

We need a break. We need the federal government to invest in us and our future. Give us a chance. Have faith in us. Give us the tools to manage our affairs and we will do it and we will do it well.

Invest in us and Canada will get a return that will be of long-term benefit.

[*Translation*]

Together, in partnership, we can build a better Canada for our children in which all peoples are respected. It would be a Canada in which all children have the same opportunities and where our elders can feel secure and at peace in the knowledge that the land, the people, the culture and the language are strong and will survive.

What will make Nunavut work is the people. All the people of Nunavut need to participate in the establishment of Nunavut. Everyone must get involved. Everyone must feel a part of Nunavut.

Nunavut's representatives on the Nunavut implementation commission will be carrying a very heavy burden of responsibility. They will need the help and advice of the people. It is important for the people of Nunavut to talk to them, assist them in their work and tell them what needs to be done.

For the next few moments I want to speak directly to the youth of Nunavut. I want first to express my regrets to the graduating class in Broughton Island. I had promised to be at their graduation yesterday but had to cancel so I could deal with these bills in the House today. My next words are for them and for all the youth of Nunavut.

Nunavut needs you, all of you.

I want to recognize the achievements of all the students who are graduating this year. I want to recognize the tremendous obstacles many of you have overcome to get this far. You have coped with poverty and sometimes not enough food to eat. You have coped with overcrowded housing conditions with no quiet place to study. Many of you have struggled with family responsibilities in addition to your studies. You have struggled through sickness, possibly the deaths of family members and friends, some to suicide and some of you may have even attempted suicide yourselves.

### *Government Orders*

However, through it all you have kept going despite all the hard times and often without any support at all you have achieved your goal.

To those who have been discouraged and dropped out I say that they should not give up. Go back to school. Nunavut needs its own people to run it. We do not want to import all the expertise from elsewhere. We need the people of Nunavut to run the Government of Nunavut.

• (1420)

[*English*]

In closing I would just like to say that when we talk about Nunavut we speak in reverential poems about the area of Nunavut. I would just like to read a poem on how we feel about Nunavut. It is entitled "Nunavut You Hold Such Promise". I will read it:

My father died believing in you—  
That you already were—that you had always been.  
He thought that he had known you all along  
That you had looked after him and his people since time began.

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
My mother spoke of you as she sewed  
And told the stories of long ago  
That taught us young ones  
That we would be protected

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
My grandmother spoke of you  
In her soft, lilting voice  
As she sang us to sleep  
Content to know of you

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
My uncle smiled as he spoke of your bounty  
On the trail, near the coast, in the hills  
As he drew on his old pipe  
And captured our imagination

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
My small ones spoke of you too  
Curiously, asking what you were  
And why we all spoke of you  
In quiet, respectful tones

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
And I must ensure that all that I know—  
All you are—must be known as I know it  
So that the ones that spring from me  
Will grasp your gift of wonder

Nunavut you hold such promise.  
Guide me as you have guided many.  
Comfort me, lead me, show me  
What it is I must come to know  
I shall listen, watch and learn