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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)
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Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

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(Kugluktuk)
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Hon. James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)
Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, October 28, 1999

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Haviyoyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glen McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): At this time I would like to ask Mr. Iqaqrialu to say the opening prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 29 - 1(3): Budget Update**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I have the pleasure of providing the Legislative Assembly and the people of Nunavut with an update on the fiscal position of our government. Mr. Speaker, it is critical for Nunavut's future that we manage our resources wisely. Our fiscal plan recognized the need for the Nunavut government to be fiscally responsible and clearly committed to delivering needed services to our people within a balanced budget.

I am pleased to inform members that over the past six months many people have worked tirelessly to make Nunavut's start successful. This included ensuring our fiscal goals were realized. We set this standard knowing that if we do things well, Nunavut will have a better future. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly that based on the first six months of operation, the goal of a balanced budget for the Government of Nunavut for fiscal year 1999/2000 will be achieved.

Overall revenues for 1999/2000 are expected to be 1.77 million dollars higher than at the time of the budget. While our tax system will generate less revenue than we anticipated, these reductions will be more than offset by increases in the fiscal transfers from the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, total expenditures for 99/2000 are currently expected to be 10.3 million dollars less than originally budgeted. Most departments are projecting modest expenditure savings for fiscal year 99/2000. These savings are generally attributed to unfilled positions and associated operating costs such as travel.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note that we face a number of significant expenditure pressures, including health board deficits. These pressures are expected to offset the additional revenues, the lower departmental operating spending and the balance of our 10 million contingency reserve. We have funded strategic initiatives through this reserve, like the Nunavut Nursing Program and the Nunavut Teachers' Education Program.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate our government's commitment to managing our resources wisely. A balanced budget in our first year is a significant contribution for our future. By acting in a responsible manner we will ensure a better future for Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Minister's Statement 30 - 1(3): Elders in Nunavut

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am glad for this opportunity to speak with the members of the House on the very important topic of elders. Before I begin, I would like to thank our elders for their hard work, continuing guidance and contributions of wisdom and knowledge.

As the huge responsibility of elders has been given to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, I feel that it is my responsibility to speak to several issues and concerns. (interpretation ends) In a previous statement to the House, I explained how elders are a very special group of people in our Inuit society. Our culture is a verbal one. We never had a writing system. Our knowledge of our language and our culture was passed on through generations of Inuit over thousands of years.

(interpretation) Our elders are our living history. Their knowledge is filled with Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun words that are unknown to our younger society.

(interpretation ends) Our elders can also guide us in the development of this new Government. Their wisdom and insight contributes to our understanding of ourselves and our Inuit ways. Much of their knowledge still needs to be told. The importance of oral tradition and knowledge learned from our elders has directed my department's organization and mandate.

Our culture and heritage division will support and encourage services for elders. It is through the programs in this division that we will be able to provide funding and assistance for the elders of Nunavut.

(interpretation) We have established numerous positions in the organizational structure of our department that will deal specifically with elders concerns and the preservation of their knowledge.

We have just received approval of our organizational chart and are now able to hire the Senior Advisor for Elders and an Ethnologist. The Senior Advisor for Elders will be able to research the needs of the elders in the communities and develop strategies for addressing their needs.

(interpretation ends) The ethnologist will work to preserve oral tradition, record oral history and support the Senior Advisor in the development of programs and services for elders. There will also be an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit co-ordinator who will work with the Senior Advisor for Elders and the Ethnologists. They will work towards the practical application of our elders' knowledge in the government.

I want to stress that we are working very hard to establish our department and are making elders our priority. We have begun the process of gathering and recording Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit; we have attended elders conferences to listen to the concerns and direction of our elders; we have started consulting elders on the development of our department and the government as a whole.

We know the knowledge of the elders is a valuable asset and must be treated as such in policy development and program implementation. We know that we must bridge the gap between the past, present and future by continuing our initiatives in co-ordinating youth and elders activities. We know that elders have many special needs. In addition to working with them we must also provide them with support. We must continue to ensure their honoured place in our society.

Because we value, cherish and respect our elders we are working to include them in all of the initiatives of our department. We would like to encourage other departments in the government to consider ways they could do the same and to co-ordinate these efforts with our government's Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit initiatives.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak on our commitment to the elders of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Before I recognize another speaker I would like to remind people that the gallery is quite small in size. For the elders who have no seat, you can sit down on the inner seats inside the gallery. Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Minister's Statement 31 - 1(3): Millennium Scholarship

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I will finally speak in English and tomorrow I will speak French.

(interpretation ends) It is with pleasure that I share this scholarship information with members. I will sign a 10 year agreement with the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation representing some 2.3 million dollars in additional funds for student financial assistance. The agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Foundation creates two classes of awards. General awards and exceptional merit awards. Approximately 76 general awards will be given each year to Nunavut residents, representing more than 228 thousand dollars a year.

This corresponds to Nunavut's share of the Canadian population, the basis on which the Foundation negotiated all agreements across Canada. General awards will have a value of 3 thousand dollars. To be eligible students must be in need, have successfully completed 60% of a year of post-secondary

studies, be enrolled as a full time student in an eligible secondary educational institution and be in good standing at the time of the award.

All Nunavut students who apply for financial assistance under the Canada and Nunavut Student Loans Program for the academic year 1999/2000 will automatically be considered for the Foundation's general award. The first Nunavut general awards will be distributed by our government in early 2000.

The agreement also provides for the creation of three exceptional merit awards to be given each year to Nunavut students. Exceptional merit awards like the general awards are grants. These awards will vary from 3 thousand to 9 thousand dollars and will be available to Nunavut students entering post-secondary education for the first time.

These awards will be given for the first time in the fall of 2000 and the Foundation together with my department will develop criteria for an equitable and efficient method for identifying recipients for the exceptional merit award.

If you have any questions I would invite you to contact the executive director of our Scholarship Committee, Luke Issaluk at 867-857-3050 or the Chairperson Jean Cooper, 867-975-5600. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 32 - 1(3): Nunavut Sealing Strategy

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Early in the life of this government and in the early days of my position as Minister of Sustainable Development, I accepted an invitation to the Montreal fur and fashion show. This show was a great education for me on the vast market there is for fur fashion in this world.

It was also an opportunity for me to examine the issues that we face in Nunavut, in rebuilding a market for our seal products especially. From that day forward, Mr. Speaker I resolved to dedicate my energy on this issue to implementing a Nunavut Sealing Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, I want to advise the members today that the first phase of the Nunavut Sealing Strategy is nearing completion and has involved three key elements.

First, Mr. Speaker, in a few weeks I will be inviting colleagues from this legislature along with members of the industry and media to join me for viewing a video on Inuit and sealing titled, "*Waiting at the Edge*", which was produced as part of the Nunavut Sealing Strategy. Mr. Speaker this video will speak to one of this governments core Bathurst principles, our self-reliance.

Secondly, at the time of releasing the video I will be releasing this governments first publication on sealing titled "*Seals and Nunavut – Our Tradition, Our Future*", which is intended solely to educate the public about the role that seals play in the life of Inuit past and present.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I will also be releasing at the time Nunavut's first "Manual", which will be distributed to every sealing community in Nunavut to assist in improving the quality and price of skins in the marketplace. Mr. Speaker, I believe Nunavummiut expect this government to focus on all aspects of our economy including the longest surviving, and the most sustainable economy, our seal hunt.

It is my commitment today that in the coming days I will do my very best to honour this expectation. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Good Minister's Statement. Minister's Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 33 - 1(3): Corrections Planning Committee Report

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In the last session of the Legislative Assembly I announced that I had appointed a corrections planning committee to look into the current state of corrections in Nunavut and to develop recommendations about where we should go from here.

I did this for a number of reasons. First we know that we have serious deficiencies in terms of our institutional facilities and our ability to provide adequate programming for our offenders. Second, we recognize the serious need to have many offenders treated and healed in their communities rather than in jail in Iqaluit.

We needed a realistic assessment of the situation and recommendations that would work, therefore I appointed a number of individuals from the communities to the committee: Becky Kadloo from Baker Lake, Natsiq Kango from Iqaluit, Simeonie Natsiq from Repulse Bay, Elee Tuluganik from Cambridge Bay, Elijah Erkloo representing the Nunavut Social Development Council, Mosha Akavak representing the Baffin Correctional Centre and the RCMP and the Correctional Service of Canada are also represented on the committee. The committee is chaired by Rebecca Williams, Assistant Deputy Minister of Justice.

I am pleased to report that the corrections planning committee has submitted its final report to me. I believe that the committee has done an excellent job of reviewing the state of corrections in Nunavut. They have clearly assessed the problems and have provided a set of recommendations that should have significant impacts on improving our justice system.

Also, their recommendations are aimed at ensuring adequate correctional facilities with effective programming, as well as involving the communities in helping offenders to heal and re-integrate to the communities. I would like to point out that the corrections planning committee has been consistent with the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The committee members were selected from the communities and so reflect the interests of those communities. The recommendations reflect the need to handle these issues in a way that is relevant to the needs and aspirations of our residents.

I am providing members with copies of the report, and I intend to review it more thoroughly in the coming weeks. I plan to have further statements for the next sitting of the legislature. In the

meantime I would be grateful for any comments or suggestions that members might have to give me. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. The time is up for Ministers' Statements unless there is a request to extend. We are going back to the Orders of the Day. Thank you. Item 3, Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 49 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Elder's Advice to MLAs

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When we invited our elders for the official opening of this House, the elder that I invited from my community wanted to give some advice to the members of the Legislative Assembly. He gave me a message he wanted to relay to the members and he talked about the traditional ways he had learned.

That elder stated, and in no way am I pointing to anybody, that he did not really like to hear about our leaders having problems with alcohol or for criminal actions. He has heard about members of the previous Legislative Assemblies having problems and he does not want to see this present legislature have any problems like that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 50 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Zone

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In regards to the single time zone that is being proposed. I am going to do the best I can to let you know of the strong opposition from my community and the other Baffin communities that are opposed to this proposal.

It is going to take a while for us to get used to the new time zone and at 2 o'clock we will be going back two hours. I don't know whether we are going to have to stay up for an extra two hours or I don't know what's going to happen.

>>Laughter

Sure it may be very funny, it might be amusing. I am concerned about the people of the Baffin region. There is a lot of us in the Baffin region and if we are going to go ahead with this proposal, I am going to do the best I can to convince members otherwise. Believe me this is very important to me, I feel very strongly about this.

I want you to know that I am going to work very hard on it, my problem is that the Baffin region will have to go two hours and the other regions one. I know that it is going to be good for the people of the Keewatin region, it is not going to effect them and the Kitikmeot region will not be effected as much. It is going to be the people of the Baffin region most effected.

I would like you to consider compromising and think about the population of the Baffin region. Even if you combine both the Kitikmeot and the Keewatin populations, the Baffin region total population will always be more.

If I lose on this one, if the change goes ahead, I will not give up because I know very many people in Baffin region and we have the largest population in Nunavut, I am going to keep fighting. Those ministers laughing across me right now will stop laughing, I assure you..

>>Applause

Point of Order

Speaker (interpretation): Point of Order, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that his statement was not quite proper, he said he is representing Pangnirtung, he is representing Igloolik. I would like that corrected.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. That will be edited. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 51 - 1(3): Recognition of Elders

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I recognized Mister and Mrs. Ittinuar who worked very hard in their lifetime. Because we feel for our elders I would again like to recognize some of the elders. He is not in good health but these two couples from Rankin Inlet have worked very hard, they used to live in Ukkusiksalik, Nattaq and his wife. We never seem to recognize the volunteers but I would like you to know that we appreciate them. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 52 - 1(3): Recognition of Elder

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today since I am very glad that this is the year of the elders. In my community of Pelly Bay, there is an elder who takes young people out on the land to teach them traditional skills. He is now a widower and works extremely hard. I would like to recognize this person. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Thank you. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. (*technical difficulties*)

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My brother in law left already and I wanted to recognize him. He has been a friend of mine for a long time and we have worked together. I would like to recognize Mr. Thomas Tiktak, who keeps you smiling when you are together with him.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my constituency assistant for both Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, he is a very good assistant, Kavavou Peter. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Raymond Piqaksaq who is the chairperson in Repulse Bay. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person who assisted me when I was campaigning. This person is now working for me in the community of Clyde River and also my other community. He has assisted me since he was a student through correspondence, as an interpreter, and as a translator. These two have assisted me when we have all worked very hard, Jaypetee Arnaquq, and Levi Pallituq. I would like them to be recognized. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you I apologize I am never good with names at times, but there is a person here from Rankin Inlet, I don't know whether she has moved here or not it is Angela Panika.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker I would like to take this opportunity to welcome in the gallery, my brother in law Mr. Jaypetee Arnaquq and two people who are almost in the gallery. They are hard workers and they are my constituents, Blandina Tulugarjuk and Mary Nashook, our interpreters and also an old friend of mine from Igloolik and Hall Beach, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Timothy Kamookak. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Since we are doing so many recognitions today I thought that I would have the honour of having at least one constituent in the gallery. I would like to recognize Bernice Lyall behind me from Cambridge Bay and also in the interpreter booth I have Attima Hadlari and Gwen Ohokak. We also have Tara Tailleur from CBC in Cambridge Bay here with us as well. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 74 - 1(3): Cigarette Smoking

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker. It is with great delight today that I stand up and ask a question to the member responsible for smoking. He gave us an interesting statistic last week in our committee meetings that said 93% of teenage girls in Nunavut smoke. When I heard that statistic I was appalled, totally appalled that the statistics up here seem to be more than the national average.

But in that statistic I was just reflecting back, I have not seen one poster in my community on anti-smoking. I wonder if the minister responsible has got any kind of plan to implement an anti-smoking plan in Nunavut and more so, combine it where it is in the schools also. Ma'na.

Speaker (interpretation): Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member brings up a very serious and very important topic. Here in Nunavut we have the highest average per capita of smokers in the country. Smoking related diseases, respiratory diseases, are highly preventable, if we could stem the tide of smoking. Indeed, many of the members of this House, including myself, suffer from that affliction and it is a very difficult habit to break although many of us have tried and are in the process of trying to quit.

In general Mr. Speaker, to answer the member's question, smoking and anti-smoking campaigns are normally run through our regional health boards. They target the priorities for public information and then they deliver the messages out to the public. What we are doing right now in the Department of Health, is trying to identify some ways and means for the community level, at the local level, at the territorial level, to be able to bring forward a plan and a strategic initiative to be able to hopefully stem the tide.

Some good work has been done, I attended the Health Ministers' meeting, Mr. Speaker, in Charlottetown PEI, where the province of British Columbia released a very strong strategic plan about stemming the tide of smoking and specifically aimed at young people where the highest rates are of people who are smokers. I have had a chance to review that and our Deputy Minister and our health people are looking at it and hopefully we will be able to bring something like that forward in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 75 - 1(3): Health Boarding Homes

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services in regards to the patients who go down to Ottawa for medical services. The other day we heard on the radio some of the patients went down there and they were having problems with patients and escorts who went down.

They are not welcomed in that facility, Rotel, and especially the Rotel is being heavily used by the people of the Baffin region. The patients who go down there and the escorts, are they going to be put down by this Rotel that we use. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member bringing this question forward and let me make it perfectly clear right now, Mr. Speaker, that if any of our patients are being treated badly in any of the boarding homes that we run, which include Edmonton, Winnipeg, Churchill, Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Ottawa, it is not acceptable and will not be acceptable.

If the member has a particular circumstance or incident that he is aware of where a person or a patient from Nunavut was treated unfairly or told that they were not welcome at that boarding home then put it in writing and bring it to me and we will deal with it. Because it isn't acceptable. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Supplementary Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Since we pay per diems through the budget for these facilities the federal government gives us money to pay for accommodations, meals and other incidentals, the patients who stay in these facilities have to be treated properly. Because when we pay for services we expect them to be treated properly. Are these monies being used properly for what they were intended. If they are not then we will have to find some other facility for our patients

and our escorts because of that money. Can you do that as the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you would bear with me, I think that at this time we should probably explain the situation and the logistics around the running of the boarding home.

In the Baffin region, Mr. Speaker, as you are acutely aware, and the members of this House, the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board, transferred services from Montreal to Ottawa. So under Ottawa we have a group called the OHSNI which is the Ottawa Health Services Incorporated Network. They facilitate our patients coming from the Baffin region of Nunavut to Ottawa.

In Montreal Mr. Speaker, as many of the members of this House remember, we used to have Baffin House which was owned by the government, which housed our clients and our patients there. In Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, we did not have a Baffin House of course because we just transferred the services. In Ottawa there is a facility called the Rotel. The Rotel is run by the OHSNI group. The Rotel is on the ground in Ottawa and services patients who had to leave from different parts of Ontario, not just from Nunavut. If you are living in Smiths Falls, Ontario, you have to go to Ottawa for the hospital and you have an opportunity to stay at the Rotel.

When the Baffin Regional Health & Social Services Board, Mr. Speaker, put this contract in place they signed it with the Rotel because they were on the ground and they were facilitating clients. Over the past two years we have had some concerns with the Rotel, indeed in my own family we have some serious situations with patients staying there. So we are acutely aware of those problems, Mr. Speaker.

But there is a contract in place for the next year and a half between the Rotel and the Baffin Regional Health & Social Services Board. That contract Mr. Speaker, on March 31st, 2000 will be assumed by us, the Government of Nunavut. Under the direction of the Premier, Paul Okalik, and myself as the Minister of Health and Social Services, we are acutely aware of some of the concerns that the members is bringing forward.

Indeed, we have had letters on them and we are looking into that contract right now. But it is a legitimate contract for the Rotel and I as a minister in this government don't want to put ourselves in the position where we walk in and cancel the contract. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, an Inuit organization, through Nunasi Corporation and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation based here in the Baffin, Mr. Jerry Ell's group, they put in a building, they bought a building, renovated it and created their own boarding home in Ottawa.

I have had an opportunity, not only Mr. Speaker, to go through the Rotel, as you have, but also an opportunity to go through the Larga Home which is owned by the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, the Inuit of Baffin. They have approached us to facilitate the client referral of patients from Baffin to an Inuit specific home owned by the Inuit.

Mr. Speaker we are working on that right now and as we are speaking today, my deputy minister of health and social services, Mr. Ken MacRury, is actually meeting with the OHSNI group to see if we can facilitate some kind of an understanding where we could facilitate people who are older, our elders for example, unilingual people to the Inuit specific home in Ottawa. That's one of the things that we are working on.

I again reiterate and state Mr. Speaker, I cannot talk about what someone said on the radio station, radio broadcasts or interviews are not before this House but I can say if the member has specific indications of someone being treated poorly, or any member of this House, or any member of the general public, then I would like to see it in writing and bring it forward, because it isn't acceptable. I reiterate that this government will not sit idly by if people, our patients, our constituents, the residents of Nunavut are being ill treated at one of the boarding homes. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Third supplementary Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not really sure if there was ill treatment of that patient but I have heard this through the media, CBC, that the escorts when they have alcohol problems are not allowed to go into this boarding home.

How are we going to rectify this situation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health, what I have tried to do is get to the situation where I can actually go physically and see the boarding homes and other facilities that we are running as a government of Nunavut. In that context Mr. Speaker, about two weeks ago I was in Winnipeg for the re-opening of the new boarding home there.

That boarding home, Mr. Speaker, has put in a sobriety clause, that anyone who has liquor on their breath, even on their breath, will not go through the door. Mr. Speaker, even when I was there a patient had written a letter who had to go to the boarding home in Winnipeg on a regular basis, how they hadn't felt safe because of that. I say to you Mr. Speaker, that our government, if we have people coming into boarding homes, because people go to Ottawa and are referred there for medical services, because they are ill. They are not there to get a holiday and if there is a problem with drinking or unruly behaviour, we heard last week or two weeks ago, when the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board met, that they had to put extra security on in the Rotel because of drunken behaviour.

Mr. Speaker that is not acceptable. The model that is being used in Winnipeg is a good model and I endorse it. What we have tried to do in the Rotel in Ottawa, is to try and clamp down on that type of behaviour and if someone is an escort, as the member was talking about, in most cases, 90% of the cases where I am aware of, it is not the patient, it is usually the escort that is with the patient that has the problem with alcohol.

I say to you Mr. Speaker, that in some cases some people don't want to talk about these types of situations, but I say we deal with them. If you are going down for chemotherapy or radiation therapy

to Ottawa, you deserve to feel safe and be escorted by someone who is sober. That is what we would like to put in place Mr. Speaker, so I appreciate the member's support on this and if there is a case where he knows of escorts, again, a drunk, going into Rotel, if there is a patient who is unilingual and using one of these escorts, and their escort is drunk, then you bring that to me sir, and we will deal with it.

We are not going to sit around as a government, Mr. Speaker, and have our patients put in jeopardy by drunken escorts, I can guarantee you that right now sir. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Your final supplementary, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also wanted to comment that when there is a suicide we do not like to see successful suicides and I understand that Inuit people who abuse alcohol, once we find out that they abuse alcohol we don't know whether they are alive or not. We value life and when the escorts go down there, they are still human beings and they are still alive, but they cannot even get into the boarding home. If somebody committed suicide we can no longer do anything about it. But a person who has abused alcohol, who is drunk, they are human beings, they are still human beings.

Rather than making that person look bad, is that going to be your normal practice now, because this has an impact on our lives. As the minister are you saying that you don't like the people who drink? They are still at the level of human beings, there is opportunity for them to get healed. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Your question is out of order. He is the Minister for Health. You cannot ask the minister an individual question like that. Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 76 - 1(3): Budget

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance in regards to the budget update that he gave earlier this afternoon. Mr. Speaker in his statement he indicated that we were experiencing a decrease in revenue, about 5.7 million dollars. Could the minister give some detail as to what areas this revenue is being lost. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there have been some decreases in personal income tax. Taxes, the collection rates were lower than expected, also there has been some reduction in the revenue projections for corporate income taxes, as well as the personal income taxes.

There is also other areas of taxation, fuel taxes as well that are coming in lower than expected and those are some of the main areas for the causes of reductions in revenues. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker also in the minister's update he indicated that we expected not to spend around 10.3 million dollars less than was originally projected. I believe he indicated that this was partly due to the hirings that have not taken place to this point. Can the minister say whether the amount of 10 million dollars, whether that represents 60, 70, or 80% of the budget for hiring and associated costs. In other words how much of this 10 million dollars is associated with the decrease in hiring.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the 10.3 million dollars anticipated as amounts not being spent by all the departments, is inclusive of all their expenditures including the wages and salaries the honourable member is referring to. If you want to put it in perspective though the Government of Nunavut salaries and benefits totals approximately 90 million dollars budgetary wise out of our 600 million dollars.

So if you put it in that perspective we are talking about 15% of the government's budget in wages and salaries. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker can the minister confirm that when we negotiated the formula financing agreement that, my understanding is, that included all of the positions and associated costs for the hirings that we were expecting.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well, Mr. Speaker it is hard for me to answer that question. I wasn't involved directly in the negotiations for the formula financing. As you know the Office of the Interim Commissioner, Government of the NWT, NTI were at the table in that respect. All I can say is, based on the work that had been done, this government assumed the formula financing payments, developed the budget recommendations on the work that had been done by the Office of the Interim Commissioner, made some minor modifications as we are all aware and then made the 99/2000 budget and that is what we are trying to work with Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is my understanding that the minister and his staff indicated that we were at approximately 58 to 60% capacity in our hiring. That would leave, just in general terms, 40% of the staff not hired yet, which I assume would also be the associated cost with the staff as far as hiring and benefits and so on.

I just find it difficult to understand that with 40% not being hired, how that could only equate to a 10 million dollar saving. Actually it is less than 10 million dollars because you indicated there were

other areas that there were savings in. I am wondering if the minister could explain in more detail as to what that actually represents. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I actually think it is quite simple to explain. Of course, when I had these numbers I asked the same questions of my officials and what the rationale would be. Quite frankly what it is, is that the numbers that we have been given, 53% of the staffing levels now of the Government of Nunavut, that is not inclusive of the boards and agencies, when you factor that in, the actual government staffing levels are 73%.

If you used the Government of Nunavut 53% one has to realize that is 53% staffing of the permanent positions that were budgeted, that we approved in this House. But that does not take into consideration, Mr. Speaker, the casual staffing, the contracting back, the consultants that are hired in the interim to address shortfalls in the staffing levels.

In order to continue to provide services when we don't have all the permanent staffing on hand, that's how the departments are dealing with the provision of services. That's primarily the main reason. The second reason being, Mr. Speaker, when they develop budgets, they recognized that all the departments wouldn't be fully staffed on April 1st, I think we all recognized that as we are progressing through the year trying to staff all the departments, and they are trying to reach their full staffing complements. Because of that at the same time, some of our staffing costs in the budget were what they called back end loaded, when they realize that the staffing levels increase over the course of the year that more staffing budget requirements would take place, there would be more need for staffing funds for the latter part of the year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Before I recognize another member, I would like to recognize the world renowned Susan Aglukkaa and her sister Vivian Aglukkaa. Welcome to the gallery. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 77 - 1(3): Public Consultations

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier, the government leader. When we first got elected we stated to the people of Nunavut that we would be closer to them and that we would be open and transparent. Is this government going to be making decisions and making regulations prior to consulting with the people of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I can say today all the bills are now under review by the task force on legislation and we keep saying that we want to do our budget consultations in all the communities and the Minister of Education, we will do another consultation with the communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I don't think you understand me. I'll use an example because one single time zone is very important to us. Rather than working with the people you have set out and made a decision which will change our clocks back on the 31st and yet when the government first started initially we kept saying that we'd be open in consulting with the people of Nunavut.

Prior to this decision being given to the people of Nunavut you did not consult with the communities as to how the single time zone would be dealt with. You did not get input or consult with the people of Nunavut so that's why I had asked you if you're going to be doing this. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, we had consensus on April 1st and there was agreement in the Association of Municipalities AGM to set up one time zone for Nunavut. We are implementing that today. It's just going to be one hour here for the Baffin Region. We are going to set up one time zone for the whole of Nunavut if anybody wants to call us, no matter where they are from, to the office they will be able to get assistance because we'll have the same times.

Speaker (interpretation): Before I recognize anyone I would like to let you know that this should be dealt with at the Committee of the Whole. I don't believe that we should deal with it during oral questions. (interpretation ends) You are out of order. Oral question. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 78 - 1(3): Outpost Camps for Offenders

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. I know of a people from Nunavut who have been just put into jail but I also know that there's outpost camps where they can bring young offenders who have not committed indictable offences. How do you go about making a proposal to set up a camp that would be used for youth who have committed crimes. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I would like to thank you. Are you talking about getting assistance for building such facilities or what were you asking for specifically. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. If you could make a supplementary comment or rephrase your question Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. What I'm trying to ask Mr. Speaker is that if I had an outpost camp, and if I wanted to help youth who have gone through the court system or have been incarcerated, how do I go about making a proposal. Thank you.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I apologize. Some of the communities are starting to establish camps to take in clients from the correctional centres. Any community whether they be small or large could take on these youth and that's being established in some of the Nunavut communities. If you would like to get further information you could call the Department of Justice or go through the

Justice Committees that are established in some of the communities. You could ask for information from these departments. The Department of Justice is more than willing to see more camps set up for the youth.

Speaker: Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, I have had some people approach me and said that there were previous camp owners who could get assistance for some of their expenditures, like for travel costs. Is there any financial assistance or has there been a decrease in the amount that could have been used for the camps.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Anyone who would like to set up a camp to take out young people and who want to have clients in their camps, the criteria is still the same. We could look into it but what we do is we give them financial assistance to help them with their transportation, food and so on.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. So if one of the youth would like to use one of these outpost camp facilities, who would they direct their request to. Either myself or whose department.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): You could either get help from the Department of Justice or if they want to, they could call my office directly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 79 - 1(3): Staff Issues with Decentralization

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to DPW. I have heard that the department is going to be moving up to Pond Inlet. I was talking to one of the employees who lives in Iqaluit and doesn't want to go to Pond Inlet because the department is moving up there. What's going to happen.

There are some people who do not want to move from their place of residence to another community because their department's moving. What happens if there are some vacant positions because the employees don't go up. Would you have training programs available for local people in Pond Inlet so that these positions could be filled. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The member has been concerned about some of the employees not wanting to move to Pond Inlet. My Deputy Minister and I will have to meet with the Hamlet in Pond Inlet so that we could discuss the possibility of setting up

a training program or sending someone from Pond Inlet down here for further training. These are the plans we have in place. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 80 - 1(3): Project Surname

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. It gets tiring after sitting for quite some time but Mr. Speaker a few days ago, under member's statements, I made a statement that our surnames and birth dates are not properly recorded or spelled. Mr. Speaker, I have a question directed to the Premier. Mr. Premier, since you're the Premier for the Nunavut Government, the misspelled and wrong birth dates of people of Nunavut, in regards to these, what does the government plan to do in that the government is supposed to be very close to it's people. So I'm encouraging you to make changes. How much work would it require. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I know that a bit myself and we have tried to give you support and when you try to make changes to the name it tends to go through a lot of procedures like through the court system.

Especially when the elders want to make changes to their names, the way they're spelled. Perhaps I could get the law reform committee to look into this issue too and I could also include that. I have urged the members of the legislative assembly asking them what kind of issues they want to be looked at by the law reform committee. If you want this to be a priority I could do this.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you for your response. Prior to our government being established, our previous Government of the NWT had initiated this. It was territory wide including the Nunavut area. The GNWT had initiated a project called operation surname and I know that it costs money to do it. Since it was GNWT who made all those mistakes, why should the Nunavut Government have to pay for all those mistakes. So I would like you to consider this carefully. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. First of all it was not by the GNWT, it was initiated by the Federal Government. The project surname was initiated for anybody who would like to change their names or change the spelling. It has to go through the court system and we had inherited this act. Therefore, I could ask the Law Reform Committee to review this so that it will make it easier for Nunavut residents to make changes. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Question 81 - 1(3): Kimmirut's Water Reservoir

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. I received an urgent letter from Kimmirut because their reservoir is quite far and they have a pipeline going into the community. I would like to know since there was a study done, what has been done to date. We haven't received the results to date. Could you let me know what the status is now on this issue. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We can only start working on it if we get direction from the Department of CG&T. I can talk about the budget portion of it but it was in the B list. As you know we deal with urgent situations where there's safety, health and so on. We first have to get money from Mr. Anawak's department before we can do anything about it because my department is just to do public work. Mr. Anawak probably knows how to respond to your question better because he's the one with the money. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 82 - 1(3): Assistance to Clyde River for Power Costs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the NTPC. The equipment has arrived in our community and we know that the community of Clyde River is in a deficit situation. We're going to be paying 40% of that. What kind of assistance can we get from the Nunavut Government in regards to paying for that equipment.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Picco, Minister responsible for NTPC.

Mr. Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I guess I should start with thanking the member for his question. As you know Mr. Speaker, earlier this summer I had the opportunity to visit Clyde River with the member. I met with the Hamlet and the Mayor to discuss the construction of the new generating station in the community of Clyde River. In Clyde River's Case, Mr. Speaker, the best information available to the Power Corporation, to NTPC itself is that power rates would rise anywhere between 35 – 40 % based on the new infrastructure that we're putting in place in Clyde River. Now let me back up just a little bit to explain the situation Mr. Speaker.

As the member knows and some members of the House, the GNWT and through the Public Utilities Board, went to community based rates for our power supplied to us and in that case when there's new infrastructure being installed in a community has to pay the infrastructure costs and I think that's what the member is trying to say. The cost relationship with the increase with the new capital infrastructure in Clyde River is about 35 – 40 %. After saying that Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut, we know indeed, that most people would realize that 35 or 40% increase is not bearable by the constituents, by the taxpayers, by the residents of Clyde River for that matter, for anywhere in Nunavut.

So what the Government of Nunavut is looking at doing and what the community of Clyde River can do as I explained when I was in Clyde this past summer, first of all, that generating station needs to be in Clyde River. We need to be able to provide power, electrical power to Clyde. In partnership with the people of Clyde and the Hamlet, we've been able to facilitate some employment opportunities with infrastructure so there are some good points to this.

On the 35 – 40% increase as I explained when I was in Clyde this past summer, that the community, the Hamlet of Clyde has an opportunity through the Public Utilities Board when the rate increase occurs to be able to be intervene. Their costs will be covered for that. Mr. Speaker, we have to make it very clear that the increase in rate will not occur before a hearing is held and we're not looking at that happening for another 15 or 16 months. In the mean time, as a government and as a minister for the Power Corporation, NTPC officials, having briefed my Cabinet colleagues, we're trying to look at a process in place so that we can negate. Mr. Speaker, the work here is to negate any extraordinary or enormous amount of rate increases for the people of Clyde River. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that there's going to be annual increases right up to the 40% mark. I understand the reasoning behind it. Even if that's the case, we will get effected one way or another because of course we're paying out of our pocket for the electrical bill. The gradual increase over the years will effect us residents. Have you done a review on how this could be implemented? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mr. Iqaqrialu. (interpretation ends) Minister responsible for NTPC, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll try to be concise and try to articulate that the rate impact on the Community of Clyde for our best estimates right now could be and the operative word here is could be, 33-40%. The rate will not be determined until a Nunavut Public Utilities Board has been formed and reviews a General Rate Application where the community of Clyde River under that General Rate Application would have intervenor status which would be paid for on any cost increase.

I think that's important to note. Thank you Mr. O'Brien for your support over there. You look like a thespian. Thank you Mr. Speaker. So the community of Clyde River, no increase will occur before a Public Utilities Board application happens. Then we would have an opportunity to have intervenor status on that application and as a government we realize that a 33 – 40 % increase is not acceptable. What we're trying to do right now Mr. Speaker, as a government is look at the whole operation of the Nunavut Power Corporation.

We're trying to find out exactly, should we maintain the same relationship right now with the NTPC. Should we look at outsourcing somewhere supply or indeed, should we set up a Nunavut Power Corporation. And those issues and decisions they make over the coming weeks, we can then reflect better for the people of Clyde on this situation with the rate increase, on the community infrastructure and on the new power plant.

But in any case, it's several months down the road and before that occurs, Mr. Speaker, the people of Clyde River will have an opportunity to review and have a look at that. As you know Mr. Speaker, the biggest users of power in the communities is the government. So if the rates increase by 40% in Clyde River, who will pay that Mr. Speaker, it would be me and you and the members of this House and the constituents in the community at large, the people of Nunavut.

So we are acutely aware of that and I want to reassure the people of Clyde River and the member that this government will do everything in it's power to make sure that that any rate increase is acceptable, nominal and indeed affordable to the people of Clyde River through the process that is in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 83 - 1(3): Name Change for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The department's name is so long I was wondering if you can make a name like Ilirqusiliriniq Arnalirnirmut, minister meaning culture and women Secretariat or Women, Youth and Language Minister. Just making more of a comment than a question Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak.. I know that you can say that in English in a short form but it's pretty hard to find an appropriate name for the department in Inuktitut but it's up to the Minister Havioyak to respond. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for your question. We are studying the name in Inuktitut, we're calling it Illiqusilirijiit at this time due to the culture and language of Inuit. And also as you mentioned there are the women and youth and we're in the process of getting a name for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Thank you.

Speaker: Quanaqutiit, Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 84 - 1(3): Consultations by Ministers

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize, I don't think they quite understood my question because I was using the single time zone as an example, like all these regulations prior to these regulations being established, I would like to ask the appropriate minister if they will be consulting the communities prior to making decisions. I know we will deal with that during the committee of the whole, I couldn't sleep last night but that I have heard from a cabinet minister that we will be turning our clocks back one hour in the Baffin region.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Kattuk, we did misunderstand you too. I thought that you were going to deliberate on the single time zone. Perhaps our Premier can respond to this question.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had stated all the acts will be reviewed by the Law Reform Committee which we are about to establish so they will be visiting the communities and that we

would like to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Nunavut Acts, and as I have stated when we work on the budget estimates for the upcoming year we will clearly review them to reflect all the Inuit of Nunavut.

Speaker: Mr. McLean.

Question 85 - 1(3): Zero Tolerance

Mr. McLean: Ma' na Uqaqti. In the last government there was a policy adopted by the legislative assembly towards women and children. It was called zero tolerance. I know this government is only in it's seventh month but I'm not sure what minister is responsible or the whole government, do they plan to endorse zero tolerance on violence against women and children shortly. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. From what I've been advised, it was the Legislative Assembly of the last Territorial Government that had adopted a zero tolerance policy and we are in the process as a government of reviewing more policies. Unfortunately all the policies weren't automatically provided to our government so we are reviewing the policies and making them compatible with our territory. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma' na Uqaqtii. Now that I know who I can ask this question to. Can you give me a commitment when this government is going to bring this policy forward, if it's going to be. I don't want to put the honourable minister on the spot but is it going to be within the next six months or six years. Ma' na.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We will work with the members of the legislative assembly wants to adopt the zero tolerance policy as the last territorial government had done in terms of conduct amongst members and we will be open to any policy that will support that initiative. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 86 - 1(3): Proposals for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Funding

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. He announced recently a funding program under his department, are your application forms ready now.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Speaker. This is a question that was brought forward to me a few days ago. They are in the process of being looked after and they are in the process of being implemented. At this time we aren't sure when it's going to be ready but they are being worked on. Thank you.

Speaker: Quanaqtit Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes the reason why I asked this question is because in September when I visited one of my constituents, I went home at that time at the beginning of September and I asked this question. It was taken under notice. The people who would like to apply for it are having a problem because they cannot hand in their application forms so I would like to give them support to the best of my ability. Since you have stated that you are not working on that, I will relay that information to my constituency. I would like to see those when they are completed. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just want to, like I said, we're still in the process of working on this document. We're in the process of hiring people as well. Anything pertaining to this document, and if I get more staff, then we'll continue to work on it. Like I said, I will continue to work on it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Question 87 - 1(3): Cape Dorset Water Reservoir Study

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask another question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation about the water reservoir. Her staff did a study. My question is if the results are going to be given over to the CG & T .

Speaker: Minister of the Housing Corporation.

Hon. Manito Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. In regards to this issue, I would have to refer to Mr. Anawak, if we're still referring to the same issue that was brought up earlier. I cannot direct another minister.

Speaker (interpretation): I will give you another opportunity Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The results of the study were initiated by your department. Are the results of these studies going to be given to the CG&T Minister in regards to that water pipeline that I was referring to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My staff and Mr. Anawak's staff have worked together. It was initiated by MACA in the beginning. They are already there, but

as long as we don't get the money for the project we cannot initiate the work, because Mr. Anawak's staff knows that the study has been done and we are ready to start the work.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 88 – 1 (3): Community Freezer Repairs

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Back in 1982 the GNWT built a community freezer in the community of Baker Lake to the great delight of the residents of Baker Lake. In a community like Baker Lake there are herds of caribou that go by and people take the opportunity to stockpile fresh meat. The community freezer was a big boon to the community for the last fifteen or sixteen years.

This spring the four compressors, due to no lack of maintenance or anything, finally wore out in the middle of June and broke down. Unfortunately there was close to 40 or 50 thousand pounds of country food in there that the people in my community depended on. The Hamlet wrote to the Superintendent, and I assumed that he passed it on to the minister, about us having to throw away 40 thousands pounds of country food. That really hurt the community.

To date I haven't heard an answer back or the community hasn't heard back if they are going to replace the compressors on that freezer. So my question is to the Minister of Community Government, does he have plans for next year to replace the compressors on that community freezer. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Community Government. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I apologize I hadn't heard about that and I will take it as notice.

Speaker: Question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to opening address. Item 10, Petitions. Mr. Ng.

Item 10: Petitions

Response to Petition 01 – 1 (3)

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a response to a petition tabled by the Honourable Donald Haviyok on October 25th, on Nunavut Liquor Permits. I am pleased to acknowledge the petition tabled in the Assembly by the MLA for Kugluktuk on behalf of his constituents concerning the use of Nunavut Liquor Import Permits.

The petition is requesting that the use of Nunavut Liquor Import Permits be suspended for the importing of liquor products from the NWT through the Yellowknife liquor store. Mr. Speaker on April 1st, 1999, a Nunavut Liquor Permit became necessary to obtain liquor from the Yellowknife store because the Yellowknife store is now outside the Government of Nunavut's jurisdiction.

I agree that this situation has disrupted the usual method that eligible citizens have used to acquire liquor products. I have asked the recently appointed Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board to provide me

with advice as to how best to deal with this matter and other issues regarding the Liquor Act. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Petitions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Petition 06 – 1 (3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a petition from the community of Igloolik. The petition is requesting that we do not go ahead with the two hour change.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Petitions. Petitions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Petition 07 – 1 (3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have another petition with 55 signatures that I would like to table from the community of Hall Beach requesting that we do not turn the clock back two hours. There are 55 signatures from the community of Hall Beach. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Ajauqtiit Standing Committee on the Appointment of Languages Commissioner

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have the honour of presenting the report on the appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut. This report was prepared by the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit after we conducted a thorough selection process to identify the most appropriate candidate for this important public office. Later today I will bring forward a notice of motion and seek unanimous consent to bring the motion to the floor of the House today, to recommend Eva Qamaniq Arreak be appointed as the new Languages Commissioner of Nunavut pursuant to section 18 of the *Official Languages Act*.

As the report states, our standing committee worked very hard to make sure that our selection process was thorough and unbiased. A subcommittee of three of our members conducted the interviews and selection process for the Languages Commissioner which included Hunter Tootoo, the Chair, myself Co-Chairperson and David Iqaqrialu.

Members of our committee and subcommittee met thirteen times on the matter of the Languages Commissioner over the last two months. We received twelve applications from people across Nunavut for this position. We conducted in person interviews with five candidates, reviewed their written answers to questions and evaluated their experience and education as outlined on their resumes. We also reviewed information from three references for the final candidate.

It was a very difficult decision for the members because all of the candidates are very committed people and they were all interested in the position and they all have many skills and ideas to bring to the position. We thank them all for applying.

Nevertheless we had to choose one name to recommend to the members of the Legislative Assembly. The Languages Commissioner of Nunavut must have many qualities. The Commissioner must be a strong, committed voice for the promotion and preservation of the Inuit language and dialects and at the same time have the diplomacy and grace to mediate solutions, sensitivity to the aspirations of different language groups and the integrity and administrative competence to deal with complaints in a fair and timely manner.

Above all they must be a leader in the Inuit tradition, able to hold the respect and confidence of all Inuit, elders and youth as well as French and English speaking residents of Nunavut. We believe that Eva Qamaniq Arreak has these qualities. She will do her job in the Inuit way. She will make us proud as a representative of Nunavummiut in meetings with other Languages Commissioners across Canada and elsewhere. Eva understands the challenges facing the Government of Nunavut and the need for a concerted effort on language issues, if the languages of our fathers are to flourish in the future.

We are confident that with the support of the members of the Legislative Assembly, her colleagues in these positions elsewhere in Canada, and her staff, Eva Qamaniq Arreak will do an outstanding job as Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will give notice of motion to appoint the Languages Commissioner. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. At this time we are on reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 12: Report of Committees on Review of Bills

Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 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 6 moved into committee of the whole for today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 68(5) and move bill 6 to committee of the whole for today. Do we have any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Akesuk, you have unanimous consent. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 09 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Change Document

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to table a document which I received yesterday from the Mayor of Clyde River. The Hamlet Council are opposed to the two hour change to the time zone and they passed a motion so that we can change our hours.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 10 - 1(3): Budget Update Highlights and Expenditure Summaries

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to table today the budget update that highlights our revenue and expenditure summaries for the past six months. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Tabling of documents. Mr. Irqittuq.

Tabled Document 11 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Change Document

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I also would like to table a document, Mr. Speaker, from the Hall Beach Hamlet Council. They passed a motion not to change the time zone.

I also would like to table another document which was written to me and the Premier from Daniel Uyarok and from Sandy Agnakok. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Tabling of documents. Mr. Kattuk.

Tabled Document 12 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Change Letter

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to table a letter that I received yesterday from the Municipal Council of Sanikiluaq. This letter urges government to wait one more year before making a final decision on the time zone issue. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 1st, 1999, I will move the following motion; I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqumiut, that Eva Qamaniq Arreak be appointed as the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut for the term of 4 years, and further, that the appointment be effective December, 1, 1999. Mr. Speaker I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion under item 16, motions today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Item 15, Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Alakannuark, you may go ahead with your motion.

Motion 2 - 1(3): Appointment of Languages Commissioner

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas section 18(1) of the Official Languages Act permits the appointment of a Language Commissioner by the Commissioner of Nunavut, after the approval of the appointment by a resolution of the Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of the Languages Commissioner essential for ensuring recognition of the rights, status and privileges of each of the official languages, and compliance with the spirit and intent of the *Official Languages Act*; and

Whereas the Office of the Languages Commissioner is vacant; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of the Languages Commissioner should now be made,

Now, therefore I move, seconded by the honourable member for Uqqummiut, that Eva Qamaniq Arreak, be appointed as the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut for the term of four years.

And further, that the appointment be effective December, 1, 1999.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. There is a motion on the floor. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

>>Applause

Speaker: My congratulations to Eva Qamaniq Arreak as Nunavut's first Languages Commissioner who is attending today with her daughter Carlene Arreak in the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker: Motions. Item 17, First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 18, Second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters; Bill 5 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 1999/2000; Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; Minister’s Statement 22 – 1 (3), with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. I would like to ask for a twenty minute recess to congratulate our new Languages Commissioner.

>>*Short Recess*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Can you go and get some more of the members, please. We now have a quorum. We can resume. We will now go on to consideration in Committee of the Whole to deal with Bill 5 – Supplementary Appropriation Act, and Minister’s Statement 22-1 (3). I would like to ask the members, what is your wish. How would you like to proceed. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite the Minister for Housing and PWTTS to discuss the topic: Business Incentive Policy. I recommend that we deal with her first and then later on that we deal with Bill 6 if we have time. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. General comments to the bill, Minister’s Statement 22-1(3).

Nunavut’s Business Incentive Policy

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman When I go to the witness table I will bring my officials. I would like to ask the committee if you are in agreement with that. Also, the Minister’s Statement on Nunavut’s Business Incentive Policy, you will only be able to ask questions on this topic. On Article 24 and the Business Incentive Policy you won’t be able to ask questions in regard to those two because I have not tabled those in this House. I’m just reminding the members that you will only be able to ask questions on my statement. If that’s ok with the committee, then I would like to invite my officials to the witness table. Is that ok, Mr. Chairman? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Is that agreed? You may go ahead and sit at the witness table and you may bring in your officials. Thank you, Minister Thompson. Madame Minister, could you please introduce your officials.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): With their Inuktitut names?

Chairperson (interpretation): If you can.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Ross Mrazek, my DM for PWTTS, Mr. Mark Bain, the Director of Corporate Services, he works at PIB, John Purdy.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Thompson. In regards to the Minister's Statement, are there any general comments? I think you have read the Minister's Statement. Are there any questions or Manitok, would you like to make a brief comment on that, and/or your officials?

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to remind you, of my statement. In the beginning I promised members that my department would undertake a complete review of this policy so that the people of Nunavut would have the opportunity to comment and to ensure that our department meets the specific requirements of Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. I have established a working group that will focus its efforts on reviewing this policy. It is my intention that this working group seek input from and consult with all the Members of the Legislative Assembly. As you know, the Business Incentive Policy forms the backbone of the government and we would like to hear from all people and we will be working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut businesses and Inuit firms. As I have stated before, if we are going to be developing in Nunavut, and if we are going to be developing small businesses, we have to initiate this Business Incentive Policy.

It is my hope that the final draft of this policy paper will be ready for public review and with your support and the support of the business community and the people of Nunavut, it is my intention to have the working group meet as fast as possible. Mr. Chairman, our timeline is to review this policy as a final made-in-Nunavut Business Incentive Policy which needs to be in place for the next contracting season. It is my hope that a final draft of this policy will be ready for public review by the early new year or be completed by sometime in February or March, 2000.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. General comments. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief question. Who are the people on...perhaps you can't name the working group. Could you tell me who the working group consists of?

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead, Manitok.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot tell you who will be in the working group as the rest of the cabinet members are now making the decision on that. I know that at least it will involve NTL.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does that answer your question, Mr. Irqittuq? General comments. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask the minister about the Business Incentive Policy. I know that you are going to make amendments and some businesses in Nunavut are huge and some are small businesses. What kind of businesses are you talking about. Are you talking about small businesses that are existing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking about large businesses and small businesses...any kind of business, as long as they are a private business in Nunavut. That's what we're talking about. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqignak.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): Thank you very much for your response, because for the small businesses that are just starting off, the Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for that. I was getting confused when you started talking about larger businesses and smaller businesses. Will you be giving support to smaller businesses that want to be initiated?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Uriash. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development has a program for small businesses that want to be initiated, but we are Public Works. Thank you.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): I have another question. Now that you will be working on the policy for Nunavut, made in Nunavut, prior to the drafting of the policy, in my constituency, businesses are way behind the other regions. You mentioned that this new policy could be introduced by March, 2000. In my community there are small businesses that require a lot of assistance. Do you have any plans to get these small businesses up to par with the rest of the businesses. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Uriash. Madame Minister, either one of you can respond to his question.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): At this point in time, the policy was inherited from the GNWT. This policy, called the "Business Incentive Policy", in English, was used to help small businesses and that's what we have inherited and we will use it to prioritize Nunavut businesses. We cannot operate without any policies, so that's why we are using the old policy.

Chairperson (interpretation): Uriash.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): Short comment. Thank you, Madame Minister. I would like a response about whether this can be implemented before March, 2000. Is it possible.

Chairperson (interpretation): I believe that we have to stick to the subject here. We're getting out of line. What we understood was that we would stay on the subject here. If you could direct your question to the minister's statement. I'd like to keep it in line. You could rephrase your question.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): I think I'll make another comment, later.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Uriash. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the September 24 meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Baker Lake a motion was put forward that indicated, if I can read it:

“Whereas NTI and the Government of Nunavut are planning a review of the BIP and whereas the policy was created by the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce and enacted by the GNWT to level the playing field between northern and southern businesses; Be it resolved that KCC have representation on the review committee to protect business interests.”

Moved by Ray Mercer and Seconded by Al Lahare. My question to the minister, I know she indicated that she's not quite sure who's going to be on the committee, but I would like a commitment from the minister that there's at least a name from the KCC put forward for the selection process. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our proposal as a department to cabinet is that we have four from NTI and four from GN, but there can certainly be a motion put forward if they want someone else on this body. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. With all due respect to NTI, why would it be necessary to have four representatives from NTI. Can I have some rationale for that proposal.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister, if you would like to respond please.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Mr. Chair, that's our proposal to cabinet and Article 24 is from NTI. We have to work together. That's the reason why we have equal numbers from each group. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment. I will be making a motion for the minister to consider putting a name forward from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce for consideration on this review committee. I think that's only reasonable and fair. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Did you want to make a response, Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: In my statement, I said that this working group will seek input from and consult with all Members of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of the communities, the public, business leaders, and interested groups, so everybody will be consulted. The group will be also consulting with the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Would you like to make further comments.

Mr. O'Brien: Just for clarification purposes, the minister said that she cannot let us know right now who the individuals are that are going to be on this committee. Is that because it has not been approved by your caucus, by cabinet. Is that my understanding.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Madame Minister, or any one of the staff members.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. As I said, I have a proposal to bring forward to cabinet and because we have been so busy we have not gotten to that yet. That is my proposal at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Minister, I'm just trying to get it clear in my mind. Are you saying that cabinet will make the decision on who is approved for this review committee, or are you making this decision as the minister for your department. Who is making the decision as to who will serve on this committee? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. At this time, I just know the numbers. I don't have specific names. For my department, we have John Purdy who is here right now, Theresa Chandler, Terry Audla, and Barry Cornthwaite. That's from my department, and the proposal is for four other people from NTI. That's our proposal, thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien. There's other people who might want to ask questions. Go ahead, please.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question, again to the minister. Being that the Minister hasn't finalized her proposal yet, I would ask her if she would consider putting a name forward from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, as one of the representatives, given the fact that this policy affects all businesspeople and what we have on it is bureaucrats, with all due respect, and elected representatives.

So I would ask the minister to reconsider and to put a name forward or accept a name from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce in view of the fact that was their wish and they made it known through a resolution at the annual general meeting in September. So I would ask the minister if she would reconsider her proposal and include one of these names or companies. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I believe that there has to be equal representation from all of Nunavut, and there has to be equal representation. Please keep in mind that when you are going to be asking questions. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will consider that, but there will be a lot of people in the working group, because there's also the Kitikmeot Chamber of Commerce, Baffin

Chamber of Commerce, Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, but I will consider the request, see how we can work around it with my colleagues. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. McLean, I believe you have a question. Go ahead.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, David. If I stray off the Minister's Statement, somebody will bring me back to it. Before I start, I want to give you a little history lesson. The Business Incentive Policy that the Government of the Northwest Territories enacted was developed by the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce for the Northwest Territories. They lobbied the government of the Northwest Territories to enact a Business Incentive Policy. That's why we have a Business Incentive Policy, because the private sector, who are the stakeholders in this, lobbied and drew it up and worked with the government as equal partners to develop the BIP, and I'm just echoing what Mr. O'Brien said in regards to it. I have a problem, no offence to bureaucrats, they're all hardworking and we need them, I see that.

But the Business Incentive Policy was formed to protect businesses, and I have to reiterate that there should be somebody, preferably from the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, and the present President is Ray Mercer, who was one of the driving forces behind the Business Incentive Policy in 1983 and 1984.

I know the other chambers of commerce like the Kitikmeot and the Baffin and Iqaluit were sort of reaping the rewards of the Business Incentive Policy and I was reading the document again and it sort of says you're going to consult with the business leaders and things like that, but what scares me is that they won't be, and we're going to have a Business Incentive Policy that won't be reflective of the business community. What worries me is that the Business Incentive Policy was a good document, but it was written in 1983 and 1984 and times have changed, where Article 24 has come along.

The Business Incentive Policy of today does not reflect Article 24 of the land claims agreement. It should and I agree with it, because there is a large misunderstanding amongst the populace that Article 24 and the Business Incentive Policy are separate. But how do you enact them in government contracts. That is a tough question to ask, and it's also going to be harder to answer. I like the idea of community consultations. We need it, because you'll hear from people, and I've heard from people, being the past President of the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce, about Article 24 and the Business Incentive Policy and I've had to sit there and try to explain it to people and I couldn't.

So if you take a tour of communities discussing the Business Incentive Policy you're going to hear all kinds of different ideas on what Article 24 and the Business Incentive Policy are. Just a short question, and Mr. Chairman, I want to ask some more questions. Is the government going to integrate the Business Incentive Policy and Article 24 together in all contracting procedures, is that what the quest of this rewriting is.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Madame Minister if you would like to respond.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Everybody is nodding on this side, so I'm nodding too. Yes. Thanks.

Mr. McLean: Good. That's one of the questions that I've been wanting to ask for a long time. The Business Incentive Policy, like I said, was established to give northern businesses an advantage over southern businesses because large firms down south would bid on work in the north and they would bid low, lower than the northern company, because the northern companies, as we all know, have to own warehouses and keep staff in the north all the time.

During the construction season they had to maintain staff and a lot of staff in the construction industry up here are Inuit staff, and when companies down south bid on it, they would fly their staff up and work on contracts and have no training components involved. That's why the Business Incentive Policy was enacted, to protect northern businesses and encourage them to grow.

So I'm kind of hoping that with this new Business Incentive Policy that cabinet is working on, and like it says here in the document, that some of the members are going to be encouraged to be on, will still protect northern businesses from southern businesses. Is that the goal of the Business Incentive Policy that's going to be rewritten.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. That side is also nodding, so, yes. We're saying yes too many times, Glen, I mean Mr. McLean, but yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson is at the witness table and questions could be asked from any one of the members here. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na. So, when this document is done and you got the working group of NTI, which I hope have some business experience, the government, which I know don't have any business experience, and the private sector, who I know have some business experience whether it's the Keewatin Chamber, the Baffin Chamber, or the Kitikmeot Chamber; can all of them work together and come out with a document that is truly reflective of today's Nunavut and which will benefit all businesses in Nunavut along with Inuit businesses. We will have a chance to bring this document forward in our standing committee.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister if you would like to respond please.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chair. I had already made a commitment in my statement that if any legislative standing committees would like the working group to appear before them, I have offered whatever they have with them to appear before the standing committees. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madam Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I don't know if the Minister understood what I said. What I asked is that will the standing committee responsible for the Business Incentive Policy have input and if there is something that is glaringly wrong have a chance to discuss and make recommendations before it turns into a policy or legislation and that we'll have ample time to deal with it, not ample time but a time to deal

with it so that if there are glaring errors or if we find mistakes that we'll be able to recommend changes to it. Are we going to get that opportunity. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Madam Minister or one of the staff members.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chair. Yes, we will commit to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Mr. Chairman. The minister has answered all my questions and I'm happy with the responses I got from her and I'm sure this Business Incentive Policy is going to be one that reflects Nunavut. I'll sleep a lot better tonight knowing that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. It's ok if the Minister's doesn't make any comments. If you don't have any comments to make or if you don't have any questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On Article 24, I had no kind of direction and we do have many questions to ask I just want to, I know that it states April 1, 2000. I know that this policy will be implemented on that date, I was wondering if that will be announced at that time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Madame Minister if you would like to respond.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll let him answer this.

Chairperson (interpretation): The floor's open.

Mr. Bain: When the Business Incentive Policy was brought into force within the Nunavut Government it was only approved for 12 months and was set to expire April 1, 2000. We're hoping to get a new policy in place so there's no confusion with contractors for the next contracting season. So as early we can get that done with the co-operation of the standing committee and the public and what not the less confusion out there for the business community. Especially with a new policy coming in to place. Nukarmiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Bain. Mr. Nutarak do you have any other questions.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I wanted to make a comment that there was some discussion that was getting out of line, so I was going to point that out at that time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Madam Minister do you want to make a response. Ok. Any other comments. All the names on my list are gone now. Since I'm not sitting around the table at my seat there are hardly any questions. If there are no other comments, or general comments, do you agree to the Minister's statement. We were dealing with Bill 6 but we'll take a 20 minute break, or 5 minutes to deal with a technical issue. Thank you.

>>*Short Recess*

Chairperson (interpretation): We can resume the Committee of the Whole. Bill 6, we'll deal with Bill 6. Mr. Minister could you make your presentation. Your official will come in later. Minister we can resume now. I didn't think we were complete with the Minister Manitok, I'd like to thank you for going onto the witness chair. Right now our Premier is at the witness table. So start now please. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Can I invite my official Kimberly Baine? I will speak in English. I would also like to thank the members of this committee for allowing me this opportunity to go into details about Bill 6, an act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I'll first provide members with an overview of the effected legislation and then the rationale for the proposed amendment. Members can then ask detailed questions of myself and my staff. The GNWT passed the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* in 1994. The act came into force on December 31, 1996. This allowed the NWT Government two years to prepare for the requirements for compliance under the new legislation.

The act was then inherited by the Nunavut Government on April 1 of this year. The act balances the peoples' rights to privacy with the publics' right to access information held by government. The act restricts what types of personal information the government can collect about Nunavummiut, and once collected what the government can do with that information.

The act also provides mechanisms for Nunavummiut to request information held by government and clearly determines what information government must release and what information must be kept confidential. Similar access and privacy regimes are legislated in every other jurisdiction in Canada. The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* inherited from the GNWT is now in place and the Nunavut Government is subject to all of it's rules and provisions in both the areas of protection of privacy and the right of access to information.

Under the act Nunavummiut can be assured that their privacy will be upheld by the Nunavut Government and that they can access information held by government as provided for in the legislation. When the GNWT passed this act in 1994, they included a provision under section 4 which made privacy clauses in other acts prevail over the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* until December 31, 1999.

On December 31 of this year, section 4, clause 1 ends and section 4 clause 2 comes into effect. Clause 2 states that the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* will prevail over all other acts unless specific amendments are made to state otherwise. This allowed the GNWT legislature to consider all other privacy clauses in other legislation and determine if they are inconsistent with the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

And if they were inconsistent to decide which one should prevail. The GNWT passed an act to amend the *Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act* this fall. The act amended ten acts to reconcile the differences in the privacy and access rules between those acts and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The GNWT took three years to determine which acts required changes to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

The Nunavut cabinet feels strongly that the assembly should not just automatically copy what was done in the GNWT but should carefully consider other ways in which Nunavut statutes should be amended before the *Access to information and Protection of Privacy Act* takes precedence over all the privacy clauses in the legislation. We believe that the assembly and the Nunavut Access and Privacy Commissioner who will be appointed by the assembly should be involved in these decisions. Unfortunately as the act is now written these decisions must be made and the amendment enacted before December 31, 1999.

This does not give the public the right of access and the privacy commissioner or members of this assembly time to consider the matter. Mr. Chairman, it is for these reasons that our government is asking the assembly to pass Bill 6 an act to amend the Access to information and Protection of Privacy Act in this session. Bill 6 extends the December 31 deadline by one year.

Mr. Chairman, one year is not a long time to undertake the legal and policy work needed to make the necessary amendments. However, Mr. Chairman, with the assistance of the new commissioner and with the input of the assembly and with the standing committees we believe that we can meet the December 31, 2000 deadline.

Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the members of this assembly and all the Nunavummiut that by extending this deadline we are not in any way taking away any rights to access or rights of privacy away from the people of Nunavut. What we are proposing is to leave all legislation as it is today for a maximum of one year.

Mr. Chairman, I feel strongly that any changes made to peoples' rights to access government information or the right to privacy of personal information must be carefully and fully considered by this assembly before they are put into effect. Given that the assembly and our government have only had a few months to consider this matter, I do not believe that asking people of Nunavut for a one-year extension for this legislation inherited by the GNWT is an unreasonable request. With that I wish to thank the members for allowing me to say a few words on the act. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier of Nunavut. At this time can you introduce your official.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Her name is Kimberly Baine, she's from my office. She's able to respond to your questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier of Nunavut. Are there any comments to Bill 6. General comments. There are no general comments. I don't see any hands going up. Mr. Akasuk .

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): I suggest that we go clause by clause.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Clause 1, agreed? Agreed.

Clause 2, agreed? Agreed.

Bill as a whole, agreed? Agreed.

Bill 6, are you agreed that we are completed with Bill 6. Agreed.

Do you agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading. Agreed.

Thank you, Bill 6 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Mr. Okalik, Premier of Nunavut for appearing before the Committee of the Whole and your official. What's the wish of the committee. Thank you for approving this, the Bill has gone through. What's the wish of the committee?

Mr. O'Brien: I would like to make a motion that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. And before we leave, Manitok I would like to thank you for appearing before the committee. I had forgotten to mention my appreciation, thank you Manitok.

Mr. O'Brien has a motion on the floor to adjourn for today. This is non-debatable. Do you agree? All those in favour, please may I have a show of hands. It's carried. Thank you. Maybe you weren't listening. I apologize, for those in favour. Thank you. There are seven nays and eight yea's. The majority of the members would like to adjourn for the day. We will await the arrival of the Speaker. You can go get the Speaker please. We thank our law clerk for being here, and I will be going back to my old seat and thank you for the proceedings.

Speaker (interpretation): Okay item 20 Report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I wish to report that your committee has been considering Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and it's ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Iqaqrialu has a motion on the floor, who's the seconder Mr. Ng. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills, Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 1 - Loan Authorization Act 99/2000

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker I move second by the Honourable member from Pangnirtung that Bill 1 Loan Authorization Act, 99/2000 be read for the third time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Third reading of bills, Mr. Anawak.

Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act

Hon. Jack Anawak : Qujannamiik, I move second for the Honourable member from Nanulik that Bill 4 An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act be read for the third time. Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The motion is in order. All those opposed. Your motion is carried. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: I seek unanimous consent to be given for third reading of Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Speaker: The Premier is asking for unanimous consent for the third reading of Bill # 6, the motion is in order. Sorry. (interpretation) The Premier had asked for unanimous consent for the third reading of Bill 6. Are there any nays? (interpretation ends) There are no nays. Premier, you have unanimous consent.

Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: I move, seconded by the honourable member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the third time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Third reading of bills. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services at 5:30 p.m. in the Nanuq Board Room. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education, Health and Social Services, 5:30 in the Tuktu Board Room. Tomorrow morning 8:30, meeting of regular caucus in the Nanuq Board Room. Orders of the day for Friday October 29. 10:00 a.m.

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 3 - An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act

Bill 5 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 1999/2000

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Friday October 29, 1999 at 10:00 A.M.

Sergeant- at-Arms.

>>*Applause.*

>>*House Adjourned at 5.12 p.m.*

