuit organizations and private sectors be acknowledged and encouraged.

Based on the information and input generated in the first phase of its new review process, the committee developed a series of focus questions designed to encourage and stimulate participation during public consultations in the communities. The committee accompanied by the Language Commissioner held public meetings in over 1/3 of Nunavut's communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Special Committee was very pleased with the level of thought and consideration contained in the input received from community residents. Many individuals referred specifically to the focus questions posed by the committee.

Not surprisingly, people spoke with passion about the role of language in their lives. A number of recurring themes came up in consultation meetings across Nunavut. These included the views; that Inuktitut should be recognized as the official language of Nunavut along with English and French; Inuktitut be equal to English and French; that the Official Languages Act should apply to the private sectors especially where stores are concerned; that the Act should apply to all municipalities in Nunavut; that Inuinnaqtun is in grave danger of disappearing; that all government forms should be translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and the government information directed to Inuit should be in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

Mr. Speaker as a result of this public consultation process, its review of submissions and presentations and its extensive deliberations the special committee has developed two sets of recommendations which I have presented in this final report.

One the set of recommendations focuses on language-related issues through the course of the review the second set of recommendations focuses specifically on elements that the committee would wish to see included in a new made in *Nunavut Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Speaker although the recommendations presented in this report might seem idealistic given the translation related capacity issues faced by many governmental organizations including let's say the Assembly itself, the special committee feels that the legislation must play a critical role protecting, promoting and implementing the language of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker at this time I would like to turn it over to my colleague, Mr. Havioyak.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you; I will give my presentation a little bit of it in Inuinnaqtun. Mr. Speaker even preparing the committee's report for tabling in our four languages of course posed a logistical challenge. Readers will note that sections of the Inuktitut version of this report are written in three different dialects.

This illustrates the kind of linguistic challenge that will have to be overcome as we work towards a future. With respect to general language related issues the special committee recommends the following recommendations. That the *Official Languages Act* provide the mandatory or actively offer services in all the official languages in all the sectors designated as essential and that the legislation clearly define active offers of service.

That the *Official Languages Act* provide government signage in all official languages to be mandatory and all other sectors be encouraged to accommodation of policy and regulation.

(Interpretation ends) That the *Official Languages Act* set out the Government of Nunavut's responsibility is to ensure the promotion of the official languages and to support the development, enhance the language use, utility is at risk.

That the Act provide that a single Minister shall be designated as responsible and accountable for the implementation of the Act. The Minister should be responsible for submitting an annual report to the Legislative Assembly. The Minister should develop a government wide Official Languages Act Implementation Plan including an evaluation and accountability work frame, procedures and measures of tracking demanded service delivery and that the Minister should formally consult with the Languages Commissioner to develop a procedure for the public to make complaints.

The Minister responsible should also report to the House at the first sitting of the next Assembly on the acceptance of this report and on the status and progress of the implementation of its recommendations.

That the Official Languages Act should clarify provisions for compliance if language service are to be required of non-governmental agencies, and that they are provide that all Ministers be required to table. Mr. Speaker, in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, reports on any departmental activity that impacts on Official Languages. That an Official Language body with effective decision making powers be established through the Legislative Assembly. This body should have the authority to develop and approve terminology, address the appropriate use of the dialects, and that is a resource to the Government and standardized writing system.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify that we are not recommending that the one writing system be standardized for all Nunavummiut; we are simply recommending that the Official Language body find resolutions to various issues relating to the use of Inuktitut syllabics and the use of the writing system Inuinnaqtun.

An Official Language body could cooperate with the Government in establishing and maintaining policies focussed on the implementation of the Official Language Act. Establishing and maintaining a system to qualify and to certify French, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun interpreters/translator and in maintaining a public registry of interpreters, translators and their levels of qualifications and certification, and provide reviews and reports on the language issues.

Let the Language Commissioner's oath be clarified with respect to the role of the designated language authority. That the Minister responsible for the Act work with the Francophone Association of Nunavut at the earliest opportunity to discuss and lay the foundation for the delivery of French language service as mandated under the Act.

The Special Committee recommend that the Government's first priority in the areas of language should be introduced and pass a new made in Nunavut Official Language Act, and further that in drafting the new statute, the Government give consideration to include those aspects of the Language Commissioner's proposed Inuktitut Protection Act, and that specially promote, support and strengthen the use of Inuit languages.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn over the reading of the report to the Chair. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague, Mr. Havioyak. With regards to specific aspects the Committee wishes to see included in the new Official Languages Act, the Special Committee makes the following recommendations: that the current Official Languages Act be repealed and, Mr. Speaker, a new Official Languages Act be introduced reflecting the findings and recommendations of the Special Committee to review the Official Languages Act; that the Government of Nunavut introduce a new statute to replace the Official Languages Act as a first priority during the Second Legislative Assembly.

(Interpretation ends) That the preamble to the new Act includes language to the effect that the purpose of the Act is to implement the essence of Sections 16 to 20 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the intent of the Act is to recognize the languages rights of all Nunavummiut.

That the Act apply equally to Municipal Governments and that the Government put in place a requesting timetable and deadline for the meeting of this requirement. That the Act designates French, English, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun as the Official Languages of Nunavut.

That the Act requires that Act of the Legislative Assembly and records, journals, and sound recordings of the Legislative Assembly be produced in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English, and French and that the Government request a timetable and deadline for the meeting of this requirement.

That then becomes an additional requirement for the production of Hansard, and all statements made by or before Members of the Legislative Assembly be reported in the language in which they are made and that translation into the other Official Languages be included.

That it become a requirement that all official instruments directed to the public be in all Official Languages in all cases. That Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French have equal status in all sections of the Act and that pertains to court proceedings, decisions, orders and judgements and that the Government put in place a request timetable and deadline for the meeting of this requirement.

That the Act clearly defines the obligation of Government in terms of providing services in the Official Languages. That the Act requires the publication of the Nunavut Gazette in Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, English and French, and further that any instrument, regulation, or proclamation previously published in the Nunavut Gazette that is deemed to be of high importance, and of current interest in the general public being retroactively published in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

The Sections in the Act dealing with the Languages Commissioner ensure that the Commissioner has authority at similar level to the other independent offices of the Legislative Assembly to allow for full and adequate reviews and inquiries including the ability to compel witnesses to appear and the power to require the Government to respond to recommendations by a certain time.

And further that the Act comes from the right of individuals to complain and that the Act protects from threats, intimidation and discrimination any person who might file a complaint. And that the Act require a review to be undertaken every five years to ensure that the provisions and implementation of the Act, and other Official Languages initiatives are effective, and that the results are tabled in the House.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, although the life of this First Assembly will soon draw to a close, the Members of the Special Committee feel sure that this will not be left unrecognized. We urge all Members of the second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to act on this report as soon as possible in order that the goal of developing and enacting a made in Nunavut Official Languages Act becomes a reality.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I present this final report, although it might be the special committee's last action before dissolution, it is the committee's hope that the government carefully consider the issues raised by the committee's review and work to introduce a new statute as a constitutional priority in the next Assembly.

At this time Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the report of the special committee be received and adopted by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Item 11. Report of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Report of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.



**Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills****Committee Report 023 – 1(6): Bill 49 – An Act to Amend the Safety Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services and that the Bill is ready for consideration in committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68(5) and have Bill 49 moved into committee of the whole today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a request to waive rule 68(5) of the standing committee report on Bill 49 and be immediately referred to committee of the whole today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 49 is referred to committee of the whole for today. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. McLean.

**Committee Report 024 – 1(6): Bill 35 – The Wildlife Act**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, I wish to report that Bill 35, the Wildlife Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and that the Bill as amended and reprinted again, is ready for consideration in committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68(5) and have Bill 35 move into committee of the whole today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. There is a request to waive rule 68(5) that the standing committee report on Bill 35 can be immediately referred to committee of the whole today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 35 is referred to committee of the whole for today. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kattuk.

**Item 13: Tabling of Documents****Tabled Document 158 – 1(6): Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti Policy First Comprehensive Review 2003**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the document Nunavummi Namminiaqtuni Ikajuuti Policy First Comprehensive Review, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Premier Okalik.

**Tabled Document 159 – 1(6): Response to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services Review of the 2001/2002 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commission**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, Response to Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services Review of the 2001/2002 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Are there any further Tabling of Documents? Mr. Clerk.

**Tabled Document 160 – 1(6): Responses to Petitions 9 -1(6) and 10 – 1(6)**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table the responses for Petition 9-1(6) and Petition 10-1(6). Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notice of Motions. Item 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2004 - Notice**

**Bill 51 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004 - Notice**

**Bill 52 - Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 - Notice**

**Bill 53 - Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003-2004 - Notice**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, December the 4<sup>th</sup>, I will move that Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2004, Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004, Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 and Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003/2004 be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. Item 15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

**Bill 54 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) - Notice**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, December 4, 2003, that Bill 54, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Item 15. Notice 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 to unanimous consent from the Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bills 50, 51, 52 and 53 for today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2004 – First Reading**

**Bill 51 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004 - First Reading**

**Bill 52 - Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 - First Reading**

**Bill 53 - Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003/2004 - First Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004, Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 2 2003/2004 and Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003/2004 be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. The Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and the Bills have had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent of the Assembly to waive the one day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 for today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng, due to the fact that this is a money Bill, you do not need consent so you can put it straight forward.

### Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

#### **Bill 50 - Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup> of 2004 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** There you go. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that clarification and direction. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 50, Interim Appropriation Act April 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2004 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorizes the Government to make interim appropriations of the first quarter of 2004/2005 fiscal year. This will enable the Government to make expenditures in the amount of \$190 million, 640 thousand dollars. In total, 2004-2005 Main Estimates are approved. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 50 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

#### **Bill 51 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004– Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 51, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3 2003/2004 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill provides a supplementary appropriation for the Government of Nunavut to defray capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2004. The supplementary funding requested it specifically for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in the amount of \$5 million, 900 thousand dollars. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in order to the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 51 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

#### **Bill 52 – Supplementary Appropriation (O & M) Act No. 2, 2003/2004 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove that Bill 52, Supplementary Appropriation (Operation and Maintenance) Act No. 2 2003/2004 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of Nunavut to defray operating and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year and in 2003-2004 in the amount of \$6 million, 345 thousand dollars. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 52 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent of the Assembly to waive the one day notice requirement to allow for Second Reading of Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2003-2004 for today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Minister is seeking to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 53 can have Second Reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Ng.

### **Bill 53 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003/2004 – Second Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since this Bill deals with debt, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East that Bill 53, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2003/2004 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorizes the Government to write off assets in accordance with Section 82 of the Financial Administration Act and Debts in accordance with Sections 24 and 82 for the Financial Administration Act.

More specifically, the Act authorizes the Nunavut Development Corporation to right down slow moving inventory and for the Government and Nunavut Arctic College to write off debts that are not collectable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 53 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 35, Bill 49, Bill 50, Bill 51 and Bill 52 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair and in 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. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a short 20-minute break.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*

*>>House recessed at 16:14 and resumed at 16:59*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome back to the Chamber. During the Committee of the Whole we will be dealing with Bill 35, 49, 50 and 52. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to begin with the review of Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act and after that we would like to deal with Bill 35. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Agreed? During the Committee of the Whole we will be reviewing Bill 49. Does the Committee agree that we deal with Bill 49?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Ng do you have your opening comments?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to appear before you to review Bill 49, An Act to Amend the Safety Act.

Mr. Chairman, Bill 49 is the result of an open and productive process that was undertaken to bring about much needed changes to the Worker's Compensation Act and the Safety Act.

Amendments will clearly identify the players in the modern work site and establish their respective responsibilities. For the first time, individuals who supply equipment and tools to a worksite will be responsible for ensuring that equipment and tools are safe.

Where two or more employers have charge of an establishment, the principal contractor or the owner, depending on the circumstances, will be responsible for coordinating the activities of all the employers to ensure that health and safety of persons in the establishment.

Amendments will permit safety officers to directly address potential ongoing safety issues without the necessity of resorting to costly and time consuming court proceedings by issuing Stop Work Directions where an employer refuses to rectify a potential danger.

The current Safety Act only requires employers to have safety committees; however, modern occupational health and safety philosophy requires employers to have appropriate safety programs. Safety committees are but one part of a proper safety program. These amendments will require employers to develop appropriate safety programs for their business. Regulations will be drafted to assist employers to determine the appropriate safety programs for them.

A Safety Advisory Committee made up of representatives of the interests of workers, employers and chaired by the Chief Safety Officer will have a mandate to advise on amendments to the Act and regulations that are required in the interests of occupational health and safety.

To assist workers and employers understand sections of the Act and regulations which are often unclear, the Chief Safety Officer will be given authority to issue Codes of Practice. These codes will remain in place until proper regulations can be developed.

The provisions of the Act related to disclosure of information will be brought in line to recognize the fact that the WCB has been given responsibility to administer a number of Acts related to health and safety in Nunavut and can use information obtained under the Safety Act to properly administer other legislation. The Bill also recognizes the WCB's obligations under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Because the WCB is a shared NWT/Nunavut Board, any changes to Nunavut legislation must be mirrored in the NWT. The content of the legislative proposal was developed with input from both governments. Mr. Chairman, we are ready to answer any questions and deal with the Bill. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Before we go to the Bill, I would like to ask the Committee Chairperson, Mr. Tootoo, if he has any opening remarks.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services is pleased to have had the opportunity to review Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act with the Minister and his officials.

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

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

The Safety Act also comes under the jurisdiction of the board, which is jointly shared by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the committee would again wish to stress the need for the government here to make efforts to ensure our Bills are introduced into this House in as timely a fashion as possible. To date we've been in a position of considering Bills after their parallel version have first been considered and in some cases amended by our western counterparts.

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. The Bill was provided by the establishment of the Safety Advisory Committee that would make recommendations regarding the Act and the regulations made under it.

Members understand that these appointments would be made jointly by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Ministers responsible for the Act and would urge our Minister to ensure that Nunavut is effectively represented on the committee.

Another concern raised by members is related to the establishment of Joint Work Site Health and Safety Committees. The present Safety Act provides that these bodies would be composed of an equal number of workers chosen by the workers at the work site and persons chosen by the employer.

Members were concerned that this guarantee of balanced representation currently in the legislation was removed by Bill 49 and we were pleased the Minister agreed to bring forward an amendment in committee of the whole this afternoon which we'll be hearing to address this concern.

The committee would note for the record, the continued trend on the part of the government to remove elements from statutes and place them under regulation. As members know regulations can be changed at any time by the Cabinet alone without any degree of public scrutiny.

The committee would strongly urge the government to ensure that new regulations are developed in a genuinely consultative manner and communicated clearly to the public.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. The Standing Committee recommends passage of Bill 49 to all Members. Individual Members may raise their own comments and questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng, will you have your officials present with you? You may proceed to the witness table at this time.

Sergeant-at-Arms, can you assist the officials and the minister?

Thank you, Minister Ng. Please introduce your officials for the committee.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is David Simms, the Acting Vice-president for Nunavut and to my right is Ms. Sarah McDermott who is legal counsel for both of the Worker's Compensation Boards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. In accordance with rule 77(1) we have 10 minutes for general comments and once that is complete, in accordance with the rules you will also have ten minutes for questions.

Does anyone have any general comments at this time? If there are no general comments we'll go to Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act.



Do all Members have it? Bill 49. Turning the page. Clause 1 of Bill 49, an Act to Amend the Safety Act. Page 1. Are you on that page? Thank you. Do you want to go Clause by Clause? 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? Mr. Tootoo.

**Committee Motion 020 – 1(6): Clause 6 of Bill 49 An Act to Amend the Safety Act be Amended**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a Motion here. I move that Clause 6 of Bill 49 be amended by the addition of the following after 7(2):

Composition of the Committee

- (3) Where an employer is required by the regulations or directed by the Chief Safety Officer under the regulations to establish a Joint Work Site Health and Safety Committee, the Committee shall be composed of an equal number of
- a) Workers chosen by the workers at the work site who are representative of and who shall represent the occupational health and safety concerns of all the workers at the work site; and
  - b) Persons chosen by the employer, or by each employer where workers of two or more employers are employed at the same work site, to represent the employer.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. Any comments on the Motion? Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Which Clause are we on? Are we on Clause 6 or Clause 7?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on Clause 6 of Bill 49. That is the Motion on Clause 6. Can you see the Motion? We are on Clause 6. To the Motion. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): All in favour. Opposed. Clause 6, agreed as amended. Clause 7. Agreed? Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want another clarification on Clause 7 because there are two 7's. There is a Safety Program, Clause 7, and there is also a subsection under 7. Which one are we dealing with? Clause 7, there are two of them. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng, if you can clarify for the Member, under Clause 7. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Clause 6 actually deals with section 7. Clause 7 deals with section 11, I believe, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Clause 7. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this clause deals with the code of practise and I guess I am just looking for clarification. I know we have the Legislation, an actual Act that is right here and a lot of things that are outlined in regulations and this

code of practise; I would just like some clarification on exactly what that is and the power and extent of that, if it has the same authority and the same power as the Act or regulation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. McDermott to speak to this. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. McDermott.

**Ms. McDermott:** The code of practises intended to elaborate on anything that might be in the Act or the regulations to assist an employer or a worker to understand what their rights or their duties are under the Legislation.

They are meant to be able to respond in a timely way to changes in technology, changes in industry standards, changes in just practises. One example that I could give is that often a regulation will quote a CSA standard and that workers or employers are to follow and those often change more quickly than regulations can be updated.

A code of practise would bring the updated standard into effect in a timely way so that they can be taken advantage of in workplaces. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. McDermott. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to again, just for clarification, there is a code of practise, which is basically an agreement in principle until something is changed in the regulations if I am interpreting the response correctly.

What are the ramifications of violating the Act or violating the regulations? You can be prosecuted for doing that. Is that the same thing with these codes of practise? Are you in violation? Do they have the same penalties for violating a code of practise as you would of violating any regulation or a section under the Act? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. That was a very good response. We are on Clause 11. Clause 11. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Clause 16. Agreed? Mr. Tootoo. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Safety Advisory Committee, is there a current Safety Advisory Committee in place now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** No, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there somebody that said that they should set up the Safety Committee or is this something to add to the bureaucracy of the Workers' Compensation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this Committee is vested with the responsibility to make recommendations on Legislative or regulatory changes in order to enhance safety in a workplace. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time we will conclude with that number. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just on that Safety Advisory Committee, and as we are all aware that the joint board with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and other amendments that we have looked at through the Workers' Compensation Board, is the Minister responsible in the Northwest Territories who has the final say on who is on the appointments?

I am just wondering, in this case here, which says the Minister shall, is that the Minister, you in this case right now or would that be the Minister in the Northwest Territories that would be responsible for making those appointments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the amendments when passed, will allow Nunavut and the Northwest Territories to set up separate their Safety Committees if they chose to do that. I think the intent is to have a joint committee representative of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories in the interest of a spirit of cooperation that we have maintained right from the start, having a shared Board.

And of course, two new Ministers responsible, two new governments will deal with that issue once they come into office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does the Minister have any idea that the recommendation that these Advisory Committees would be made up equally from representatives from Nunavut and the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, from my perspective, as the Minister responsible for Nunavut, I would say, yes that would be the ideal situation for us, but having said that, we recognize that it is based on the inter-governmental agreement that was signed off, and what the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have been working under. The Northwest Territories has a bit more emphasis because they have a larger proportion of employers based in the Northwest Territories right now, and it was based on the traditional or historical clientele. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you still have any questions? Are you finished? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are done as that was Clause 16; there is another Motion that I would like to make. It is not here right now so I do not know if you want to see if it will be ready shortly. If it is not, then maybe we just report progress and then come back and deal with that one Motion tomorrow that deals with the coming into force provisions of the Act.

We cannot complete the whole thing without having something in there. If it is not going to be ready right away, then maybe if we report progress and deal with it the first thing, that one Clause, and the finish it off then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Since we do not have the Motion, at hand here, there is a Motion to report progress. Do you agree? The Speaker can return to the Chamber. I am sorry, Minister Ng. I would like to thank you and say see you tomorrow. Thank you.

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

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 49 and would like to Report progress. 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. Puqignak will second the Motion. The Motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

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

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, a reminder to the Members of the Standing Committee Government Operations is meeting tomorrow morning at half past eight in the Tuktu Board Room.

Orders for the Day for Wednesday, December 3rd.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 35
- Bill 49
- Bill 50
- Bill 51
- Bill 52

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Quirke. Just a reminder to the Members that we do have a meeting at 7:00 this evening at the Navigator and we'd like all Members to attend.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by motion 2-1(6) this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, December 3, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 17:32*

