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Whereas it is desirable to establish and define the powers and privileges of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and to set out the rules and procedures that will govern the conduct of its business pursuant to the Labrador Inuit Constitution.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the Nunatsiavut Assembly as follows:

Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act.

PART 1 DEFINITIONS

2. In this Act:

“Act” means a Bill which has been approved by the Assembly and assented to by the President, which becomes an Inuit Law when recorded in the Registry of laws;

"Adjournment" means the termination of a daily sitting by the Speaker

"Dissolution" means the termination of an Assembly by order of the President.

"Bill" means a legislative proposal before the Assembly;

"Assembly" means the Nunatsiavut Assembly constituted in terms of Chapter 4 of the Constitution;

"Clerk" means the Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly appointed under part 12 of this Act;

"Committee" means a standing or special committee of the Assembly;

"Constitution" means the Labrador Inuit Constitution;

"Effective Date" means the date on which the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and the Constitution come into effect;

"Executive Council" means the Nunatsiavut Executive Council appointed by the President in terms of Chapter 5 of the Constitution;

"*Ex Officio* Members" means, the mayors from time to time of the Town of Nain, the Town of Hopedale, the Town of Makkovik, the Town of Postville and the Town of Rigolet in the period after the Effective Date but before the Inuit Communities have first elected their AngajukKât and the chairs of Community Corporations;

"First Minister" means the First Minister of Nunatsiavut appointed by the President pursuant to Part 3.2.6 of the Constitution;

"Member" means a member of the Assembly or a member of a Committee and, for greater certainty, includes a member of a Committee who is not a member of the Assembly;

"Members' Services Committee" means a Standing Committee established pursuant to section 78 of this Act with responsibility for matters having to do with the internal affairs, finances and management practices of the Assembly;

"President" means the President of Nunatsiavut and unless the context otherwise requires, includes the transitional President under Schedule 14-A of the Constitution and includes any person acting as President in terms of part 3.6 of the Constitution;

"Prorogation" means the termination of a Session by the President.

"Recess" means a temporary suspension of sittings within a Term or at the end of a Term;

"Resolution" means a formal statement approved by the Assembly which recognizes, affirms or introduces a point of principle or an indication of intent but which lacks the force of law;

"Session" means an annual convening of the Assembly summoned and prorogued by the

President.

“Speaker” means the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly provided for under Part 4 of this Act and includes an ordinary member of the Assembly other than the Speaker who performs the duties and exercises the authority of speaker;

“Standing Orders and Procedures” means the standing orders, rules, procedures and proceedings of the Nunatsiavut Assembly established pursuant to this Act;

“Term” means either the spring or fall term of a Session of the Assembly pursuant to section 32; and

“Treasurer” means the Treasurer of Nunatsiavut appointed by the President pursuant to subsection 5.1.1 (c) of the Constitution.

PART 2 NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY ELECTED PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION

3. The Nunatsiavut Assembly shall consist of 16 members and be constituted in terms of section 4.1.2 of the Constitution.
4. The date of the first election of the ordinary members of the Assembly shall be set by order of the President but must be held no later than the first anniversary of the Effective Date.
5. The President must give at least 28 days notice of the date of the first election of the ordinary members of the Assembly.
6. For purposes of the first election of the ordinary members of the Assembly there shall be 7 constituencies as follows:
 - (a) Nain, consisting of Inuit resident in the region of Nain;
 - (b) Hopedale, consisting of Inuit resident in the region of Hopedale;
 - (c) Makkovik, consisting of Inuit resident in the region of Makkovik;
 - (d) Postville, consisting of Inuit resident in the region of Postville;
 - (e) Rigolet, consisting of Inuit resident in the region of Rigolet;
 - (f) Upper Lake Melville, consisting of Inuit resident in the communities of Happy Valley - Goose Bay, North West River and Mud Lake; and
 - (g) Canada, consisting of all Inuit resident in places in Canada other than the constituencies enumerated in subsections (a) through (f).

One Ordinary Member to Represent Each Constituency

7. Except as provided in section 8, one member of the Assembly shall be returned for each constituency under the simple plurality system at an election held in or for each constituency.

Additional Representation for Nain and Upper Lake Melville

8. The Nain constituency and the Upper Lake Melville constituency shall each be represented by 2 ordinary members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

Representatives of the Inuit Community Governments and Inuit Community Corporations

9. The AngajukKaat of each Community Government and the Chair of each Community Council shall be members of the Assembly subject to the provisions of Chapter 4 of the Constitution.
10. Despite section 9, if the AngajukKaat have not yet taken office in terms of the Constitution when the Assembly convenes following the first election of the ordinary members, the mayors from time to time of the Town of Nain, the Town of Hopedale, the Town of Makkovik, the Town of Postville and the Town of Rigolet are, *ex officio*, members of the Assembly until such time as the AngajukKaat are elected.
11. *Ex Officio* Members of the Assembly may participate in the proceedings of the Assembly for purposes of sections 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 of the Constitution but despite section 4.1.6 of the Constitution, have no vote in the Nunatsiavut Transitional Assembly and are not counted for purposes of meeting a quorum.

PART 3 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE, LOSS OF OFFICE AND FILLING OF VACANCIES

Ordinary Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly

12. Only Inuit who are qualified in terms of part 4.3 of the Constitution may be members of the Assembly.

Oath of Office

13. Before a member of the Assembly begins to perform the member's functions in the Assembly, the member must make an oath or solemn affirmation, administered by the President, as follows:

“In the presence of everyone assembled here, and in full realization of the high calling I assume as a member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and that the powers entrusted to me are for the benefit of all Labrador Inuit I, A. B., swear [or in the case of an affirmation: solemnly affirm] that I will be faithful to the Inuit and to Nunatsiavut and will obey, respect and uphold the Labrador Inuit Constitution and all Inuit laws; and I solemnly promise to fulfill my responsibilities as a leader and to perform my functions as a member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to the best of my ability. [And, in the case of an oath: So help me God.]”

Loss of Membership in Assembly

14. A member loses membership in the Assembly if he or she:
- (a) ceases to be eligible under the Constitution,
 - (b) in the case of an AngajukKak or Chairperson of an Inuit Community Corporation, ceases to hold the office that entitles him or her to membership in the Assembly,
 - (c) resigns,
 - (d) dies,
 - (e) is removed from office under section 4.3.7 of the Constitution,
 - (f) is absent from the Assembly in circumstances for which the Standing Orders prescribe loss of membership,
 - (g) is, or becomes, a Senator, a Member of Parliament or a Member of a Provincial legislature,
 - (h) is convicted of a crime, either in Nunatsiavut or elsewhere, but no person may be regarded as having been convicted of a crime until an appeal against the conviction has been determined or until the time for any appeal has expired.

Resignation from Assembly

15. A member may resign his or her seat as a member of the Assembly:
- (a) by declaring openly in the member's place in the Assembly during its proceedings that the member resigns his or her seat as a member, or
 - (b) by delivering a letter of resignation to the Speaker signed by the member and attested to by two witnesses.

16. A resignation takes effect immediately and cannot be reconsidered or retracted.

Removal from Office

17. A member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly may be removed from office by a resolution of the Nunatsiavut Assembly adopted with a supporting vote of at least 60% of its members only on the grounds of:
- (a) a serious violation of the Labrador Inuit Constitution or Inuit law;
 - (b) becoming unable to perform the functions of office; or
 - (c) unethical or immoral behaviour, including a serious breach of any code of conduct, including a code of ethics and conflict of interest guidelines, that may be established by the Assembly for its members.

18. The validity of any proceeding of the Nunatsiavut Assembly is not affected by any vacancy in its membership.

Filling of Vacancies

19. Vacancies in the Assembly occurring after the first election of ordinary members must be filled in terms of the electoral law to be established pursuant to section 30 of the *Nunatsiavut Transitional Assembly Act* or failing such law an order of the Executive Council.

Normal Duration of Assembly

20. The Nunatsiavut Assembly is elected for a period of 4 years.

Extraordinary Dissolution of Nunatsiavut Assembly

21. An Assembly may be dissolved before the full expiry of its four years if:
- (a) the Assembly resolves that it should be dissolved and if the resolution is passed with at least 2/3 of the total number of seats voting in favour of Dissolution; or
 - (b) the President has removed the First Minister from office and the Nunatsiavut Assembly has been unable for a period of 28 days to nominate one of its members for appointment as First Minister.

PART 4 SPEAKER OF THE NUNATSIAVUT ASSEMBLY

22. There shall be a presiding officer of the Nunatsiavut Assembly to be known as the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

Deputy Speaker

23. When the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly is absent or is unable to act or when the office of the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly is vacant, the functions of the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly may be performed by a deputy speaker appointed by the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly from among the ordinary members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

Functions of the Speaker

24. The Speaker shall represent and speak for the Nunatsiavut Assembly, preside over the debates of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, enforce observance of the Standing Orders and Procedures, control the accommodations and services of the premises and precincts occupied by the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and perform such other functions and exercise such other powers as the Nunatsiavut Assembly may prescribe.

Election of Speaker

25. The Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly shall be an ordinary member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly elected by the Assembly on nomination of the President of

Nunatsiavut.

26. The Assembly at its first sitting after each general election shall, as soon as possible and in accordance with the procedures and Standing Orders, elect one of its members as Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly.

Oath of Office

27. The Speaker shall take office immediately after swearing or affirming the Speaker's oath of office as follows:

In the presence of the members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and in full realization of the responsibilities that have been entrusted to me by the members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly I, _____, swear/solemnly affirm that I will obey, observe, uphold and maintain the rights and privileges of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and the Standing Orders and Procedures of the Nunatsiavut Assembly; and I solemnly and sincerely promise:

- to represent and speak for the Nunatsiavut Assembly with integrity and honour, to preside over the business of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and enforce the rules and procedures of the Assembly with independence, fairness, impartiality, patience and understanding, and
- to promote the efficient operation of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and prevent the obstruction or frustration of the Assembly in the conduct of its business. (In the case of an oath: So help me God.)

28. The person who is Speaker at the time of the dissolution of the Assembly continues to hold office as the Speaker until the election of a new speaker following a general election.

Powers Reserved to the President

29. Nothing in this Part affects the power and responsibility of the President for opening each session of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, delivering the speech that outlines the legislative program for that session of the Assembly; presiding over the proceedings of the Assembly for purposes of opening ceremonies, the swearing of the oaths of office of the members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, the election of the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly, and the administration of the oath of office of the Speaker of the Nunatsiavut Assembly or any of the powers and functions referred to in sections 4.15.1, 4.15.3 and 4.15.5 of the Constitution.

PART 5 ASSEMBLIES, SESSIONS, TERMS AND SITTINGS

30. Each Assembly must be numbered consecutively with the Nunatsiavut Transitional Assembly being designated the Transitional Assembly and the first Assembly elected in terms of the Constitution being the First Assembly.
31. The President must summon and convene the Assembly annually and each annual Session of the Assembly shall be identified by the year in which the Session occurs.

32. Each session shall be divided into a spring term, which must take place between January 15 and June 30, and a fall term, which must take place between September 8 and December 15.
33. Despite section 32, in a year in which a general election is to be held, the spring term of the outgoing Assembly shall end, in accordance with part 4.5 of the Constitution, at the close of the final sitting before the election and the spring term of the next Assembly shall begin, in accordance with part 4.7 of the Constitution, at the convening of the new Assembly following the election.
34. The President must summon and convene the Assembly once each Term. For greater certainty:
 - (a) in a year in which a general election is held the President must convene a sitting of both the outgoing Assembly and the next Assembly during the period from January 15 to June 30, and
 - (b) the President shall, by order, convene the first sitting of the Assembly following a regular election no later than two weeks following the date of the election.
35. A Term may last for one sitting or for two or more consecutive sittings.
36. The Assembly may agree to a recess within a Term without ending the Term.
37. During a Term, each day on which the Assembly sits is a separate sitting.
38. The Assembly may by majority resolution, Adjourn a sitting at any time.
39. Unfinished business on the agenda of the Assembly at the end of a session may be carried over to the next session of the same Assembly but unfinished business of an Assembly dies upon dissolution of the Assembly and, if so desired, must be reintroduced in the next Assembly.
40. Members must attend sittings of the Assembly in person but a member may participate in a meeting of a Committee by means of telephone or other communication facilities that permit all members participating in the meeting to hear each other and a Member participating in a meeting by those means is deemed for all purposes to be present at that meeting.
41. A quorum of the Assembly shall be six members and the Speaker, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution or elsewhere in this Act.

PART 6 POWERS, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

Jurisdiction of the Assembly

42. The Assembly has exclusive jurisdiction, subject to the Constitution and this Act in respect of
 - (a) the conduct of the internal proceedings of the Assembly and its Committees,

- (b) the conduct of its internal budgetary and financial affairs, and
- (c) the enactment of Inuit Laws in relation to matters within the jurisdiction of the Nunatsiavut Government under the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement.

Privileges, immunities and powers generally

- 43. In addition to the privileges, immunities and powers conferred by this Act but subject to the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement and the Constitution, the Assembly and its Members, and the Committees of the Assembly and their Members, have all privileges, immunities and powers necessary for purposes of section 42 and for the Assembly's capacity to function as an effective parliamentary institution.
- 44. Without restricting the generality of section 43:
 - (a) the President, the members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, the members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and the members of Committees have freedom of speech in the Assembly and in its Committees, subject to the Standing Orders and Procedures of the Assembly;
 - (b) the President, the members of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, the members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and the members of Committees have immunity from legal proceedings for things said in debate;
 - (c) the Assembly and Committees have the power to exclude strangers, disruptive and dangerous persons from the precincts of the Assembly; and
 - (d) the Assembly has exclusive control of publication of its debates and proceedings.

Immunity from damages

- 45. Without restricting the generality of sections 43 and 44, a member of the Nunatsiavut Assembly shall not be liable to a civil action or prosecution, in damages, imprisonment or otherwise because of a matter brought by that member by petition, bill, resolution, motion or otherwise before the Assembly or a Committee, for anything said by that member before the Assembly or a Committee, or for any act done under authority of the Assembly and within its legal power, or under a warrant issued under that authority.
- 46. No person is liable in damages or otherwise for any act done
 - (a) under the authority of the Assembly and within its powers, or
 - (b) under an order or warrant issued under the authority of the Assembly.
- 47. Upon an inquiry in relation to the privileges, immunities or powers of the Assembly, or a Committee or member of the Assembly, a copy of the minutes and journals of the Assembly printed by order of the Assembly, shall be, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, admitted as evidence of those minutes and journals, without proof being given that the copy was so printed.

Examination of witnesses

48. The Assembly or a Committee may require that facts and matters relating to the subject of an inquiry before the Assembly or the Committee be ascertained by the oral examination of witnesses, and may examine those witnesses upon oath or affirmation, and for that purpose the Speaker, or the chairperson of the Committee, may administer an oath or affirmation in the following form to a witness:

"The evidence I shall give to the Nunatsiavut Assembly (or Committee) respecting (stating here the matter then under consideration) shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. So help me God." (or; "I do solemnly affirm.....").

Affidavit or declaration

49. The Assembly or a Committee may require that facts, matters and things relating to the subject of an inquiry before the Assembly or the Committee be ascertained by written submission supported by a declaration or affidavit instead of by oral examination and for that purpose the declaration or affidavit may be made before and taken by the Speaker, Clerk, a Commissioner of Oaths, a Justice of the Peace, or a notary public.

False testimony

50. A person examined before the Assembly or a Committee, who willfully gives false testimony on a question material to a fact, matters or thing relating to the subject of an inquiry before the Assembly or the Committee, is guilty of contempt of the Assembly and is subject to the penalties under this Act.

Attendance of witness and production of documents

51. The Speaker or the Chair of a Committee may order and compel the attendance before the Assembly or before a Committee, of a person and require the production of documents that the Assembly considers necessary for its proceedings or deliberations or that the Committee considers necessary for its proceedings or deliberations with the following exceptions:
- (a) the Assembly or a Committee may not compel as a witnesses persons or documents that are not subject to the jurisdiction of the Nunatsiavut Government;
 - (b) the Assembly or a Committee may not compel as a witness a judge of any court; and
 - (c) the Assembly or a Committee may not compel as a witnesses a member of an independent commission, board or tribunal on any matter relating to the discharge by that person of their functions with respect to the commission, board or tribunal.
52. An order under section 51 may command the aid and assistance of a peace officer or any other person.
53. A person who is served a summons or order under section 51 who neglects or refuses to

attend, or to produce the stipulated papers and things before the Assembly or Committee, is guilty of contempt of the Assembly and is subject to the penalties under this Act but a person shall not be liable to produce a paper or document which he or she would not be compelled to produce in a court of justice or from the production of which he or she may be privileged by law.

Breaches of privilege and Instances of contempt of the Assembly

54. The Assembly may inquire into, adjudicate and punish breaches of the privileges of the Assembly and instances of contempt of the Assembly.

55. Without restricting the generality of section 54 the following acts by Inuit or members constitute breaches of privilege or instances of contempt of the Assembly to which that section applies and are prohibited:

- (a) an assault, insult or libel on a member during a sitting of the Assembly or a Committee;
- (b) obstructing, threatening, or attempting to force or intimidate a member in any matter relating to the member's office;
- (c) the refusal or failure of an officer of the Assembly, or other person, to obey a rule or resolution of the Assembly or an order of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Committee chair.
- (d) the asking by, offering to, or acceptance by, a member of
 - (i) a bribe, or
 - (ii) a fee or reward, including an appointment to a position or office other than an appointment to the Executive Council by the President pursuant to section 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 of the Constitution;

in respect of the member's conduct as a member including drafting, advising on, revising, promoting, supporting or opposing any bill, resolution, petition or other matter submitted to, or intended to be submitted to, the Assembly or a Committee;

- (e) assaults upon, or interference with, the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, chairperson of a Committee or other member appointed by the Assembly to an office of the Assembly, or with an officer or employee of the Assembly in the execution of the person's duties;
- (f) tampering with a witness in respect of evidence to be given by the witness to the Assembly or a Committee, or directly or indirectly trying to deter or hinder a person from appearing or giving evidence;
- (g) presenting to the Assembly or to a Committee a forged or falsified document with intent to deceive the Assembly or Committee;

- (h) forging, falsifying or unlawfully altering a record of the Assembly or of a Committee, or a document or petition presented or filed or intended to be presented or filed before the Assembly or a Committee, or the setting or subscribing by a person of the name of another person to a document or petition with intent to deceive;
- (i) disobedience to a warrant requiring the attendance of a witness before the Assembly or a Committee, refusal or neglect to obey a warrant issued pursuant to this Act, or failure or refusal to give aid and assistance when it is commanded under this Act;
- (j) taking any civil proceeding against, or causing or effecting the arrest or imprisonment of a member in any civil proceeding, for or by reason of any matter or thing brought by the member by petition, bill, resolution, motion or otherwise, or anything said by the member, before the Assembly or a Committee; and
- (k) behaviour in contravention of this Act or the failure to obey an order of the Speaker, Deputy Speaker or Committee chair .

Penalties

56. Every person who is found by the Assembly to have committed a breach of privilege or an instance of contempt of the Assembly under section 50-55 in addition to any other penalty or punishment to which the person may be subject by law, is liable to:
- (a) a penalty in an amount, not exceeding \$ 2,000.00, determined by resolution of the Assembly and by order of the Speaker; and
 - (b) in the case of a member, the suspension of the member's right to sit and vote in the Assembly or a Committee permanently, indefinitely, for a stated period or until the fulfillment of a condition in the order.

Proceedings

57. The imposition of a penalty under section 56 is final.

Reports to the Nunatsiavut Assembly

58. Each member of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council who is the head of a department of the Government shall, as soon as practicable after the end of each fiscal year, prepare a general report summarizing the transactions and affairs of that department in that year and lay the report before the Assembly if it is then sitting or, if it is not then sitting, within 3 days after the commencement of the next sitting.
59. Where a report or other document that a member of the Executive Council or an officer of the Assembly is required to submit to the Assembly is submitted to the Speaker or Clerk when the Assembly is not in session, the Speaker or the Clerk shall provide a copy to each member and make it available for inspection by the public immediately after the report or other document is submitted.

60. A report or other document is considered to have been tabled before the Assembly when it is submitted to the Speaker or Clerk.

PART 7 LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

61. When a Bill is passed by the Assembly, the Clerk shall
- (a) endorse the first page of the official copy of the Bill and enter the date on which the Assembly passed the Bill,
 - (b) initial each of the other pages of the Bill and
 - (c) deliver the Bill so endorsed and initialed to the President.
62. The President must assent to a Bill passed by the Assembly or reserve the Bill in terms of section 4.19.1 of the Constitution.
63. When the President assents to a Bill the President must date and sign the bill under the Nunatsiavut Seal and deliver the Bill for registration.
64. A Bill becomes an Act of the Assembly when the President assents to the Bill.
65. The Act takes effect as an Inuit law immediately when it is entered in the Registry of Inuit Laws unless the Act itself states that it comes into effect at some other time.
66. If a Bill is reserved by the President in terms of part 4.19 of the Constitution the President shall state the reasons for the reservation and the Clerk shall endorse the official copy of the Bill and indicate on the official copy the following:
- (a) the date on which it was so reserved,
 - (b) the reasons stated by the President as to why it was reserved, and
 - (c) whether the Bill stands referred to the Assembly for reconsideration or referred to the Inuit Court for a judicial opinion.
67. If a Bill is reserved and referred back to the Assembly for reconsideration the First Minister must propose such amendments to the Bill as, in the opinion of the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, will make the Bill constitutional and the Bill, including the proposed amendments will then be debated as if the Bill were in second reading.
68. If a Bill that is reserved and referred to the Inuit Court is judged unconstitutional by the Court, the Clerk shall endorse the official copy of the bill and indicate on the official copy the following:
- (a) the date of the judicial decision,
 - (b) that it has been rejected by the Inuit Court as unconstitutional, and
 - (c) the citation or proper reference to the decision.

69. If a Bill that is reserved and referred to the Inuit Court is judged to be constitutional by the Court the Clerk shall endorse the official copy of the bill and indicate on the official copy the following:
- (a) the date of the judicial decision,
 - (b) that it has been declared by the Inuit Court to be constitutional, and
 - (c) the citation or proper reference to the decision,
- and the Clerk shall return the official copy of the Bill to the President for assent in accordance with section 64.
70. An official copy of all Bills passed by the Assembly, including those that are rejected as unconstitutional, shall be kept by the Clerk for reference by the Assembly.

PART 8 COMMITTEES

71. At the commencement of the first Session of each Assembly the Speaker shall name the members of the Standing Committees of the Assembly on the recommendation of the Assembly.
72. The membership of a Standing Committee shall continue from Session to Session for the duration of an Assembly but shall be subject to such changes in membership as recommended by the Assembly from time to time.
73. Notwithstanding Sections 71 and 72, the Assembly may from time to time establish Special Committees which unless provided otherwise by the Assembly shall have the same powers as Standing Committees.
74. Unless provided otherwise by the Assembly, Committees may meet even if the Assembly is not sitting, is in recess or is prorogued.
75. A Committee is empowered to examine and enquire into all such matters as may be referred to it by the Assembly, and to report back to the Assembly from time to time.
76. Except when the Assembly otherwise orders, a Committee is empowered to compel witnesses and to require the production of documents pursuant to Section 51.
77. Meetings of Committees when the Assembly is not in session may be held anywhere the Committee deems appropriate.

Members' Services Committee

78. There shall be a Standing Committee of the Assembly named the Members' Services Committee which shall, unless the Standing Orders and Procedures state otherwise, comprise all those ordinary Members of the Assembly who are not members of the Executive Council and which shall be chaired by the Speaker.

79. The Members' Services Committee shall, in consultation with the Clerk and Assembly staff, prepare an annual budget detailing the estimated costs and expenses of the Assembly for the coming fiscal year.
80. Notwithstanding Section 79, before tabling the budget in the Assembly the Members' Services Committee shall:
- (a) give at least 10 days notice to the Inuit public of all amounts proposed for recommendation under Part 11;
 - (b) consider any submissions that may be received from the Inuit public with respect to the amounts proposed for recommendation under Part 11; and
 - (c) incorporate the expenditure estimates under Part 11 into the annual budget for the Assembly.
81. The Members' Services Committee shall, after completing the requirements under Section 80, table its consolidated budget recommendations for the approval of the Assembly.
82. After taking into account the comments and suggestions of the Members of the Assembly, the Members' Services Committee shall prepare the final consolidated estimates and transmit them to the Treasurer for inclusion in the consolidated financial plan for that fiscal year.
83. The Chair of the Members' Services Committee may make orders:
- (a) respecting the management of records in the custody or under the control of the Clerk that have not been otherwise provided for under the Standing Orders and Procedures or an Act; and
 - (b) in relation to any other matter related to services required by the members of the Assembly in the performance of their functions.

PART 9 STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ASSEMBLY

84. In addition to the provisions of this Act respecting the government and procedures of the Assembly, the Assembly may establish rules of procedure and standing orders for its government, the attendance of its Members, the conduct of its business, and for limiting the length of time that Members may speak, and may alter, amend and repeal those rules.
85. A rule established under section 84 shall not be altered or repealed except by a vote of 50% plus one of the Members present and voting in favour thereof.
86. The Standing Orders and Procedures attached as Schedule A are hereby adopted pursuant to section 84.

PART 10 STAFF OF THE ASSEMBLY

87. The office of Clerk of the Nunatsiavut Assembly is hereby established.

88. The Clerk is an officer of the Assembly.
89. The Clerk is responsible to the Assembly through the Speaker.
90. The Clerk has the following responsibilities:
- (a) to advise the Speaker on the Standing Orders and Procedures and their interpretation
 - (b) to advise Members on questions of procedure and interpretation of the rules,
 - (c) to assist Members in drafting notices, motions and resolutions,
 - (d) to coordinate the development and drafting of legislation as directed by the Speaker,
 - (e) to certify to the President that a Bill submitted for assent is a true copy of the Bill as enacted by the Assembly,
 - (f) to maintain the Registry of Inuit Laws and perform the other functions assigned to the Clerk under the Registry of Laws Act,
 - (g) in consultation with the Speaker, to oversee the preparation and timely distribution of agendas and notices of meetings,
 - (h) to coordinate the preparation and safe keeping of minute books, records of votes and proceedings and other records of the business of the Assembly and its Committees including records of all motions introduced, votes taken and Bills and Resolutions adopted or defeated,
 - (i) to provide public access to the records of public meetings of the Assembly and its Committees,
 - (j) to coordinate with the Speaker and the Nunatsiavut Executive Council as required to ensure that the precincts of the Assembly and the other facilities and physical amenities required by the Assembly and its Committees are adequately provided and maintained,
 - (k) to advise the Assembly on the need for additional staff and to supervise the staff of the Assembly, and
 - (l) to carry out any other functions assigned by the Assembly.
91. The Standing Orders and Procedures may:
- (a) identify additional officers and staff positions necessary for the effective and efficient running of the Assembly,
 - (b) enumerate the duties and responsibilities of each identified officer and staff position, and

- (c) set remuneration and working hours for each officer and staff position identified.
92. Despite any other Act, the Assembly by Resolution may:
- (a) require that the appointment of any officer of the Assembly is to be made by the Assembly instead of being made under the *Nunatsiavut Civil service Act*,
 - (b) confer or impose any power or duty on an appointed officer of the Assembly, or
 - (c) dismiss, or suspend the appointment of, any officer or employee of the Assembly.

PART 11 MEMBERS' SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, EXPENSES AND BENEFITS

Members' salaries and expense allowances

93. There shall be paid to each Member of the Assembly:
- (a) a salary at the rate per year prescribed by the Members' Services Committee under section 82 and approved by the Assembly in terms of section 8.8.3 of the Constitution, and
 - (b) an expense allowance at the rate prescribed by the Members' Services Committee under section 82 and approved by the Assembly in terms of section 8.8.3 of the Constitution.
94. The allowance referred to in clause 93 (b) is provided to each Member to pay for expenses of that Member incident to the discharge of the Member's duties as a member.
95. The salaries and allowances under section 93 shall be paid in monthly amounts of not more than 1/12 of the rate of the yearly amounts.

Deductions from allowances

96. Deductions shall be made from both the salary and the expense allowance of a Member of the Assembly for each sitting day during a Session on which the Member did not either take the Member's seat in the Assembly or attend in person a meeting of a Committee unless the non-attendance was a result of:
- (a) illness or injury,
 - (b) bereavement,
 - (c) official business of the Assembly or the Committee, or
 - (d) weather conditions preventing travel.
97. The daily deduction rate under section 96 shall be the annual salary plus expense allowance divided by 132, unless the Members' Services Committee prescribes a greater rate.

Allowance for temporary residence in the legislative capital

98. Subject to sections 99 and 100, where it is reasonably necessary for a Member of the Assembly to live in a temporary residence in or near the legislative capital for the purpose of carrying out the Member's duties as a Member of the Assembly, the Member may claim and be paid an allowance at the rate prescribed by the Members' Services Committee for each day of a sitting of the Assembly or a Committee during which the Member was a Member of the Assembly and maintained that residence.
99. A Member is not entitled to receive a payment pursuant to section 98 in respect of any day in respect of which a deduction is made from the Member's salary and allowance under section 96.
100. A Member is not entitled to receive payments under section 98 in respect of more than the maximum number of days prescribed by the Members' Services Committee for any Session.

Allowances and expenses for Committee work

101. Subject to sections 102 and 106, a person who serves on a Committee or who performs duties in respect of the Assembly that are recognized by the Members' Services Committee is entitled to be paid in respect of that service or those duties:
- (a) an indemnity in an amount prescribed by the Members' Services Committee for each day on which the Member attends Committee meetings or is otherwise engaged in the business and affairs of the Committee,
 - (b) an allowance for the Member's living expenses at the rate prescribed by the Members' Services Committee for each day on which the Member attends Committee meetings or is otherwise engaged in the business and affairs of the Committee, and for each additional day required for travel in connection with Committee meetings or the business of the Committee, if the Member is required to obtain accommodation by reason of the Member's absence from the Member's ordinary place of residence on that day, and
 - (c) the Member's reasonable traveling expenses for travel as prescribed by the Members' Services Committee.
102. No Member is entitled to be paid any amount under section 101 in respect of service on more than one Committee on the same day.

Members' fees and expenses for service on boards, etc.

103. Unless the Assembly or the Nunatsiavut Executive Council orders otherwise, a Member is entitled to the payment of the Member's reasonable living and traveling expenses incurred in the course of:
- (a) serving as a member of any board, commission or other body (excluding a Committee of the Assembly) to which the Member is appointed by the Assembly or the Nunatsiavut Executive Council, or

- (b) attending any meeting or event as a representative of the Assembly, the Nunatsiavut Government or a Minister.

104. For the purposes of section 103:

- (a) a Member may be paid for traveling or living expenses by way of reimbursement for those expenses from the Nunatsiavut Government or the board, commission or other body, as the case may be, or the Government or the board, commission or other body, as the case may be, may pay those expenses directly to the person entitled to payment in respect of them; and
- (b) any registration fee payable in connection with the attendance at any meeting or event is deemed to be a reasonable traveling or living expense.

105. If a Member holds office as a member of a board, commission or other body to which the member is appointed by the Assembly or by the Executive Council the Member may be paid fees by the Nunatsiavut Government or by that body but shall only be paid fees by the Nunatsiavut Government in respect of that office if the Executive Council has, by written resolution, determined that the payment of such fees will not compromise the impartiality of the member or of the board, commission or other body and has prescribed the amount or rate of those fees.

106. No Member is entitled to be paid any amount under section 101 in respect of a day when that Member receives a payment under section 103.

Salaries of Executive Council members

107. There shall be paid to the members of the Executive Council

- (a) salaries at the rates per year prescribed by the Assembly on recommendation of the Members' Services Committee, and
- (b) reasonable allowances for traveling and living expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the Executive Council prescribed by the Members' Services Committee.

108. The Assembly may, in accordance with the advice and recommendations of the Members' Services Committee, authorize the payment of allowances for moving expenses of a person who

- (a) as a result of the person's appointment as a member of the Executive Council, changes the person's residence to Nain.
- (b) is a person referred to in (a) who, upon ceasing to be a member of the Executive Council, changes their residence from Nain to another place in Nunatsiavut or to the place they left in order to take up the appointment to the Executive Council.

109. The Speaker shall be paid a salary at the rate per year prescribed by the Assembly on recommendation of the Members' Services Committee
110. The payments under sections 107 and 109 are in addition to those paid under section 93 but the Members' Services Committee shall take into account the payments under section 93 in establishing the rates and allowances under section 107 and the rate under section 109.
111. The Treasurer shall, after the end of each fiscal year, prepare a report setting out:
- (a) the name of each member and the amounts of all salaries, indemnities and allowances paid under this part to that member.
 - (b) the name of each board, commission, Committee, other than a Committee of the Assembly reported on under subsection (a), or other body on which a member has served and the names of those members who served on them during that fiscal year, and all the amounts paid in that fiscal year by the Government as fees and as traveling and living expenses under this part in respect of each member who is named.
112. The Treasurer shall lay the report before the Assembly if it is then sitting or, if it is not then sitting, within 3 days after the commencement of the next sitting.

PART 12 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

113. The Assembly shall establish codes of conduct, including a code of ethics and conflict of interest guidelines, for Members of the Assembly, the Executive Council, Inuit Community Governments and Inuit Community Corporations and their respective staff and employees.
114. A code established under section 113 shall not be altered or repealed except by a vote of 60% of the Members present and voting in favour thereof.
115. The rules to prevent conflicts of interest in the Assembly and Executive Council attached as Schedule B are hereby adopted pursuant to section 113 as the code of ethics and conflict of interest guidelines for Members and the Executive Council.

PART 13 MISCELLANEOUS

Coming into effect of Act

116. In accordance with section 65, this enactment takes effect as an Inuit Law upon registration in the Registry of Inuit Laws.

Schedule A to the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act

Standing Orders and Procedures Respecting the Proceedings of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Made in Terms of Part 4.14 of the Labrador Inuit Constitution and Part 9 of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act

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SHORT TITLE

This document may be cited as the *Standing Orders and Procedures of the Nunatsiavut Assembly*.

Part 1: General

1. Definitions

The definitions provided in the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act apply in this schedule and in this schedule the following definitions apply as well:

“Chair” means the symbolic authority of the Presiding Officer of the Assembly or of one of its Committees.

“Chamber” means the room, hall or precinct in which a sitting of the Assembly is being conducted.

“Committee of Consensus” means a Committee of the Whole Assembly.

“Deputy Speaker” means the officer appointed by the Speaker to act in his or her absence.

“Gallery” means the area in the Chamber set aside for public attendance at sittings of the Assembly.

“Motion” means a proposal to the Speaker that a matter be open for discussion in the Assembly and is the “trigger” that commences a debate.

“Point of Order” means a permissible interruption of the normal routine of the Assembly by a Member requesting a clarification or ruling by the Chair on a matter of procedure which takes precedence over all other business and is not debatable.

“Presiding Officer” means the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or other Member occupying the Chair.

“Question of Privilege” means a Point of Order concerning an alleged abrogation of the rights of a member or of the rights of the Assembly as a whole.

“Question Period” means the period during the daily proceedings set aside for Members’ oral questions.

“Statement” means a brief address to the Assembly by a Member or Minister as provided in the *Standing Orders and Procedures*.

Authority and Interpretation

2. These *Standing Orders and Procedures* are established pursuant to the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* Chapter 4.14 and part 9 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

3. These *Standing Orders and Procedures* are ancillary to the provisions of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* and must be read in a manner consistent with them.

4. These *Standing Orders and Procedures* shall come into effect as Schedule A of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

5. These *Standing Orders and Procedures* may be altered or amended from time to time by a simple majority vote of the Members of the Assembly upon the recommendation of the Committee on Rules and Procedures.

6. The authority of the Assembly and its Committees to call witnesses or to compel the production of documents is as provided in the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

7. Unless otherwise provided in these *Standing Orders and Procedures*, the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, or other Inuit Law, decisions taken by a vote shall be by a simple majority of the votes cast.

Quorum

8. For sittings of the Assembly a Quorum shall be six Members and the Speaker unless otherwise provided in the Constitution or the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

9. When a Decision is being taken in the Assembly, whether it is by Consensus or Vote, the Quorum is six Ordinary Members and the President except that:

a) where the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* requires that a Decision must be made with the support of a specified majority, in which case the Quorum shall be that number; or

b) where a Standing Order of the Nunatsiavut Assembly provides for a larger or smaller number.

10. If there is not a Quorum at the time a sitting of the Assembly is called to order by the Chair the Presiding Officer must either:

a) postpone the sitting for up to one hour; or

b) adjourn the Assembly until the next sitting day.

11. A Member may rise on a Point of Order to bring the lack of a Quorum to the attention of the Speaker.

12. Pursuant to a Point of Order raised under section 11, the Speaker must call the role and if there is no Quorum, the Speaker must act pursuant to either 10 a) or 10 b).

13. When a Decision is to be taken by the Assembly, the Speaker must be satisfied that the Quorum required under the circumstances is present and if it is not, act pursuant to either 10 a) or 10 b).

14. The Quorum for meetings of Committees of the Assembly, other than the Committee on Consensus, may be determined by the Committee.

Part 2: Speaker of the Assembly

15. As provided by Part 4 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, there shall be a Presiding Officer of the Assembly known as the Speaker.

16. The election of the Speaker shall be conducted according to Part 4 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

17. The election of the Speaker is not a debatable matter and shall take precedence over all other business of the Assembly until concluded.

18. Subject to sections 22 and 23, the term of office of the Speaker shall commence at his or her election and continue until the election of a new Speaker following a general election.

19. Without limiting the provisions of Part 4 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* the duties of the Speaker are as follows:

- a) To act as the Chair or Presiding Officer of the Assembly.
- b) To maintain order and decorum in the Assembly.
- c) To rule on Points of Order, Questions of Privilege and other questions of procedure in the Assembly.
- d) To act as the "Minister" of the legislature, giving direction to the Clerk on matters such as the budget and personnel.
- e) To provide financial and administrative assistance to Members and to Committees.
- f) To perform other duties and to make other rulings as assigned in the *Standing Orders and Proceedings*.
- g) In general, to exercise the sorts duties and responsibilities exercised by presiding officers in other legislatures in Canada.

20. The Speaker must preside over the business of the Assembly and enforce the rules and procedures of the Assembly in an impartial manner.

21. Rulings of the Speaker are final and not debatable.

22. Subject to section 11 the Speaker's term of Office may be terminated by a vote of at least two thirds of the Members.

23. The Speaker's term of office may only be terminated pursuant to section 22 for reasonable cause, such as abuse of his or her discretionary authority, conviction of a criminal offence or the inability to perform his or her duties due to illness.

24. The Speaker may appoint a Deputy Speaker from among the Ordinary Members of the Assembly.

25. The term of office of the Deputy Speaker shall be for one Session of the Assembly only except that a Deputy Speaker may be reappointed by the Speaker for additional Sessions.

26. The Deputy Speaker's duties are to act as the Presiding Officer when the Speaker is absent from the Chair.

27. If a matter before the Assembly is of special concern to Inuit in the Speaker's own constituency, the Speaker may cede the Chair to the Deputy Speaker in order to participate in the debate.

28. In the event of the absence of both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker another Ordinary Member may be asked by the Assembly to chair its deliberations on a temporary basis.

29. The Presiding Officer may not vote except to break a deadlock or when a Decision requires a two-thirds or more majority.

Part 3: Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly

30. The qualifications and conditions for membership in the Nunatsiavut Assembly are set out in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* and the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

31. Each Member must take the oath of office set out in the Constitution and in the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* before taking his or her seat in the Assembly.

Privileges of Members

32. The rights and privileges of Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly are set out in the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*, the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* and herein.

33. Subject to the *Proceedings and Standing Orders*, all Members have the right to speak to any matter before the Assembly.

34. The salaries and benefits of Members shall be established by statute and paid out of the Nunatsiavut Fund.

35. The sittings of the Assembly must be held at times that accommodate the special needs of Members who are caregivers.

36. No Member shall be subject to any criminal or civil liability for oral or written statements made in the Chamber.

37. A Question of Privilege may be raised by any Member at any time in the proceedings of the Assembly and the Speaker must give the Question of Privilege precedence over all other business.

38. When raising a Question of Privilege, a Member must speak for no more than three minutes.

39. A Question of Privilege is not debatable and must be ruled on by the Speaker within twenty-four hours.

40. In making rulings on matters of Privilege, the Speaker may look to the precedents and experience of other legislatures in Canada.

Duties and Obligations of Members

41. Members have a duty to conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the Assembly, the Chair, other Members, Inuit Law and Inuit culture and traditions.

42. Members should dress (in a manner appropriate to the decorum of the Assembly and to Inuit culture.)

43. Members may not interrupt when another Member has the floor except to raise a Point of Order or Question of Privilege.

44. Members must refrain from using profane, abusive or insulting language.

45. Members must abide by the Rules of Debate set down in the *Standing Orders and Procedures* and in the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act.

46. Members must not be absent from sittings of the Assembly without reasonable cause such as illness, constituency obligations or travel on Assembly business.

47. Notwithstanding section 46 a Member may be absent with the permission of the President or the Speaker.

Censure of Members

48. The rights and privileges of a Member may be suspended by the Assembly for conduct detrimental to the order and decorum of the Assembly.

49. Procedures and penalties for offences and breaches of conduct under section 48 are set down in sections 50-57 of the Nunatsiavut Assembly Act.

50. A Member may be expelled from the Chamber by the Chair for breaches of Order.

51. A Member may be removed from office and his or her seat declared vacant by a Resolution of the Assembly adopted by at least 60% of its Members for the following causes:

- a) a serious violation of Inuit Law, or conviction of a crime;
- b) the inability to perform the functions of Office;
- c) a breach of any codes of ethics, conflict of interest rules etc. that may be established by the Assembly for its Members (LIC 4.3.7.);
- d) the commission of an Election Offence (See LIC 4.11.2 and the *Nunatsiavut Elections Act*);
- e) a Disqualification pursuant to 4.13.4 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*; or
- f) the commission of other offences established by the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

Part 4: Members' Business

Members' Statements

52. A Member of the Assembly may rise in the Assembly to make a brief personal Statement on a matter of his or her choosing.

53. A Member wishing to make a Statement must notify the Speaker that he or she wishes to do so at least one hour before the sitting.

54. A Member's Statement must be no more than five minutes and a Member may not make more than one statement per sitting.

55. The time allotted in total for Members' Statements may not exceed 20 minutes and the Speaker must allocate that time on a first come, first serve basis.

Question Period

56. A period of no more than 30 Minutes shall be set aside at the beginning of each sitting of the Assembly for Members to ask questions of other Members or Ministers.

57. A question must be stated briefly and not constitute a speech or argument.

58. Generally a Member will be permitted to ask only one question per day but, if there is time available, the Speaker has the discretion to allow a second question.

59. At the discretion of the Speaker, a Member may ask no more than two more supplementary questions provided that the questions are clearly supplementary to the original question and not on a different topic.

60. Members intending to ask a question may notify the Speaker beforehand, and the Speaker may keep a roster of such individuals in order to insure fairness in recognizing which members wish to speak.

61. A Member asking a question must indicate to the Speaker to whom it is being directed.

62. Notwithstanding section 61, the Member must address his or her question to the Speaker.

63. Oral answers to questions must be brief and relevant to the question asked.

64. Notwithstanding section 63, a Member or Minister asked a question may answer it, defer the answer to some future time, undertake to table a written answer, or decline to answer.

65. Notwithstanding the above, a Member may at any time submit a written question indicating to whom the question is directed.

66. Replies to written questions are either to be tabled in the Assembly or delivered orally at some future date.

Urgent Matters

67. A Member may request, without notice, that the Assembly set aside its agenda in order to discuss a matter of urgent importance to Inuit.

68. A Member introducing a request under section 67 shall be permitted 5 minutes to explain why a debate on the matter is urgent.

69. The request under section 67 is not debatable.

70. The Speaker has complete discretion to grant or deny request under section 67.

71. The Speaker may take the request under section 67 under advisement and announce his or her decision at the daily adjournment.

72. If the Speaker grants the request for an urgent debate he or she may extend the daily sitting or place the matter at the top of the agenda for the next session.

73. The basic Rules of Debate (See Part 5) below) apply to debates under this provision.

74. Motions recommending action on the urgent matter under consideration are in order and do not require notice.

75. A Motion under section 74 is not debatable and the Speaker must call the question immediately.

76. The decision to end the debate under this provision is at the discretion of the Speaker.

Part 5: Rules of Debate

77. All debate, except as otherwise provided in the *Standing Orders and Procedures* or the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* must occur on a Motion after it has been moved and seconded.

78. All Motions are debatable except as otherwise provided in these *Standing Orders and Procedures* or the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

79. The mover of a Motion has the right to speak first in support of the Motion and has the right to speak last when the debate is ending.

80. When speaking to a Motion, Members' comments must be relevant to the Motion.

81. A Member may speak in the Assembly only after being recognized by the Speaker.

82. A Member wishing to speak in the Assembly must indicate to the Speaker that he or she wishes to do so by raising a hand. (Or by standing?)

83. A Member may inform the Speaker before the daily sitting that he or she wishes to speak to a matter being debated and the Speaker may keep a daily roster of Members who wish to be recognized.

84. Members must address the Chair when speaking in the Assembly.

85. Except as specifically provided elsewhere in these *Standing Orders and Procedures* or the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* a Member may only speak once to a Motion.

86. Notwithstanding section 85, the Speaker may permit a Member to speak for a second time to clarify what he or she said previously.

87. Unless otherwise provided in the *Standing Orders and Procedures* or the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*, a Member may speak for no more than 15 minutes on any Motion.

88. When a Member's allotted time to speak has expired, the Member must cease speaking and take his or her seat.

89. Notwithstanding section 88, a Member may be permitted to exceed his or her allotted time with the unanimous consent of the Assembly.

90. Members may address the Assembly in English or Inuttut.

91. Points of Order are not debatable.

Part 6: Legislative Process

92. The core function of the Nunatsiavut Assembly is the enactment of Inuit Laws.

93. A proposed Inuit Law is introduced into the Assembly in the form of a "draft law" known as a Bill.

94. The Priority of Bills on the legislative agenda of the Assembly is set down in 14.18.12 of the *Labrador Inuit Constitution*. In summary as follows:

a) Nunatsiavut Government Bills including Emergency Bills, Money Bills, and Bills introduced by Ministers.

b) Bills introduced by Members of the Nunatsiavut Assembly other than Ministers.

Notice of Motion

95. Before a Bill may be debated it must be tabled with the Clerk of the Assembly and the Assembly must be given 48 hours Notice before the Bill can be introduced (Notice of Motion).

96. Notwithstanding section 95, the 48-hour notice period may be waived by unanimous consent of the Members present in the Assembly.

97. Notwithstanding section 95, the 48-hour notice period must be waived if the President declares that the measure to be considered is an Emergency Bill.

Introduction and Debate on First Reading

98. The Member or Minister sponsoring the Bill may speak for up to 10 minutes to introduce the Bill, explain why he or she is supporting it and then “move, seconded by (name of Member), that the Bill be introduced and read for the first time”

99. During the Debate on First Reading each Member may speak to the Motion once for 15 minutes.

100. Generally the debate on First Reading should focus on the Bill as a whole, on the policy objectives it seeks to achieve and on the principles it addresses and not on the details.

Amendments on First Reading

101. Members may move amendments on First Reading, but such amendments should go to the overall impact of the Bill and the policy objectives it is intended to achieve.

102. When an amendment is moved and seconded the Speaker has the following choices:

a) the Speaker may deem the Motion to be in order; or

b) the Speaker may rule that the amendment be deferred for debate until second reading on the grounds that it is concerned with the details rather than the policy objectives and principles of the Bill.

103. If the Motion to amend is declared to be in order the mover may speak for ten minutes justifying his or her motion.

103. Each Member may speak once to the amendment for no more than five minutes.

104. When all Members wishing to speak to the amendment have spoken, the Speaker may invite the mover of the amendment to offer a few brief (5 minutes) concluding comments.

105. When the mover has concluded his or her remarks the Speaker must immediately call the question on the amendment.

106. If there is not unanimous agreement on the amendment, the Members must vote yes or no indicating their preferences by a show of hands.

107. The result of a vote under section 6 is determined by a simple majority of the Members present.

108. If an Amendment fails, the Assembly must continue the debate on First Reading of the Bill.

109. If an Amendment is adopted, the Assembly must continue the debate on First Reading of the "Bill as Amended".

110. Once defeated, an amendment may not be reintroduced.

Decision on First Reading

111. When all Members who wish to speak to the motion have spoken and all amendments have been voted on, the Speaker may ask the mover of the main motion offer a few brief concluding comments.

112. When the debate has concluded, the Speaker must ask the Assembly if it is in favour of approving the Bill (as amended).

113. If there is unanimous consent, the Speaker declares the Bill to be "approved as amended and read for the first time."

114. If there is not unanimous agreement on first reading:

a) The President may move that the Assembly adjourn and reconvene as the Committee on Consensus; or

b) The President may ask the Speaker to call the question immediately.

115. If the President introduces a Motion under section 114 a), the Committee on Consensus will convene with either the Speaker or the President in the chair at the President's discretion and the deliberations will continue:

a) until unanimity is achieved; or

b) until such time as the President determines that consensus is not possible.

116. If unanimity is achieved the President declares the Bill to be "approved as amended and read for the first time".

117. If the President determines that consensus is not possible the Assembly must reconvene and the Speaker must call the Question.

The Committee Stage

118. After a Bill has been given First Reading the Assembly may consider a Motion to go directly to Second Reading.

119. The Motion under section 118 is debatable but the Speaker may impose a time limit on the debate.

120. If the Assembly agrees to go directly to Second Reading, the debate on Second reading must be delayed for 10 days in order to allow the Assembly to hear recommendation and submissions from Inuit unless the Assembly waives this requirement by unanimous consent.

121. Hearings pursuant to section 120 may be held by Committees of the Assembly.

122. If the Assembly does not adopt the approach in section 118, the Bill must be referred to a Standing or Special Committee of the Assembly.

123. For important legislation such as Money Bills or Constitutional Amendments the Assembly may refer the Bill to the Committee of the Whole/ Committee on Consensus pursuant to section 136 rather than to a Standing or Special Committee.

124. Functions of Committees, consistent with Part 8 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* are as follows:

- a) to review Bills clause by clause;
- b) to focus on the details rather the policy objectives and general principles;
- c) as necessary, to call witnesses and compel the production of documents to explain provisions of the Bill and to provide advice on improving its effectiveness;
- d) to call for and hear submissions from members of the public and organizations with a stake in the proposed legislation; and
- e) to incorporate into the Bill, amendments deemed prudent as a result of a) to d) above.

Second Reading

125. When the Committee has concluded its deliberations, the Chair of the Committee must table the Bill as amended by the Committee and move that "the Bill as amended be concurred in and read for the second time."

(Or the Chair may simply table the Committee's Report, and let the original mover introduce the motion that it be read for a second time)

126. Each member may speak for up to 15 minutes in the Debate on Second Reading.

127. Amendments may be introduced at Second Reading including:

- a) amendments deferred at first reading pursuant to section 102 a);
- b) amendments to change or remove amendments passed by the Committee; and
- c) other amendments.

128. The process of debating and adopting or rejecting amendments at Second Reading follows the same procedure as at First Reading.

129. The process of coming to a Decision on Second Reading follows the same procedure as at First Reading. (sections 111-117)

Part 7: Committees of the Assembly

Committee of Consensus

130. The Nunatsiavut Assembly may convene as a Committee of Consensus in order to come to a Decision based on unanimous agreement or consensus.

131. The Assembly shall convene as a Committee of Consensus at the request of the President.

132. The President may choose to Chair the Committee of Consensus.

133. The President has the sole discretion to declare that a consensus cannot be reached and call for a formal vote.

134. The Quorum for a decision in the Committee of Consensus is the same as the Quorum for a decision in the Assembly.

135. The Rules of Debate in the Committee of Consensus are intended to be less formal and more relaxed. However, Rules of Debate of the Assembly generally apply except for the following:

- a) speeches are to be limited to five minutes;
- b) members may speak more than once after being recognized by the Chair; and
- c) The President may speak as many times as he or she wishes even if the President is in the Chair.

136. Notwithstanding sections 131-135 the Assembly may choose to refer Bills to the Committee of Consensus after First Reading:

- a) to review the Bill clause by clause;
- b) to discuss proposed amendments;

c) to hear submissions from Inuit pursuant to section 4.17.2 and 4.17.3 of the Constitution; or

d) to hear submissions from external witnesses.

Committee on Rules and Procedures

137. There shall be a Committee on Rules and Procedure composed of 3-5 Members.

138. The Speaker shall be a member of the Committee on Rules and Procedure and shall act as its Chair.

139. The Membership of the Committee on Rules and Procedure shall be nominated by the Speaker and appointed by the Assembly for the duration of the Assembly.

140. The Committee on Rules and Procedure shall make recommendations to the Assembly regarding changes to the *Standing Orders and Procedures*.

141. The Committee on Rules and Procedure shall function as a striking committee to make recommendations to the Assembly as to the membership of Standing and Special Committees provided that it takes into account the following: (LIC 4.14.9 – 12)

a) that the membership of the Committees is representative of the various interests and factions within the membership of the Assembly;

b) that there is a balance of men and women on the Committees; and

c) that the Membership of Standing and Special Committees may include persons who are not Members of the Assembly so long as such members comprise no more than 25% of the total membership

Standing Committees

142. The Assembly may establish Standing Committees pursuant to Part 8 of the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

143. The function of a Standing Committee is to undertake tasks assigned to it by the Assembly, such as the following:

a) to focus on a specialized subject matter of concern to the Assembly;

b) to review Bills clause by clause after First Reading;

c) to review the Estimates of departments coming within the Committee's area of specialization;

d) to conduct public hearings and hear expert witnesses; and

d) to operate on an ongoing rather than *ad hoc* basis.

144. The number of members of a Standing Committee is to be determined by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Committee on Rules and Procedure.

145. A Standing Committee may select its own Chair from among its members unless the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act* or the *Standing Orders and Procedures* specify otherwise.

146. Members of Standing Committees are nominated by the Committee on Rules and Procedure and approved by the Assembly.

147. Changes in the membership of Standing Committees must be recommended by the Committee on Rules and Procedure.

148. Standing Committees may establish their own internal rules and procedures, including the power to establish sub-committees. (LIC 4.14.8)

149. There shall be a Standing Committee named the Members' Services Committee which shall prepare the annual estimates of the Assembly and generally attend to matters of the internal economy of the Assembly.

150. The membership, chairmanship and mandate of the Members' Service Committee shall be determined by the Assembly, pursuant to the *Nunatsiavut Assembly Act*.

Special Committees

151. The Assembly may from time to time establish Special Committees.

152. The function of a Special Committee is to focus on a specific issue of concern to the Assembly.

153. A Special Committee is intended to be *ad hoc* and temporary and ceases to operate when its job is completed.

154. In all matters other than sections 151-153, Special Committees operate under the same rules and guidelines as Standing Committees.

Part 8: Public Access to Proceedings

155. Unless otherwise specified by the Assembly all proceedings of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and its Committees shall be conducted in public.

156. All sittings of the Nunatsiavut Assembly and its Committees shall be held in places generally accessible to Inuit.

157. The Chamber must include a Gallery for members of the public.

158. Members of the public in the Gallery of the Assembly or its Committees are subject to the following rules of conduct:

- a) members of the public must conduct themselves in a manner respectful of the order and decorum of the Assembly.

b) members of the public may not address the Assembly.

c) members of the public may not in any way disrupt the proceedings by applauding, shouting or displaying visual “props” such as signs, posters etc.

159. The Presiding Officer may order the removal of a member of the public from the chamber for a breach of the rules of conduct in section 158.

160. Notwithstanding section 155, the Assembly may for reasonable cause

a) restrict public access of non-Inuit, or

b) limit or ban the use of cameras, recording devices or cel phones.

161. Notwithstanding section 155, the Assembly may adopt security measures such as requiring members of the public to be searched or to pass through a metal detector.

162. Notwithstanding 158, the Presiding Officer may note the presence of a distinguished visitor in the Gallery and the visitor may stand to acknowledge.

163. Notwithstanding section 158, pursuant to the *Labrador Inuit Constitution* 4.17, the Assembly may from time to time invite persons who are not Members to address the Assembly.

Part 9: Documents

Tabling of Motions Documents and Petitions

164. A Member may table a Motion, a document or petition in the Assembly by moving that the Assembly receive it and that it be tabled .

165. A Motion under section 164 may be introduced without notice and the mover is permitted to say a few words of explanation as to what the item being tabled is, who authored it and why it should be received by the Assembly.

166. The Motion under section 164 is not debatable and, if there is not unanimous agreement, must be voted on immediately.

167. If the Assembly agrees the item may be tabled the Member must present a copy to the Clerk.

168. Notwithstanding sections 164-167, a Minister may table a document in the Assembly with or without the consent of the Assembly.

Record of Proceedings

169. The Clerk may provide for the taking of a verbatim record of the proceedings of the Assembly in writing or electronically.

170. At a minimum, the office of the Clerk must provide for the keeping of summary Minutes of the proceedings including the daily agenda, motions introduced, decisions taken and documents tabled.

ANNEX I: DAILY SCHEDULE AND ORDERS OF THE DAY

NORMAL DAILY SCHEDULE

1) Unless the Speaker orders otherwise:

- a) Sittings shall begin at 9:00;
- b) A brief recess or coffee break 10:30-11.00;
- c) Lunch break 12:30-2:00;
- d) Afternoon break @ 3:30;
- e) Adjournment 5:30.

2) The Speaker may extend the sitting beyond 5:30 for no more than one hour.

3) The Speaker may adjourn the sitting earlier than 5: 30 if it is determined that the daily business is concluded.

4) Notwithstanding 1) to 3) a Member may move, on a Point of Order, that a Sitting be extended.

5) Notwithstanding 1) to 3) a Member may move, on a Point of Order, that the Assembly adjourn for the day.

6) On a motion under 4) or 5) the Speaker must call the question immediately and the motion is approved or rejected by a simple majority of the Members present.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

- 1) The Presiding Officer calls the Assembly to Order.
- 2) Daily prayer or moment of contemplation. etc
- 3) Announcements from the Chair.
- 4) Presentation of the Agenda by the Speaker.
(If it is not the first day of a sitting, the agenda may simply be a continuation of the previous day's agenda.)
- 5) Tabling of Documents and Petitions.
- 6) Statements or announcements from Ministers. (No more than 5 Minutes each)
- 7) Member's statements.
- 8) Question Period.
- 9) Reports from Committees.
- 10) Notices of Motion.
- 11) New Motions.
- 12) Continuation of debate on Motions before the Assembly (Main agenda items).
- 13) Adjournment.