

*Government Orders*

Part II of this bill deals with official languages, the Nunavut consolidated revenue fund, territorial accounts, lands and cultural sites and property.

Part III deals with the Nunavut implementation commission.

Part IV involves transitional provisions, expenditures and the interim commissioner of Nunavut.

Part V includes the coming into force dates and the consequential amendments.

[*Translation*]

I regret that we have not had more time to study this bill. This bill and the land claim legislation were only tabled in this House last Friday. Exactly one week has passed. This is hardly enough time to absorb all the details, and consider all the consequences.

Nevertheless, because of the importance of these bills to the people of Nunavut and to the people of Canada, all parties have agreed to fast-track them.

I hope we have not missed or overlooked anything major. I am reassured by the fact that Tungavik was involved in the drafting of these bills. If there was anything out of the ordinary, I am sure it would have been picked up.

[*English*]

In terms of the details of the bills, I want to raise a couple of areas of concern. The first involves the transition process and implementation, the second involves the funding and the third involves education and training.

Probably the most significant part of this bill is the Nunavut implementation commission. This commission will determine the face of the future government of Nunavut.

It will consist of a chairperson and nine other members. Three members will be nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, three will be nominated by Tungavik, and three will be nominated by the federal government. At least six of the members must be ordinarily resident in Nunavut.

The mandate of the commission is to advise the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Tungavik on the establishment of Nunavut.

• (1405)

The mandate includes: (a) the timetable for the assumption by the Nunavut government of responsibility for the delivery of services; (b) the process for the first election of the Nunavut legislative assembly, including the numbers of members and the establishment of electoral districts; (c) the design and funding of training programs; (d) the process for determining the location of the capital of Nunavut; (e) the principles and the criteria for the equitable division of assets and liabilities between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories; (f) the new public works necessitated by the establishment of Nunavut and the scheduling of the construction of the works; (g) the administrative design of the first Government of Nunavut; (h) the arrangements for delivery of programs and services where these are to be phased in; and (i) any other related matter referred to it by the minister.

[*Translation*]

This is a heavy, loaded agenda. These negotiations, particularly the financial negotiations, are going to be difficult and lengthy. All parties to these negotiations, naturally, will be looking to protect their own interests. The representatives for Nunavut will have to be very vigilant. The new territory must be able to start out on the best possible footing.

I also want to deal for a moment with the transitional provisions of this bill that could establish the office of an interim commissioner of Nunavut. This individual, under the provisions of this bill, could wield a great deal of power. The bill says the federal cabinet can appoint an interim commissioner until the first commissioner is appointed.

[*English*]

The interim commissioner is to act according to written directions given to him or her by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The minister will be able to determine the manner in which these directions are made public.

The powers of the powers include: (a) recruiting persons for employment by the government of Nunavut; (b) prescribing the duties and conditions of employment such persons; (c) establishing systems and processes for the government of Nunavut, including the organization and administration of the territorial courts; and (d) carrying out any other functions as the federal cabinet may determine.