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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Amittuq)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 03, 1999

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Ireqittuq, 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, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. I would like to ask Mr. Ireqittuq to open the session with a prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ireqittuq. Before we start I would like to thank the pages who started from Wednesday. The students are from Inukshuk High School. If I pronounce their names incorrectly I apologize ahead of time; Mark McKenna, Jocelyn Morrison, Benjamin Temblin, Levi Ejeesiak, Son Dorothy, Lyla Mahoney. I would also like to thank the Sergeant At Arms, Timothy Kamookak from Igloolik who came here to be our Sergeant At Arms for this session.

>>*Applause*

Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 72 - 1(3): Rescue of Doreen and Stanley Kenalogak**

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Today I rise to talk about a rescue that happened in Baker Lake on October 27th at Nuvu'tuaq Point, the point the members fished at this spring. Doreen and Stanley Kenalogak fell through the ice and Norman and Diane Haqpi were travelling quite a few kilometres behind them and happened upon them. Without their daring attempt to rescue these two individuals they may have perished. Today I rise to recognize these two individuals for their courage and bravery. Ma'na Uqaqti.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. On behalf of the Legislative Assembly we will recognize these two people who saved those lives through the Commissioner's Bravery Awards. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 73 - 1(3): Reason for Yesterdays Absence

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had to leave the session for a bit because I had a family member medivaced to Iqaluit from Pangnirtung. That's the reason why I was unable to attend the session. I am happy to announce that my family member was treated as soon as possible and he is a lot better than yesterday. I just wanted to point out why I was not here yesterday. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 74 - 1(3): Baffin Leaders Summit in Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to remind members that on December 6, the Baffin Leadership Summit will be held in Hall Beach. We will prepare the community for this gathering to welcome all delegates and I invite all of you. If the delegates wish to get country food I am sure the community will be pleased to provide meals for free as usual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 75 - 1(3): Support for Smaller Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a newspaper article that talks about our community's deficit. We have to give the smaller communities our full support, especially as members of the Legislative Assembly. The community requires support and assistance, especially at the point where they are getting into a deficit. I do not mind this report here, but I do not like to see these types of situations, especially when the Nunavut Government is quite new. So we will have to rectify the situation, especially with the smaller communities, we have to protect all the communities equally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 76 - 1(3): Retirement of Mathias Awa

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a member's statement about a special occasion. Since this is probably our last day, I want to inform you that my father is going to retire this winter. He has been working for the Hamlet Council, I don't know for how long, I don't even remember when he first started work. I know some of my colleagues remember when he started working.

He is now 78 years old and he is retiring. He has been doing physical work and has been a member of the Education Council for I don't know how many years, but it has been so

long I can't remember the date he started. He has been a member since that entity was established and he has been visiting the other communities to talk about religion. Mr. Speaker, I know that he doesn't talk about his children, or boast about his children, but he is always in support of his children so that they can be responsible for themselves.

Some of his children are in Iqaluit, Toronto, Winnipeg, Grise Fiord. All of his children are employed because of all the support he has given. He doesn't boast about his children but it is evident that he is very proud of us silently, so therefore I stand today to say how proud I am of my father. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. When we were members of the GNWT Legislative Assembly, somebody stated that we should recognize and acknowledge our elders while they are still alive. That's what Mr. Evaluardjuk said and we are proud of you for making that member's statement and we appreciate the fact that you acknowledge your father's retirement.

Member's Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return 08 -1(3): Question 7 - 1(3) Annual Cost of Caribou Harvest in Coral Harbour

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to apologize that my responses are not translated into Inuktitut, but the Inuktitut translation will be given to the members within 24 hours.

Mr. Speaker I would like to respond to a question that was posed on November 2, by the member from Qamanittuaq on the annual cost of the caribou harvest in Coral Harbour. The Department provides an annual subsidy of 75 thousand dollars to the Coral Harbour Hunter's and Trapper's Organization for this hunt. The return on this investment is very good. The community has harvested about 2800 animals per year in the last six years. Total revenue for this period was 2 million 53 thousand 947.

The annual harvest provides part time work for between 35 to 40 people for a two month period. In dollar terms it has provided 1 million 137 thousand 877 in wages to the community. Purchases from local businesses during this period were 359 thousand 441.

This is the first year that the Federally inspected meat has been purchased by the Keewatin Fish & Meat Ltd, and this has created 14 new full time positions in Rankin Inlet. The regional offices of Sustainable Development are working closely with the community of Coral Harbour on this year's harvest. The community is hoping to harvest 3500 animals this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to welcome in the gallery this morning the grade 10 class from Inukshuk High School here in Iqaluit, the social studies class with their teacher Mr. Brian Dorey. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some of the senior staff from Canadian North Airlines. Kelly Kaylo, Garry Reed, Trina Daniels, and Dan Kane. Please stand.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone in the gallery who is going to school, Jose Krinikulik Junior, who is going to school here from Holman Island. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really enjoy seeing students, I like to see students here and I encourage them to stay in school and complete their education so that they can become responsible for themselves. I would like to welcome all the students and it is so nice to see them all in here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Welcome to the gallery again. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised my hand too late, I apologize.

Speaker (interpretation): You can ask to go back to the Recognition of visitors in the gallery. You can ask for unanimous consent if you want to go back Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I am requesting that we go back to item 5.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak is asking for unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Are there any nays. Mr. Nutarak you have unanimous consent.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rarely recognize people in the gallery as there is not usually anybody from my constituency in the gallery and then item 5 comes and by the time I look around at people in the gallery and it's my turn there is nobody around.

I would like to recognize a person who was working in the Pond Inlet Hamlet Council. That person worked with the Nunavut Implementation Commission. As Arvaluk had stated his father's children are all over the communities. Mathias Awa has many children and I have worked with his children and I would like to recognize Simon Awa in the gallery.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the people who have not been recognized in the gallery and also I would like to recognize the staff and the interpreters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think everybody knows my executive assistant and I have never given that person any recognition. I know that I work very hard on education and she was a teacher for the EATEP students in Coral Harbour and Kugluktuk and she is very experienced in the education field. I am very proud of the fact that we can recognize her.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 131 - 1(3): Asbestos in Baker Lake School

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker I rise today to talk about an issue that has been long standing in the community of Baker Lake. When all the members were in the community they had a tour of the Jonah Amitnak School. I refer to a document in a technical status report that was completed in October of 1996. Lo and behold on page 48 of the document there was an article 90 on page 48; the insulation on the heating pipes in the 1957 section, which happens to be the oldest school in Nunavut if not in the NWT, appears to have asbestos content.

This was in 1996 Mr. Speaker. We finally get somebody to do a check on what the suspicious insulation was and lo and behold, it was discovered to be serpentine asbestos. Mr. Speaker, when we hear the word asbestos we often fear the worst in the damage it can do to people. In the last three years we have known that there has been a suspect item in that school. And, through no initiative of Public Works, did they go to look at this substance.

So, we found somebody to look at it and that is what they came back with. I know that there are schools that have asbestos in them but it seems to be a hushed up subject in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Education, does he have any plans to deal with asbestos in the Baker Lake school. Ma'na.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had Public Works make an inspection of that school as soon as it was reported to us, in fact while we were still in the Baker Lake retreat while the Department of Public Works was coming in to inspect the school. We asked them to look into that amongst other things and there is to be repair work being done on that.

However, we have the same concerns about the safety issues for the students and we are expecting a more detailed report and from those recommendations we will deal with it, definitely. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I appreciate the Minister's response on it and I know it has been an issue that was brought over from the Government of the NWT into the Nunavut Government. Like we have all been saying we are going to be closer to it and deal with these situations quicker. In my numerous phone calls this week to certain departments, Workers' Compensation, Public Works and the health people, there was no real concrete plan in place and no real answers given to me as the MLA that represents Baker Lake on what was going to happen.

It is my opinion that a private assessment should be done on that school by an outside source rather than Public Works, because as I have just explained, it was three years that they knew about this and they didn't deal with it. The same people are in Rankin Inlet that knew about this issue and they don't seem to be moving forward. I know the

minister is not responsible for Public Works but I am responsible for the people in Baker Lake and he is responsible for all the people in education.

So could the minister commit to me that they are going to do an air quality check in that school in December or January when school is not open to look and find out if there is airborne asbestos in that school. Ma'na.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 132 - 1(3): Dewline Cleanup

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask the Minister of Community Government and Transportation, however I will go ahead and express my comments with respect to the DEW line clean up. There is one site near my community and it has been a long time with no clean up for this site. It is an old site and we are starting to see more contaminants from the erosion that is taking place on this site. Also, the one in our community, the area of contamination is increasing in the damage that it is causing the environment. I would like to see some consideration of what initiatives we can take on. That is my question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. We have two questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the question and the cleaning up of DEW line sites. The Department of Sustainable Development when they are informed about contaminants on the ground, usually our staff works on it and assess the complaints. When we are contacted we can ask to have the contaminants cleaned up. I will take your question as notice as to whether we have analyzed it or not. So I will review your question and take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Iqaqrialu your question is taken as notice by the Minister. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 133 - 1(3): Inuit Teachers in Secondary Classes

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I was very pleased to see that the Department of Education over the last six months has started up the Nunavut Teacher's Education Program in Rankin Inlet, and I think they have one in Cambridge Bay. That's great to try and train more Inuit and northern people to take on this important role that I personally feel is one of the most important roles in Nunavut, the education of our children.

We already know that we have a large Inuit teacher work force in the primary grades. They have lots of experience, most of them are probably the longest serving civil servants in Nunavut today. Has the minister considered trying to elevate these people from the primary classes up and give them more training so they can teach in the secondary classes. Thank you.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have launched an initiative to start high school programs for our NTEP students. Those teachers already teaching in the classes who want to upgrade their teaching levels to high school have that freedom and option to take further training as high school teachers. That is part of our education for teachers initiative. Yes, they will have that option.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same question. Can the minister explain to me, in very brief detail, what the initiative is right now. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unlike my friend, I can be very brief.

>>*Laughter*

In order to become a high school teacher you need a special one year course where you take a specific subject, like if you want to become a math teacher, or a science teacher, etc. These are all part of the areas where any teacher who wants to upgrade must identify. With that identification we will have the numbers and work with the University and Arctic College together to have these programs planned. But the funding for it has already been approved and we will proceed.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk, third supplementary Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad and happy to hear that Mr. Minister. So, any teacher that is in a primary program right now and wants to upgrade into a secondary end of the school system, can just apply after March, to the Department for educational training and funding. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, however as the member also will appreciate, that some NTEP graduates did not have their high school diploma, so they will have to get that diploma, and have the necessary level of education that they will be teaching in. Having said that, we are also talking about having the culturally oriented programs, like Inuktitut Language Arts, with a different requirement than that of the

regular math or science or other subjects that are usually taken in a regular high school. So those are separate, and it must be appreciated that they must qualify to teach materials or curriculum that they have been hired to teach.

The short answer is that if an NTEP elementary teacher does not have grade 12, they must have it in order to take specialized high school training, or if it is an Inuktitut language art then that person will have to be recognized as having the ability to be a potential teacher in the culturally oriented programs in the high schools. Thank you.

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

Question 134 - 1(3): Trades Training in Arctic College

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. The Nunavut Arctic College, I know that we have basic office training courses, but my question is, have you initiated other training courses, like plumbing, drywalling and taping, through the Arctic College. I was wondering if Arctic College has those kinds of training programs. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister responsible for education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, the subjects that you just mentioned we do have entrance exams for those in the training programs and from there, for example for plumbing or drywalling, if their grade level is up to par then they are told when and where the training program will be.

For example, we do have training programs in Fort Smith for those types of subjects. We are talking about holding those types of training programs within Nunavut. Yes, they go through the Arctic College and the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response, because in our communities we know and feel that there should be career training programs in the communities of Nunavut.

We should have training programs for relevant things. For that reason I thank him for the response, I know those kinds of training programs are outside of Nunavut and we should have those types of programs in Nunavut. I expect to have those types of training programs in Nunavut because especially my constituency residents that I know of have been working in these areas for a very long time and are very professional.

They know how to work as mechanics and so on and they want to train people. Nunavut residents want to train their people now. Therefore I urge the minister and his department to initiate these types of training programs in Nunavut. Also I would like to tell him that even when the session is not sitting he can approach me and discuss this.

Speaker (interpretation): Although I did not hear a question Mr. Puqiqnak, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a question either. When he speaks Inuktitut I understand what his point was. For those people who have been training on the job in the trades areas, we are proud of those people who have worked through these things, there are two tests done.

In regards to mechanics if they wanted to test in this area, they do it on paper and also in physical, actual work. I am using a mechanic as an example because they have to change engines annually.

If there was a unilingual Inuk who did not get official mechanical training, that person would still know what to do if they had been working in this trade. I know that if this person looks at this testing, he would know right away, but if they were unilingual they would have to be taught a week or two. For example the engines change annually and he would have to be brought up to date.

But for welding, plumbing or carpentry, which don't change annually it would be different. But I would like to work with him and discuss these issues as to how we can recognize these kinds of people who do not have official schooling. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 135 - 1(3): University for Nunavut

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question to the Minister of Education. Last June during the session I asked a question in regards to a University. We require a University in Nunavut, so I was wondering if that is a possibility for our territory, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been working on the planning stages for quite some time but it won't be called the University of Nunavut. We thought about calling it Arctic University. There are quite a few things not done yet and we have to work on this University which may be open for the circumpolar communities, not just for Nunavut. We would have students from the various countries such as Alaska, Greenland and the other circumpolar countries.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference has been discussing this matter for quite some time and the governments in the different jurisdictions are now working on an agreement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am smiling now, I was thinking that if we get a University I say that it should be in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I did not hear a question. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 136 - 1(3): Postal Rate Increases

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether my question should be directed to the Finance Minister or the Premier, once they hear it they can decide who is the appropriate person to answer.

Yesterday I was listening to the news and was very shocked to hear that Canada Post is increasing the postage rate by 27% for all communities in Canada that have fly in mail service and are not on the road systems.

Mr. Speaker, that effects every single person living in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, we always talk about wanting to be treated on the same level with the rest of Canada. Mr. Speaker I know that in any other jurisdiction in the south if ratepayers were hit with an increase like that there would be a huge public outcry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this government who and how and when will the government be addressing the concerns over this outrageous hike in postage rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like you I learned of it through the news and I wasn't pleased at all about the increase and we will be working to lobby the Federal Government as this is a federal jurisdiction and I will be in contact with my northern colleagues and find a way to lobby the Federal Government to raise our objections over this increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Final supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Premier. I am wondering if in your discussions, I also understood yesterday that the representative from Canada Post that was the spokesperson would be looking at the same increase next year.

I understand that with this increase this year it will be over 50% in the past two years. To me that is totally unacceptable. Also the fact that what really offended me yesterday after hearing it on the news, was the representative from Canada Post saying that, "oh people choose to live where they live". I think that in our response to the Federal Government, they've been debating where they are going to be spending the budget surplus. Where are they getting the surplus from, they are getting it from us. I would like to ask the

Premier if he would convey those types of comments to whoever it is they are going to be lobbying at the federal level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have done in the past I will do whatever I can and use whatever arguments that I can present to the minister responsible in the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 137 - 1(3): Aviation Fuel for Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to one of the ministers, I am not sure which, I will be talking about fuel. We don't have aviation fuel in my two communities, Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay. It is very difficult at times when they have to get a medevac to Repulse Bay.

When there is no aviation fuel in these communities it is very difficult for the medevac to get into that community due to the fact that there is no aviation fuel, a lot of aircraft do not like to get another kind of fuel for their aircraft. I would like to direct this to the appropriate minister.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Thompson is not present so I will take that as notice on her behalf.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 138 - 1(3): Health Board Deficits

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is directed to the minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker we have heard in the recent weeks and months of the financial crunch that the minister's department is in. A good portion of this relates to deficits in the health boards.

My question to the minister is what plan or scheme does he have in mind to deal with this issue and also what impact are these deficits having on the delivery of health care. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Two question, minister responsible for health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, in regards to the deficit, I am not pleased with the deficit myself, honestly. Mr. Speaker the deficit problem within the

board has caused me as the Minister of Health and indeed, our department of health and the board and the staff, a lot of concern and stress.

Coming into Nunavut on April 1st, as has been related publicly, the health boards had an accumulated deficit of 8.9 million dollars. We became aware of that shortly after we came into power, and it has gone through analysis in the department.

Right now Mr. Speaker in conjunction with the Department of the Executive and the Department of Finance and the Department of Health & Social Services, we are completing our analysis on the causes of the debt and what we can do to look at some type of restructuring and to take care of that problem.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, at this time there is no impact on the delivery of Health & Social Services, anywhere in Nunavut and there is no anticipation of lay offs and indeed, each health centre and the hospital here in Iqaluit and in the health centres in the other communities, we continue to be open and so on. So the pressure right now is a deficit on the book balances, it is a cause for concern, the government is aggressively looking at it and hopefully over the next couple of weeks we will have a decision on where to go from this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 139 - 1(3): Nunavut Representation on Canada Post Board

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to Premier Okalik. Since the decision, I am wondering if Nunavut has a representative on the Board of Directors of Canada Post. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of any representation on the Board of Directors of Canada Post, but I will check into it and take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier, taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 140 - 1(3): Task Force on Housing Consultation with the Smaller Communities

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. The minister that I wanted to ask this question to is out of the House, but I still have to ask the question, so maybe somebody else can reply to it. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of months we have all been discussing the serious lack of housing in Nunavut. Social housing, elders housing and staff housing. We know there is a task force of regular MLA's plus some government and private people addressing the situation. Mr. Speaker my question to the minister is, will the minister commit that when

this task force is addressing the needs of Nunavut, that they will consult with the smaller communities.

When I say the smaller communities, Mr. Speaker, we seem to forget them sometimes, like the Grise Fiords, the Resolute Bays, the Arctic Bays and Clyde Rivers and Kimmirut and things like that. Will the minister commit to doing community consultations on the task force with these smaller communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. I would like to caution the members and ask them not to mention that the ministers are not here. Ministers do have other responsibilities throughout Nunavut, so if you are going to ask a question please do not say the minister is not here, that is against our rules. Thank you. Mr. Deputy Premier, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will convey the comments of the honourable member to the responsible minister. I would take it that she would want the task force to take in as much public input as possible, now whether or not that means direct community consultations and face to face meetings or some other avenues that would solicit that input, I don't know what exactly is in the works. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, in my preamble I forgot to mention that even in the larger communities, like Iqaluit, I was out getting a cup of coffee the other day and I saw a sign up in a coffee shop, saying house for rent 26 hundred dollars per month plus utilities.

Mr. Speaker, we all know that if we had to go out, the regular members had to go out and rent a house, there is no way that we could afford that. So it distresses me to see that the rents in a community like Iqaluit, and I don't know about other communities, is at that kind of rate, of 26 hundred dollars a month. Is there any plan by this government to have some kind of rental cap, or rental ombudsman to monitor that excessive rents are not being charged, or the people being gouged. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Deputy Premier, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that we do have a rental officer in place. I am not sure about the specific powers that the individual has but I will commit to finding out and advising the members on that. Thank you.

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

Question 141 - 1(3): Information from Task Force on Housing

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Deputy Premier and it fall along the same lines as that fellow from Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker if the task force on housing was anticipating visiting many of the smaller communities in

Nunavut, my concern is if this information is going to be put together and packaged so that we can debate this and review it prior to the budget process. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Deputy Premier. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is really hard for me to comment. I don't know what the task force work plan is and what their consultation schedules are, what their consultation packages entail right now. So I would make a commitment that I would speak to the minister responsible on that and supply that information in as timely a fashion as possible to all members. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral question. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following along the same line of questioning, this may be a difficult question for the Deputy Premier to answer but he may have the information. Do you know at this point in time what the terms of reference are for this task force given the fact that the minister indicated that she would have a report ready for December 1st and given the fact that this is the first week in November? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Deputy Premier, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I don't know. I hate to say that. Usually I have a feel of what is happening but in this particular circumstance I understood that the task force itself was going to develop the terms of reference but I'm not exactly sure as to the status of that. Thank you.

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

Question 142 - 1(3): Policy for Medical Escorts

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Health. Can the minister tell the house if there is a policy for escorts as they relate to accompanying patients down to the south and if there is a policy, what is the policy. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Two questions. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all we should clarify that escorts are not used only for patients going to the south, they are also used to escort people here in Nunavut. For example, if you're living in the high arctic and you're going to the hospital here in Iqaluit, you're not going to the south, you're going to here in Nunavut and there would be an escort provided.

In most cases Mr. Speaker, where the person may be a teenager or a younger person and there would be travelling outside their home community for medical travel an escort is provided. Mr. Speaker, if we have an elderly person or a unilingual person who has to travel outside their home community for medical travel an escort is provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral question. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many times members have complaints from their constituents about their escorts not being permitted to travel with the family member for various reasons. My question to the minister is who makes that final call as to whether or not a patient will have an escort. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just gave two instances where escorts would be used. A third instance where an escort would be used is if in the opinion of the attending medical person, it could be the nurse or it could be the doctor who has referred the patient to another institution or outside their community, that person may say at that time that this person needs an escort because of the whatever the infirmity is at that time. So that's another way that an escort would be used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not quite sure if the minister answered my question but in reference to escorts, I was of the impression that the final decision may be made by the health board. Is the minister saying that the nurse in charge would have the final say as to who's received or whether an escort would be required or not? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've already given three different instances where escorts could be used. In the case that there was a discrepancy if there was a complaint or a concern brought forward by the patient, then Mr. Speaker, based on the policy that is in place, there's an escort policy with all three health boards at the present time in Nunavut, then with that understanding, a decision would be made for the escort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 143 - 1(3): Economic Agreements with Echo Bay Mines

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. This morning I heard on the radio

Mr. Speaker, that the Echo Bay Mine is going to be reopening. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister is there's any agreements or arrangements made with the operators of the mine to ensure that there is economic and employment benefits going to be retained in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): With the recent news that the mine will be reopened just before lunch on Tuesday, they immediately consulted with the organizations that will be impacted the most, NTI and Nunavut Government. At this moment they are reviewing this and they're looking at the same level of employment as when they were open last time. The communities that will be impacted, the adjacent communities usually are very much involved with the process.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason I asked is that I also heard on the radio that representative from the mine was saying that they had 1000 applications from all over Canada and that they would not have any preference as to hiring individuals from Nunavut. I'd just like to hope that that not be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to elaborate further, right now they're working on the procedure. Before they closed the mine, right now when they reopen it, the number of staff will be 80 less than previously. At this point from 1993 when it was first in the developing stages, there was an agreement that the number of staff working the mine were already included and that they have stated they will hire from the communities adjacent to that mine. I don't know how many applicants there were from Nunavut because we have not worked on that but usually the administration staff work on this issue.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Third supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I remember when it closed down and they were talking about the impact of closing and they were doing it out of Edmonton but it was a disappointment to see all the resources, revenues and benefits impact Alberta more than NWT and now Nunavut. I'd like to ask the minister if he knows if the people that will be working at the mine from outside of Nunavut, will we see a portion of their personal income tax be paid to the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before, they will be hiring from the communities that are adjacent to the mine. I did not say that they will not hire from outside of Nunavut. Perhaps, I would like to take your question as notice to find out what kind of impact it will have on Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 144 - 1(3): Purchase of Government Vehicles

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often I stand and have a positive thing to say about my colleagues across the floor but sometimes we have to recognize that yes, as a new cabinet we are showing fiscal responsibility at this point in our short mandate. So far, we're not projecting a deficit in our first year unlike our colleagues over in the west that are looking something like 50 –75 million dollars.

As we all know we're living in small communities, they're compacted and they're not spread out like larger communities and what I've noticed over the last five or six years is that there was an abundance of government vehicles purchased by the government used for staff, cabinet ministers, maybe the odd MLA. Could the minister commit to this government that he'll scrutinise any purchases of government vehicles and to really scrutinise it hard. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry Mr. Speaker. I guess I have to answer that. I think all members of this house get an opportunity to scrutinise through the budget appropriations all government expenditures. So that is the final scrutiny in respect of our spending authority so if there's question that arises as a result of those reviews then we would make the necessary amendments based on what members of this House say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So what I'm hearing from the minister and I don't want to put words in his mouth, that the purchase of vehicles for government use, that are not essential, will be a very low priority of this government. Thank you.

Speaker: Ma' na Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would concur with that statement, in fact I would suggest that before any government department brought forward requests for vehicles that I would expect that the minister's themselves would probably scrutinise it even before it got to the financial management board level prior to coming to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 145 - 1(3): Distance Between Public Housing Units

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been wanting to ask this question. I will direct this question to the Minister responsible for Housing. Usually public houses are too close to each other. I was wondering if they could build houses further away from each other so we can build our shacks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice on behalf of the minister for housing.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. (interpretation) Taken as notice Mr. Iqaqrialu. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak

Question 146 - 1(3): Premier's Ability to Build Igloo

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question is directed to the Premier. I was wondering if he can build a snow house. Igloo.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, can you elaborate your question and give your preamble. Mr. Nutarak, give your preamble please.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In Pond Inlet, we have an elder who recently died. He said that if you cannot build a snow house by yourself, you are not fit to have a spouse. So that is what I was asking the Premier because it falls along with his responsibilities because we have to utilize the request and the needs of the elders.

I know my question may sound a bit senseless. I wanted to ask the question of whether he is capable of building a snow house. Because I am an Inuk, I figured automatically he could build a snow house but an elder had stated to me that you cannot have a spouse if you cannot build a snow house meaning that if I go out hunting I cannot leave my spouse without shelter. I know it doesn't really sound sensible.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak, Thank you. This is question is a personal question but it's up to Mr. Premier if he would like to respond. Mr. Premier. It's okay. Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 147 - 1(3): Manitoba / Keewatin Road Link

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we were all elected and sworn in a number of months ago, the Premier made some commitments and some encouraging comments in reference to supporting and pursuing the road link from Churchill, Manitoba to the Keewatin area and also a power grid. My question to the Premier is, we're approximately 7-8 months into our mandate. We've had a preliminary report on a road link. We've made some recommendations as to where we should go

from here and my question to the Premier is where are going from here and what is his next move on this particular project that he has supported and we're very encouraged to hear his support on this particular issue. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've received support from all the Premiers in Canada when we attended the Annual Premiers' Conference at the end of the summer and I have been hoping to meet with the Manitoba Government to do a joint study.

As everyone knows, there was an election in Manitoba and there's a new government in place and I'll be going down to Manitoba to meet with the Premier on the week of the 28th of November to explore the opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. (interpretation) Oral questions. Oral questions. (interpretation) Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7, Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written questions

Written Question 1 – 1 (3): Requests for Proposals and Tenders

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question containing 13 items.

The written question is directed to the Minister responsible for Public Works. The topic is on requests for proposals, tender procedures and Nunavut Government contracts.

1. What specific differences, if any, now exist between the requests for proposals, RFPs, the process used in the GNWT and the process used in the Nunavut Government.
2. What specific differences, if any, now exist between the tender process used in the GNWT and the process used in the Nunavut Government.
3. What written guidelines are currently in effect for use by the Nunavut Government employees in deciding to use a tender process or a RFPs for projects.
4. What specific criteria would permit the Government of Nunavut Department to switch from a request for proposals to a tender process after initiating the RFP process or vice versa.
5. Are these guidelines applicable to all government departments.

6. How many contracts awarded by the Government of Nunavut to departments through either the RFP or the tender process valued at over 5 thousand dollars had been awarded since April 1, 1999.
7. Of these contracts, how many have been awarded to Inuit owned firms.
8. Of these contracts, how many were awarded to non Nunavut firms.
9. What specific criteria exists with respect to renewal of existing contracts.
10. What criteria apply to a department in deciding whether to renew an existing contract or exercise notice and put the contract up for an RFP or tender process.
11. How many departments are involved in accessing these criteria and the contract.
12. How many current contracts with the Nunavut Government have automatic renewal clauses if the government does not give notice of termination.
13. How many current contracts of the Government of Nunavut are contracts which came to it under the former GNWT at March 31, 1999 and were continued unchanged under the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Written questions. (interpretation ends) Written questions. Item 8, Returns to written questions. Mr. Picco.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, point of privilege.

Speaker: Point of Privilege has been called. Mr. Picco, what is the point of privilege.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't, I received a note and I want to make this perfectly clear. I'm not happy with it. I'm going to read you the note and I want to say something about it and that is the point of privilege Mr. Speaker.

The note says, Mr. Speaker, that "The people of Iqaluit are unhappy with the elected officials of Iqaluit because they are not listening to their constituents. In the next election they will not want to vote again for Ed Picco, because he's thinking the Qallunaat way."

Mr. Speaker, the note is not even signed. Now let's make a couple of points here. Mr. Speaker, just for the record. The note is unsigned, unsolicited, unfair and it's untrue. As a member of Cabinet, I have to respect the decisions of the government.

If I don't like the decision of the cabinet, then the option is up to me to resign. Am I going to resign over one issue. I've worked hard over the last four years Mr. Speaker to represent everyone in Iqaluit equally.

On the election date of February 15th, Mr. Speaker, I was returned with the biggest majority, polarity of votes in this Nunavut Territory.

I've had many calls from constituents on this issue and I've spoken to Elders on it, French speaking people, English speaking people, young speaking people.

Mr. Speaker, some people are in favour of the time zone issue. Some people don't like it. Some people don't care about it. Mr. Speaker, I would say to you, Mr. Speaker, that I resent an unsigned note being passed to me and I would request that the author of the note have the courage and the guts to sign it next time. If they want to debate with me Mr. Speaker, bring it forward to me, let them show their face right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Good point. Mr. Picco, we will review the passing of notes and we will get back to you. Because there's some notes being passed from outside of the house too, so we will review the note passing and good point of privilege.

Item 8, Returns to written questions. Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health –Report on 1999/2000 Six Month Departmental Progress Update

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table a report on Culture, Education and Health for 1999/2000. Six month departmental progress updates. Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health, report on Six Month Departmental Progress Update.

Introduction

In May of 1999, the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut recommended in the House that Government of Nunavut Departments provide mid-year progress updates to the Committees for review.

Ministers and senior departmental officials appeared before the Standing Committees from October 14-16, 1999. This exercise took place shortly before the opening of the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly, and the tabling of the Bathurst Mandate.

At the mid-point of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Standing Committees were interested in gaining a picture of where the new Government stood in terms of spending to date; legislative and policy plans and priorities for the remainder of the fiscal year; staffing progress; and other matters.

Unfortunately, Standing Committees were again disappointed by the fact that departments were inconsistent in the manner in which materials were provided to Committee Members. While some departments provided thorough documentation, others did not. Few departments seemed able or willing to provide materials in advance of Ministerial presentations. Problems with providing even short documents in both Inuktitut and English were evident in some presentations.

The Standing Committee again recommends that departmental materials be provided to Members in sufficient advance of appearances to allow for adequate preparation; and that all materials be fully translated.

Generally speaking, the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health was pleased with the progress to date made by the three departments under its oversight mandate. This report will serve to highlight the Standing Committee's main observations and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, our report will be read by the other members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Puqiqnak will be reading the report after me.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be reading the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health report.

Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

The Honourable Donald Havioyak, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth appeared before the Standing Committee on October 14, 1999.

Mid-Year Fiscal Position

The Standing Committee was disappointed that no documents detailing the mid-year financial status of the Department were provided.

New Organizational Chart

The Standing Committee noted recent changes in several of the key staff positions during the summer, but also observed that a lot had been accomplished in the last few months. The Committee is concerned that the Department is only 25% staffed, with 12 positions trying to accomplish a very broad mandate. The Committee is pleased to hear that a new Senior Finance person assisted in the development of the new organizational chart, which was being presented to Cabinet for final approval. In terms of decentralization, the Minister advised that part of the Language division was being moved from Cambridge Bay to Kugluktuk. The Minister advised that staff in Cambridge Bay had been given

notice of relocation and that the 9 positions allocated to Kugluktuk now have housing and office space available to them.

The Standing Committee encourages the Department to fill its outstanding positions as quickly as possible.

Preservation, Revitalization and Provision of Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun Language

In its May report, the Standing Committee had urged the creation of language policies to outline how language services are to be accessed, as well as other matters. The Standing Committee is concerned that no update was provided and observed that difficulties seem to be encountered in providing effective and timely translation services from Igloolik. The Minister apologized for not having Inuktitut translations of his opening remarks, due to technical difficulties in sending the completed translations to Iqaluit, exacerbated by a shortage of computers in Igloolik with e-mail capabilities. The Standing Committee is sympathetic and understands that more Interpreter/Translators will be put into place.

The Standing Committee recommends that enough staff and enough computers with capacity for electronic communication with the Government of Nunavut be put in place in Igloolik immediately, in order for the Language bureau to be of timely service to the other departments.

It is clear that the Language division put a lot of effort into ensuring that the other departmental presentations were translated, and much of this work had to be done at the last minute. However, it points to the need for required timelines for other Departments to provide original material to be translated, which would be part of a language policy. This policy should reinforce the needs of the Standing Committees to ultimately receive materials well in advance of the hearing dates, as discussed above.

The Standing Committee reiterates its recommendations at page 20 in its May 1999 Report:

- That, as a first priority, the Government of Nunavut develop a language policy which clearly states which government information will be translated or interpreted and how these translation and interpretation services are co-ordinated and accessed;
- That CLEY develop a clear plan of action to implement this policy;
- That in consultation with NSDC and other organizations interested in these issues, the Government of Nunavut develop a broad language policy discussion paper to consult with the people of Nunavut to reach consensus on how the Government of Nunavut should deal with issues such as the different dialects, spelling protocols, key government terms and how future decisions should be made on these issues; and
- That the Government of Nunavut develop a comprehensive language training program for Inuktitut.

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that an Inuktitut language program was being made available to non-Inuktitut speaking Government of Nunavut staff in Iqaluit

this fall and that there are plans for carrying out the program in other communities, as well as delivering an advanced Inuktitut training program in the future. However, the Committee continues to push for Inuktitut language training programs to be taught by Elders to our Youth.

Official Languages Agreement

The Standing Committee was concerned that this intergovernmental agreement had not yet been signed with the federal government for this fiscal year. The Deputy Minister noted that the problem was the share allocated to Nunavut, \$2.8M, is not sufficient to meet our needs in both French and aboriginal languages. Nevertheless, it appears that the Government of Nunavut will sign the current agreement without changes and try to negotiate for changes for the coming year in the winter. The Standing Committee would like to receive more detail on this agreement and its scope. The Standing Committee is concerned at the lack of sufficient funding for translation and interpretation. They are also concerned at the overall lack of funding for instruction in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun in the schools and want to know how this agreement could be used to help secure funds for this purpose.

The Standing Committee recommends that sufficient funding be secured to translate all Nunavut legislation into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

Nunavut Territorial Archives and Heritage

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear about the Memorandum of Co-operation and Understanding with the Inuit Heritage Trust Inc. and NTI that took effect on September 1, 1999, which will help partner the development of our Nunavut Historical Advisory Board. The Committee looks forward to hearing more about the repatriation of historical artifacts to Nunavut from other parts of Canada and the world. The Standing Committee was also pleased to hear that the Department was moving forward with plans for a Heritage Centre and an Archival facility. Members would like to see a Heritage Centre in Nunavut similar to the Prince of Wales Centre in NWT. Although not confirmed, the Minister noted that these facilities will likely be in Igloolik as this is where the staff will be located who will have the required skills to run them, such as the Director of Culture and Heritage, Chief Archaeologist, Toponomist and Archivist. However, the Members have some concern about a heritage facility being located in Igloolik, which might not be accessible to very many residents or visitors. Members are very concerned that communities be given the capacity to house their own heritage items and they wish to hear more about how heritage facilities or displays will be established in each of the communities.

The Standing Committee would like to receive more detail on the proposed Heritage Centre and Archival facility and reiterates its recommendation at page 21 of its May 1999 report:

- That in consultation with the Inuit Heritage Trust and other organizations interested in these issues, CLEY develop an options paper for creating Heritage facilities in Nunavut, which would include options for creating small facilities or displays in each community and options for partnerships for administration.

Nunavut Arts Council

The Standing Committee noted that there were recent newspaper advertisements inviting public consultation regarding the Nunavut Arts Council. Members expressed their desire to receive copies of the consultation documents. Members wish to emphasize how important this organization is for the culture of Nunavut. Members note that there are various organizations which provide funding for the Arts, such as the Ottawa based Inuit Arts Foundation, as well as for festivals, such as the Inuvik Arts Festival, and this is sometimes confusing for people.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Nunavut Arts Council provide one-stop funding information for all funding available to Nunavut artists, musicians and cultural workers.

Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that a two-day workshop was held in September, organized by an interdepartmental committee to develop a working strategy for integrating *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit* into the government, and attended by selected Elders and 5 representatives from each department.

The Standing Committee looks forward to receiving a copy at the end of this month of the report and the recommendations that emerged from the workshop.

Inuit Place Names

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that the name change requested from the community of Pelly Bay was proceeding through the Minister to Cabinet and that a Toponomist will be staffed by the beginning of November to assist other communities with Inuit place names.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department work in co-ordination with Inuit organizations to provide funding and support to communities to assist them in Inuit place names projects.

Elders

The Standing Committee is concerned that a Senior Advisor for Elders has not yet been hired and that no concrete action has taken place to provide part-time staff support to Elders Councils at the community or Nunavut wide level. While the Committee applauds the important place that Elders had in the workshop on *Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit* and will

have in the proposed Law Reform Commission, little seems to have been done to involve Elders formally in the policy making process for the Government of Nunavut. Members are concerned that efforts be undertaken as soon as possible to obtain the legends and songs from the Elders. As well, Members continue to wish for programs that will allow Elders to be able to teach the youth about the language and the culture of the Inuit and the traditions. The Minister committed to ensuring that there will be easy to access forms in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and the Deputy Minister stated that staff will help Elders fill out any application forms for funding. However, it was not clear if in fact, there is funding for this purpose.

The Standing Committee strongly reiterates its recommendations at pages 6 and 22 of the May 1999 Report.

- That as an immediate priority, the Government of Nunavut prepare a policy statement on the involvement of Elders in policy development and program delivery;
- That the Department of CLEY prepare an options paper for Cabinet, in consultation with other departments and stakeholders, on funding support to Elders' Councils at the community level which will build partnerships among departments, local governments and Inuit organizations, utilizing existing funding programs at the federal and territorial level, as well as local resources to ensure the participation of Elders in policy development and program delivery at the community level and Nunavut-wide; and
- That Departments develop detailed plans for integrating Elders in policy development and program delivery within their mandate.
- That in partnership with the Department of Education and other organizations with an interest in these issues, CLEY initiate a Nunavut wide program to ensure that we have interviews and other information from all of our Elders, properly documented and stored for current and future reference, with duplicates in safe storage

Youth

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that the Senior Advisor for Youth began in August and is consulting with regional youth conferences to set priorities for youth in Nunavut. As well, the Minister noted that a Canada wide youth conference will be held in Iqaluit in January 2000.

The Standing Committee looks forward to hearing the results of these meetings and the Department's plans for youth.

Women's Issues/ Status of Women's Council

The Standing Committee was pleased to be asked to comment regarding an options paper for the Status of Women's Council developed by the Senior Advisor on Women's issues. The Senior Advisor on Women's issues also provided answers to a number of questions posed by the Committee in their May 1999 Report, which were very informative.

The Standing Committee is very supportive of the creation of a women's council, which will be truly representative and accountable to the women of Nunavut. The Standing Committee supports the department's preferred option for the appointment of an interim council for one year to establish a permanent structure and organization and looks forward to hearing options for the permanent structure. Members note that women in the communities of Nunavut would be more empowered if they were to select their own representatives to this body.

Persons with Disabilities

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that funding had been granted to a people with disabilities society and that the Department was working closely with the Department of Education regarding education and training, as well as the Department of Health and Social Services, in the delivery of programs to persons with disabilities.

The Standing Committee heartily supports the direction of the Department to help people with disabilities live meaningful lives in our communities instead of institutions outside of Nunavut and looks forward to receiving more detail on this work.

That is where I will conclude Mr. Speaker, Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. At this point I would like to recognize a previous member of the Legislative Assembly and who was also a member of cabinet and who is now working with the Department of Community Government and Transportation, Mr. Kane Tologanak from Cambridge Bay and I would also like to recognize Mr. Paul Quassa, who is now running for NTI President. Mr. Paul Quassa. Welcome to the gallery.

(interpretation ends) At this point we'll take a recess until 12.45 and I invite the members and staff to lunch upstairs, including the Sergeant At Arms and our pages. We'll have lunch at the Nanuq and Tuktuk Board Rooms.

>>House recessed at 11.57 a.m. and resumed at 12.47 p.m.

Speaker: We will call the House back to order. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members were going to be reading the reports, there were two other members that were going to read the standing committee reports. Since we are pressed for time;

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent for the reports by the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health, and the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development to be entered into the record as read;

And I further seek unanimous consent to waive rule 91 (4) and have the reports moved into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. A member is asking for unanimous consent to waive rule 91 (4) and have the reports moved into the Committee of the Whole for today on item 13. I apologize, these have been read and have been tabled so that the committee can deal with the reports today. Are there any nays?

(interpretation ends) The committees report is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Department of Education

Minister Arvaluk appeared before the Standing Committee on October 14, 1999.

Mid-Year Fiscal Position

The Standing Committee was disappointed that no documents detailing the mid-year financial status of the Department were provided.

Inuit Teacher Education and Leadership Program

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that an amount of \$1.5 million had been approved for this important program which the Committee had supported and recommended in its May 1999 Report.

The Dissolution of the District Education Councils

The Standing Committee was updated on the planning for the restructuring of the three Education Councils. The Committee was pleased to hear that the Councils are being consulted and that a broader review of the *Education Act* is being undertaken at the same time by the Department to make it more relevant to Nunavut. Members are aware of the consultation on Education principles currently underway by the Minister.

The Minister advised Members that the projected timeline includes consultation on the draft legislation later this fall, bill to be tabled in the Assembly in the winter, Standing Committee to consult on the bill after second reading, passed into law prior to July 1, 2000. It was noted that the Departmental staff were beginning the drafting process in Inuktitut, which will later be translated into English. As well, Members were advised that the Organizational design is expected by December 1999 and this will be tabled in the House.

The Standing Committee is pleased that the Minister proposes to change the Act to place more responsibility and resources at the community level and looks forward to hearing more details of how that is proposed to happen. The Committee continues to reiterate its recommendation at page 10 of the May 1999 Report:

- That the Government of Nunavut strengthen community empowerment, provide more authority at the community level on education issues, and present very clear plans as to how this will happen under the Departmental control.

Nursing Program

The Standing Committee was also pleased to see the new Nunavut Nursing Program, being delivered through Nunavut Arctic College, which the Committee supported and recommended in its May 1999 Report. [see Department of Health and Social Services]

Staffing/ Decentralization

The Standing Committee was updated on staffing and was pleased to hear that the Department is reaching its Inuit employment targets in their plan. However, Members had some concerns about the decentralized positions, particularly the delay in moving the Nunavut Arctic College positions designated for Arviat and some question of reluctance of some staff as reported in the media.

The Standing Committee encourages the Department to move quickly in concert with the Department of Public Works and the Decentralization Secretariat to secure office space and housing, so that these decentralized positions can be established.

Research Projects and Studies

The Standing Committee was advised that a number of Requests for Proposals were in process which will review a number of key issues: 5 Year Labour Force Needs Analysis; 10 Year Curriculum Strategic Plan; Languages of Instruction; School Funding Review; and College Funding Review. Members noted again their own observations that local people need to learn practical skills that are needed often in their communities, such as construction and drywall taping.

The Standing Committee looks forward to receiving updates on this research.

Strategic Issues in Education

The Standing Committee received a briefing of some of the critical issues that the Department is facing in trying to develop a more relevant education system for Nunavut. The effort by the department to understand the impacts of these issues and to analyze trends is appreciated. The Standing Committee commends the thorough approach being undertaken by this department.

Capital Plan

The Standing Committee was advised that the 20-year capital plan has been initiated. Members asked about the total capital projects projected in the business plan and the proportion applied for capital projects currently underway, legal requirements and health, safety and statutory obligations.

Members were advised that effectively, the capital plan currently in place was the 5-year capital plan inherited from the GNWT and it is being reviewed annually in Nunavut. The Standing Committee is very concerned that the full costs of replacing the high school in Cambridge Bay have not been told to them and they were surprised to see Supplementary Appropriations allocated to this purpose, which were not raised in May as potential capital costs this fiscal year, nor during the presentation from the Minister.

These matters should have come to the Standing Committee as part of the capital plan. The government has stated that all of the communities should be treated equitably, but there appears to be special treatment here.

The Standing Committee looks forward to a full discussion of the Department's capital projects in the upcoming capital plan consultations for the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee would like to receive a full detailed outline of the total projected capital costs for the replacement of the high school in Cambridge Bay, how insurance proceeds will be allocated against these costs, what interim capital costs have been incurred for temporary arrangements while the school is being rebuilt and how the Nunavut government will benefit over the long term from any interim arrangements which have been put into place.

Other Education Initiatives

The Standing Committee was updated on a number of other initiatives including the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, which provides \$212,000 each year to Nunavut and \$60,000 to administer the program, as well as a number of other intergovernmental agreements. Members were pleased to see that there would be 76 scholarships of \$3,000 each, which will be prioritized based on need. Members were concerned whether this will be enough funds to meet the needs of all of the students wishing to further their education.

The Standing Committee is interested in receiving more information on the criteria for these scholarships and departmental estimates of the number of students in need of financial support.

Children with Special Needs

Members continue to have concerns about special needs students and the lack of strategies or plans for persons with disabilities, including physical, mental and learning

disabilities. Members observed that children with disabilities do not have a voice - they cannot make proposals or requests.

Members want these children to have the tools to give them as much opportunity as possible for a good future. Members would like to see a school for students with disabilities, so that they don't have to leave Nunavut to go to schools that will meet their needs. Members were advised that the Department is reviewing this matter and surveying students with disabilities being trained in other provinces.

The Standing Committee looks forward to receiving an update on the planning process for students with disabilities and strongly encourages the department to address the gaps in this area.

Housing for Teachers

Members expressed concern about the lack of housing for teachers in many of the communities. The Minister noted that at present, the issue of housing for teachers is in the jurisdiction of the District Education Councils.

However, he noted that the more Inuit and local teachers are trained and hired, the less housing will be a problem, since local people usually have housing or would be interested in purchasing their own home. Members observed that the lack of affordable housing is one of the reasons why people don't come to work in some of the communities as teachers and this problem will be in the jurisdiction of the Department next year.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department of Education work together with Hamlet Councils, the Housing Authorities, local businesses and teachers, to set aside a few units to ensure that teachers will have housing in the interim. The Government of Nunavut should also look at putting aside some staff housing for teachers. In those communities where affordability is an issue, the Committee recommends that the Department look at whether giving teachers a larger subsidy would help.

Income Security

The Standing Committee was advised that due to the Cabinet decision to transfer Income Security from the Department of Sustainable Development to Education, changes would be needed to the Mission and the Goals, as well as the organizational chart and budget.

The Standing Committee supports the Department's move from dependency to self-reliance through Income Support and looks forward to receiving the results of the Income Support Policy Review now underway by the Department of Education.

Department of Health and Social Services

Minister Picco appeared before the Standing Committee on October 14, 1999.

Mid-Year Fiscal Position - The Deficits of the Health Boards

The Standing Committee was pleased to receive documents detailing the mid-year financial status of the Department. However, the detail was focused primarily on the deficit of the Health Boards and the projected deficit for the Department. Members were given a detailed briefing, which provided a historical analysis of underfunding of the Regional Health Boards in Nunavut, under the previous GNWT, which has been carried into the Nunavut budget.

The briefing highlighted the fact that Health and Social Services in Nunavut receives less proportionate funding of the total budget than in any other provincial or territorial government. This, despite the fact that additional costs of providing health and social services in Nunavut are even more expensive than elsewhere in Canada, due to patient travel and care providers.

These factors have contributed to the deficit of the Regional Health Boards. However, while Members are sympathetic to the extensive and sometimes unpredictable costs of care in the north, they are all too aware of examples in their own communities of where the Regional Health Boards have contributed to the unnecessary expenditure of money because of the way that the Boards organize patients' and care providers' travel at the last minute, escort policies, the use of expensive interim nurses on contract, etc.

Members do not understand how the Regional Health Boards, which are under the authority of an Executive Director and a Board of Directors have been allowed to run deficits in such an unaccountable manner and feel that some of the responsibility for the deficit must lie at the hands of the management of the Boards. Members hope that the dissolution of the Health Boards and the integration of these services into the Department of Health and Social Services, will help ensure that some of the wastage will be checked by the Government of Nunavut.

Nevertheless, the question remains of how to pay for the deficits. The Standing Committee is persuaded that the Department of Health and Social Services should not have to shoulder the inherited debts of the Health Boards, as it does not seem that the Department had the fiscal authority to ensure that they did not go into a deficit position. The deficits of the previous fiscal year must be absorbed by the entire Government of Nunavut, as determined under the Assets and Liabilities Agreement with the GNWT.

The Standing Committee recommends that any surplus in the Assets carried over to Nunavut from the GNWT be applied first to the liability of the inherited deficit of \$8.9Million for the Health Boards from the previous fiscal year. Any remaining deficit should be offset by any surplus of the Government of Nunavut, which may occur across all of the Departments, due to the fact that not all positions were in place for the entire fiscal year. The Standing Committee

supports the overall goal of applying any surplus towards new housing stock, as a goal which will positively affect the health of Nunavummiut.

As to the current fiscal year, the Regional Health Boards and the Department must be encouraged to take more responsibility now, so that their deficit situation is minimised. Members are sympathetic, but recognize that all departments feel that they are underfunded and yet they must conform to the reality of their departmental budget.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Regional Health Boards immediately undertake a cost-savings exercise to ensure that where money can be saved, it happens immediately. Departmental finance staff should work closely with the Regional Health Boards and their Executive Directors to ensure a sincere effort to keep within budget.

The Minister acknowledged that one area where the costs for health care are driven upwards is through the use of temporary nursing contracts. These are expensive contracts paid on an hourly rate to agencies, in addition to all transportation and accommodation costs. In addition, temporary nurses often increase the amount of medical travel, as they tend to refer patients to the larger facilities.

The Minister spoke of new retention initiatives being undertaken by the Department and focus-group discussions which will be taking place in several communities. Nevertheless, the difficulties in recruiting new nurses were underlined by the fact that the Department recently had to go as far as Australia to recruit nine new nurses for Nunavut.

The Standing Committee supports the retention initiatives currently being undertaken and further requests detailed information on the costs associated with temporary nursing positions.

A New Direction for the Department - Promotion of Health and Prevention of Illness

The department provided detailed information on health status indicators and critical issues that must be overcome if we are to achieve healthy communities in Nunavut. The department clearly wants to be able to shift the focus from treatment and crisis intervention to prevention of illness and health promotion, as well as an overall goal of *Inusikatiarniq*, which is treating people as a whole, including their bodies, their spirits, and their cultural values.

The Standing Committee encourages this direction. Nevertheless, the Committee is concerned that the approach envisioned seems to be one of hiring more professionals from the south, rather than one of community empowerment. For example, the goal for the department at the community level is 1 community health nurse for every 200 people and 1 social worker for every 300 people. Members are not certain that the expense of these additional staff, not to mention the difficulties in obtaining that many new staff given our current difficulties with recruitment, retention, and housing, is worth the trade-off that may come from more investment in the community itself.

There are many models of care delivery that involve the public more and the Standing Committee does not believe that enough effort has been given to them in the past in Nunavut. Members noted that if there was consistent staff support for a Community Health Committee, members of the Committee could go on local radio and participate in health promotion activities.

Similarly, a good community wellness worker can help the community organize itself to deliver a range of services to children, youth and families, much of which promotes healthy living and community service. Historically, Inuit had to provide many of these services for each other and we need to reinvigorate this knowledge and experience. Members were advised that the Department has spoken to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation regarding funding support to Hamlets for the Health Subcommittees, and that the Community Wellness Co-ordinator position is projected at 1 for every 1000 people.

While the need for more prevention and health promotion programs is clear, Members would prefer to support this through supporting specific initiatives of the Department, such as when the Minister discussed the possibility of the Nursing Program with the Members of the Standing Committee in May of 1999.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department bring forward specific preventative program proposals, not currently possible to fund within the existing departmental budget, which the Committee will consider carefully and bring their understanding of what is needed in the communities to bear on the discussion.

Mental Health

The Standing Committee is particularly concerned with the need for more preventative and proactive approaches in the area of mental health, particularly as it relates to suicide prevention, family break-up, family violence and other forms of abuse. Members observe that Mental Health workers coming from the south are not as aware of the needs of the community as they should be.

Members also observed that there is heavy reliance on drugs prescribed by visiting doctors or to patients who have been sent out of the community. This does not always work, as there is not always support for follow-up in the community. Members want to see mental health workers incorporating both *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and a good knowledge of Inuit language and culture, with a specialized knowledge of mental health skills. Members feel that there are people in their communities who are capable of learning mental health skills and delivering these services. Members also feel the need for both male and female mental health workers in their communities. At the same time, Members recognize that a holistic approach should include both physical and mental health.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department take a new approach to mental health, which integrates Inuit Qaujimagatunangit and more community involvement in the delivery of mental health programs. The Committee recommends that the Department establish training programs for mental health workers in the communities, including peer support programs and recruit mental health workers willing and able to share their skills and involve local people at all levels in dealing with mental health issues in their community.

Community Wellness

The Standing Committee was advised that the Department is trying to take a lead role in co-ordinating the various funding initiatives from several departments that fall under the broad heading of "Wellness". In some communities, wellness co-ordinators work for the Hamlets and in the Baffin, they are part of the Regional Inuit Association. Members were advised that the community wellness co-ordinators will play a role in the community level health decision-making. The Standing Committee is encouraged by this development. Members were also advised that the Community Health Representatives (CHRs) will also play a role in the community level health decision making, along with the nurses and social workers. Members observe that at times, CHRs become secretaries, interpreters, liaison, and have very little time to do health promotion or prevention work. Members would like to see the role of the CHR clarified and they note that if the CHRs were under the Hamlet Councils, they could promote wellness in the community better. Members note that both the Community Wellness Co-ordinator and the CHR's could provide support to the Community Health Committees.

The Standing Committee recommends the development of co-ordinated, community-based decision making, in conjunction with the Community Health Committees and looks forward to receiving more information on this model.

The Standing Committee recommends a clarification of the role of the Community Health Representatives and an examination of whether their direct placement in the Hamlets, or with the Community Health Committees would enhance their abilities in the health promotion and prevention area.

Dissolution of the Regional Health Boards

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that consultants have met with the people in Keewatin, Baffin and the Kitikmeot and that an implementation co-ordinator is in place. While no timetable was presented, it appears that the planning is continuing on schedule to unify the administrative structure with the participation and involvement of the Regional Health Boards. As well, the Department is consulting with the 26 communities in Nunavut. Members were advised the Community Health Committees, such as the one in Kimmirut, are the model for focusing community concern. If one is not in place, then the Department is looking at a process of talking to the Mayors to see if a Health Subcommittee could be established under the local elected Hamlet.

The Standing Committee recommends that some of the authority and power of the Health Boards be given to the Community Health Committees, especially in the area of health promotion. It is crucial that staff support be given so that the Community Health Committees can be effective. The Standing Committee looks forward to receiving detailed information of how the communities will be more involved in health and social service matters.

Telehealth

Members attended a Telehealth demonstration and are aware of some of the possibilities for long distance delivery in Nunavut. Members note that Telehealth is very expensive.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department conduct an evaluation of this technology in the pilot communities and they look forward to receiving further information on the Telehealth projects.

Nunavut Nursing Program

The Standing Committee was very pleased to see the Nunavut Nursing Program up and running in September in Iqaluit. The Committee earnestly hopes the program succeeds and is a model for training other health care providers in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee recommends that the Department and the College put extra effort into ensuring that the students successfully complete the program and looks forward to receiving updates on the program.

Capital Plan

The Minister advised that a departmental capital plan had been initiated, to deal with the needs for renovation of existing facilities and the need for new ones. Members raised some concerns about the P3 funding process, and the prospect of expensive long term commitments, as well as the potential difficulties in staffing these facilities, given the current difficulties in staffing health centres. The Minister advised that a consultant has been hired to do a program operational review of the P3 projects, which will do a cost analysis. This will be presented to Cabinet.

The Standing Committee recommends that any P3 financed projects be reviewed by Members in the same manner as any other capital projects, prior to their final approval.

Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development – Report on the 1999/2000 Six Month Departmental Progress Update

Introduction

In May of 1999, the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut recommended in the House that Government of Nunavut Departments provide mid-year progress updates to the Committees for review.

Ministers and senior departmental officials appeared before the Standing Committees from October 14-16, 1999. This exercise took place shortly before the opening of the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly, and the tabling of the Bathurst Mandate.

At the mid-point of the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Standing Committees were interested in gaining a picture of where the new Government stood in terms of spending to date; legislative and policy plans and priorities for the remainder of the fiscal year; staffing progress; and other matters.

Unfortunately, Standing Committees were again disappointed by the fact that departments were inconsistent in the manner in which materials were provided to Committee Members. While some departments provided thorough documentation, others did not. Few departments seemed able or willing to provide materials much in advance of Ministerial presentations. Problems with providing even short documents in both Inuktitut and English were evident in some presentations.

The Standing Committee again recommends that departmental materials be provided to Members in sufficient advance of appearances to allow for adequate preparation; and that all materials be fully translated.

Generally speaking, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development was satisfied with the progress to date made by the four departments under its oversight mandate. This report will serve to highlight the Standing Committee's main observations and concerns.

Department of Justice

Minister Anawak appeared before the Committee on October 15, 1999.

Legislative Drafting

The Committee strongly supports efforts by the Department to ensure that full Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun translations of all Bills are prepared. ***The Committee recommends that this initiative be extended to other core Justice materials, such as the Nunavut Gazette.***

Cross-Cultural Sensitivity Training for RCMP and Corrections Staff

Members of the Committee were pleased to learn of the recent successful graduation of several Inuit RCMP cadets. The Committee is of the view that there is a need for better cross-cultural training to be provided to non-Inuit members of the RCMP and corrections staff. The Committee is also of the view that the Department has an important role to play in working with federal counterparts in this regard.

The Committee recommends that the Department follow up on this issue.

Departmental Spending to Date

The Minister indicated that he anticipated that the Department would conclude the fiscal year with a surplus, although no specific figures were provided. The surplus is primarily a result of not all positions being staffed.

Corrections Planning Committee

The Minister indicated that the Report of the CPC would be submitted to the Minister shortly.

The Standing Committee looks forward to receiving a copy of the report. Members of the Committee, in their discussions with the Minister, emphasized the need for much greater emphasis on programs that genuinely emphasize rehabilitation and healing, as opposed to simple "warehousing" of offenders. The Committee is of the view that corrections is an area in which Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit can be of great help in program design and delivery. Members of the Committee also expressed concern over the issue of youth incarceration, and encourage the Minister to pursue solutions that work to support healthy families. The Committee reiterates its support for the use of on-the-land camps.

Community Justice Committees

The Minister indicated that officials will be working with the Crown, the RCMP and CJsCs on a Diversion Policy.

The Standing Committee reiterates its support for movement in this area. The Committee also recommends that the Department work to ensure that CJsCs in all regions have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Law Review Commission (Maligarnit Qimirrujiit)

The Minister indicated that departmental staff will be assigned to support the work of the Commission.

The Committee is supportive of this important initiative, and expressed its desire to see it play a part in fostering fundamental reform to the justice system as a whole, making it more reflective of Inuit values.

Community Government and Transportation

Minister Anawak appeared before the Committee on October 15, 1999.

Airport Capital Assistance Program

The Minister indicated that discussions between the Department and the federal government were progressing well.

The Standing Committee is supportive of the Minister's efforts in this area.

Safety Standards and Emergency Response

The Minister indicated that departmental officials were working to ensure equitable safety standards and emergency services would apply across Nunavut.

The Standing Committee is supportive of this policy direction.

Search and Rescue

Members of the Committee indicated to the Minister that situations continue to arise on the land and at outpost camps in which confusion between the responsibilities of SAR and medevac are evident.

The Standing Committee recommends that the departments of CGT and HSS work to resolve the issue; and that adequate funding be provided for SAR operations.

Community Empowerment

The Minister indicated that the department plans to hold consultations with Mayors and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss such issues as block funding and transfer of responsibilities.

Members of the Committee recommend that transfer of responsibilities to communities be accompanied by adequate resources.

Department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Minister Thompson appeared before the Committee on October 15, 1999.

Housing

The Minister advised the Standing Committee that hiring is in progress for a new president of the Housing Corporation. The Minister also indicated that the work of the Minister's Task Force on Housing would commence shortly. Two Members of the Standing Committee serve on the Task Force.

In keeping with the Bathurst Mandate's commitment to making housing one of the Government of Nunavut's two primary commitments; and while recognizing and supporting the potential for the Minister's Task Force to make a valuable contribution to housing policy reform; the Committee nonetheless continues to recommend that the Minister make every effort to secure additional resources from any government-wide surplus during the current fiscal year to purchase materials for housing construction to start in the year 2000.

Review of Contracting Regulations and the Nunavut Business Incentive Policy

The Minister indicated that a departmental working group is in the process of conducting a review these issues, in consultation with NTI.

Given the longstanding and fundamental concerns expressed throughout Nunavut surrounding the issue of government contracts, tenders and adherence to the provisions of Article 24 of the NLCA, the Standing Committee intends to follow developments in this sphere with a high level of attentiveness; and to continue to push to ensure that the Government deals with these issues in a spirit of genuine commitment to Article 24, and the principles of transparency and fairness.

Internet Access for Small Communities

The Standing Committee was pleased to learn of progress being made in connecting Nunavut communities to the Internet.

The Committee recommends that smaller communities not be ignored in this respect.

Perceived Cost Overruns on NCC Housing Projects

Members of the Committee conveyed to the Minister concerns expressed to them that significant cost overruns have been experienced in NCC housing projects.

The Standing Committee recommends that the department inquire into the matter, and that the Minister report the findings to the House.

Assisting Small Contractors Compete

The Committee expressed its support for the department's breaking down of large construction contracts into smaller components so that smaller Nunavut companies have a better opportunity to compete.

Utilizing Appropriate Designs and Technologies in Construction

Members of the Committee expressed their desire for the department to better use local knowledge and Nunavut-appropriate designs and technologies in construction and other projects.

Members take note that the Department has recently called for expressions of interest for public housing design concepts.

Department of Sustainable Development

Minister Kilabuk appeared before the Committee on October 16.

Mining Sector

The Minister outlined some recent departmental initiatives, including the signing of a geoscience accord with the federal government, and the prospectors' program.

The Committee recommends that the department place strong emphasis in its planning to be prepared for significant increases in mining activity over the next few years in Nunavut; and that efforts be made, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, to provide training programs for residents of the Territory to secure employment in this sector.

"One Window" Approach

The Minister indicated that the department is continuing to work towards a "One Window" approach for support to small business.

While supportive of this initiative in principle, the Committee recommends that the approach be developed in such a way as to greatly improve the present level of accountability for public funds and the transparency of funding policy. The Committee further recommends that greater emphasis on effective follow-up support and advice for funding recipients be made.

Relations with Other Jurisdictions

The Committee reiterates its support for the Minister's efforts to secure a fair deal for Nunavut in such areas as fishing quotas; and for the Minister's efforts to negotiate an MOU on economic development with the Government of Canada.

Arts and Crafts Sector

Members of the Standing Committee recommend that the department continue to pursue innovative ways of supporting the arts and crafts sector; including support to carving associations and ways to ensure the ready availability of carving materials in communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 16 - 1(3): Newspaper Article “Whale Gets Funding”**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table this copy of a Nunatsiaq News article from September 27th, titled, “Whale Gets Funding”. It is about a commitment made by the Minister of Transportation to a community regarding funding for a project. I would like to table it for members to be aware and also I will be following up with it at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Tabled Document 17 - 1(3): Clyde River Hamlet Assessment

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the Clyde River Hamlet assessment on funding deficiencies. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 18 - 1(3): Unsigned Note to Mr. Picco

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have been asked by the Hon. Ed Picco to table the note that he received earlier today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Thank you. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if this is the appropriate time to read the motions from the Committee on Health & Social Services. Is this the appropriate time to do so.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. I think the motion would have to be in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you. Motions. Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Second reading of bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters; Standing Committee Reports 10 – 1 (3), 11 – 1 (3), and according to the authority vested in me by Motion 3 – 1 (3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until the reports are dealt with. Mr. Irqittuq has the chair.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Irgittuq) (interpretation): Good afternoon. During the committee of the whole we will deal with the standing committee reports 10 – 1 (3) and 11 – 1 (3). We will have to consider these, what is the wish of the committee. Which report would you like to deal with first, 10 – 1 or 11 – 1. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize, I didn't get a chance to put the numbers on my reports but I would like to deal with Culture, Education and Health Standing Committee report and afterwards deal with Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Are you in agreement. We will deal with 10 – 1 (3) standing committee report. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The standing committee report was tabled and read and with your indulgence I have motions to read Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I will have Mr. Puqiqnak read first, then myself and then Mr. O'Brien.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 10 - 1(3): Capacity for Electronic Communication

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I almost stood up. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

This motion is for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that enough staff and enough computers with capacity for electronic communication with the Government of Nunavut be put in place in Igloolik immediately in order for the Language Bureau to be of timely service to the other departments. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a motion on the floor. To the motion. Any comments to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 11 - 1(3): Language Policy

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommend reiterates the recommendations made on page 20 in the May 1999 report;

That, as the first priority the Nunavut Government develop a language policy which clearly states which government information will be translated or interpreted and how this translation or interpretation services are co-ordinated or accessed.

That, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth develop a clear plan of action to implement this policy;

That, in consultation with Nunavut Social Development Council and other organizations interested in these issues, the Government of Nunavut develop a broad policy discussion paper to consult with the people of Nunavut to reach consensus on how the Government of Nunavut should deal with these issues such as different dialects, spelling protocols, key government terms and how future decisions should be made on these issues;

That, the Government of Nunavut adopt a comprehensive training program for Inuktitut.
Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. To the motion. Comments or questions. To the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 12 - 1(3): Translation of Nunavut Legislation

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that sufficient funding be secured to translate all Nunavut legislation into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Comments or questions to the motion. The motion is in order, comments or questions. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 13 - 1(3): Detail on Heritage and Archival Facility

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee receive more detail on the proposed Heritage Centre and archival facility and reiterate the recommendation made on page 21 of the May 1999 report;

That, in consultation with the Inuit Heritage Trust and other organizations interested in these issues, CLEY develop an options paper for creating Heritage facilities in Nunavut, which would include options for creating small facilities or displays in each community and options for partnerships for administration. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 14 - 1(3): One Stop Funding Source for Arts Community

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that the Nunavut Arts Council provide one-stop funding information for all funding available to Nunavut artists, musicians and cultural workers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What kind of artists will the Nunavut Arts Council consist of. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Puqiqnak would you like to respond.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Arts Council, they are called NACA, Nunavut Arts Council Association, and we also considered the fact that the artists do get funding from the Federal Government.

We do have heritage funds in Ottawa and every spring usually the carvers have a festival in Inuvik. We were wondering if we could have similar programs in Nunavut and have our own Nunavut Arts Council Association. This entity would be able to provide one stop funding, as we do have funding sources from the Federal Government. The Ottawa Inuit Art Foundation supplies some funding to Nunavut when they ask for it and they bring Inuit people down there to carve.

If we have our own Nunavut Arts Council we can generate more income in Nunavut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Perhaps just in addition to that I would like to see some sort of document outlining this issue. I apologize, all of the details are in the standing committee reports, we are just reading the recommendations right now. So if you read all of the standing committee reports you would have had a more clear understanding. To the motion. Any other comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 15 - 1(3): Funding for Inuit Place Names Project

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that the Department work in co-ordination with Inuit organizations to provide funding and support to communities to assist them in Inuit place names projects. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It says Inuit organizations here. Who are the Inuit organizations. Could you explain that a bit to me please.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): There are many Inuit organizations, which organizations are we talking about.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Culture, health, education committees.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We do have the Qikiqtani Inuit Association. These are the organizations that I automatically think of when I think about Inuit organizations, but now I understand when I see the documentation here. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is on the floor, any other comments. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 16 - 1(3): Involvement of Elders in Policy Development

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee strongly reiterates its recommendations at pages 6 and 22 of the May 1999 Report.

That as an immediate priority, the Government of Nunavut prepare a policy statement on the involvement of Elders in policy development and program delivery;

That the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth prepare an options paper for Cabinet, in consultation with other departments and stakeholders, on funding support to Elders' Councils at the community level which will build partnerships among departments, local governments and Inuit organizations, utilizing existing funding programs at the federal and territorial level, as well as local resources to ensure the participation of Elders in policy development and program delivery at the community level and Nunavut-wide; and

That Departments develop detailed plans for integrating Elders in policy development and program delivery within their mandate.

That in partnership with the Department of Education and other organizations with an interest in these issues, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth initiate a Nunavut wide program to ensure that we have interviews and other information from all of our Elders,

properly documented and stored for current and future reference, with duplicates in safe storage. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Being clear on this, we would definitely like to see this but in respect to funding I haven't seen anything pertaining to funding for this.

Chairperson (interpretation): Who wants to respond to this. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): We are presenting these motions for ministerial or cabinet approval and Mr. Havioyak will be the one responsible as to how this will be received.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that clear now Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Yes, I am clear on that and we would like to see funding made available. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): When you just respond yes or no it is better because we are a bit worn out in our meetings. My apologies we didn't vote on the motion. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Motion 17 - 1(3): Creation of Women's Council

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The last motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends the creation of a women's council, which will be truly representative and accountable to the women of Nunavut and supports the department's preferred option for the appointment of an interim council for one year to establish a permanent structure and organization taking into consideration that women in the communities of Nunavut would be more empowered if they were to select their own representatives to this body. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Puqiqnak are there any more motions.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, that is all.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 18 - 1(3): Education Responsibility in Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman these are our recommendations to the Department of Education and as soon as I am finished Mr. O'Brien will deal with recommendations to Health & Social Services.

Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee supports changes to the *Education Act* to place more responsibility and resources at the community level and reiterate the recommendation made on page 10 of the May 1999 Report:

That, the Government of Nunavut strengthen community empowerment, provide more authority at the community level on education issues, and present very clear plans as to how this will happen under the Departmental control. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed to the motion? Carried. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 19 - 1(3): Office Space for Decentralization

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommend the department to move quickly in concern with the department of Public Works and the decentralized station secretariat to secure office space and housing so that the decentralized positions can be established.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee receive a full detailed outline of the total projected capital cost for the replacement of the high school in Cambridge Bay. How insurance proceeds will be allocated against these costs. What interim capital costs have been incurred for temporary arrangements while the school is being rebuilt and how the Nunavut Government will benefit over the long term from any arrangements which have been put into place.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Carried. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 20 - 1(3): Millennium Scholarships

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommend that the Department provide the committee with more information on the criteria for the millennium scholarships and departmental estimates of the number of students in being paid from financial support.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 21 - 1(3): Students with Disabilities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I have two more to read. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee receive an update on the planning process for students with disabilities and strongly encourage the department to address the gaps in this area.

Chairperson (interpretation): A motion is in order. Comments to the motion. All those favour of the motion. Opposed. Carried. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 22 - 1(3): Teachers Housing

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Education work together with Hamlet Councils, the Housing Authorities, local businesses and teachers, to set aside a few units to ensure that teachers will have housing in the interim. The Government of Nunavut should also look at putting aside some staff housing for teachers. In those communities where affordability is an issue, the Committee recommends that the Department look at whether giving teachers a larger subsidy would help.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In respect to teachers units, is it because they have been reviewed or studied that the motion is here ?

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, In respect to a lack of housing for teachers, this basically supports looking into the issue of housing and basically asks the minister to look into the housing situation.

Chairperson: Thank you. All those in favour. Opposed. Carried. Any more. Kevin O'Brien.

Committee Motion 23 - 1(3): Surplus Targeted to Health Boards Debt

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of motions to put forward regarding the Department of Health and Social Services. There are 15 in total. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that any surplus in the assets carried over to Nunavut from the GNWT be applied first to the liability of the inherited debt of 8.9 million dollars from the health boards from the previous fiscal year. Any remaining deficit should be offset by any surplus of the Government of Nunavut, which may occur across all of the Departments, due to the fact that not all positions were in place for the entire fiscal year. Keeping in mind that the overall goal of applying any surplus towards new housing stock, as a goal which will positively affect the health of Nunavummiut.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour of the motion? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 24 - 1(3): Cost Saving Measures for Health Boards

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I move that that the Regional Health Boards immediately undertake a cost-savings exercise to ensure that where money can be saved, to happen immediately. Departmental finance staff should work closely with the Regional Health Boards and their Executive Directors to ensure a sincere effort to keep within budget.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 25 - 1(3): Health Staff Retention

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that staff retention initiatives currently being undertaken by the department be reviewed and further, request detailed information on the costs associated with temporary nursing positions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour of the motion? All opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 26 - 1(3): Preventative Programs

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that Department bring forward specific preventative program proposals, not currently possible to fund within the existing departmental budget, which the Committee will consider carefully and bring their understanding of what is needed in the communities to bear on the discussion. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 27 - 1(3): New Approach to Mental Health

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommend that the Department take a new approach to mental health, which integrates Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and more community involvement in the delivery of mental health programs. The Committee recommends that the Department establish training programs for mental health workers in the communities, including peer support programs and recruit mental health workers willing and able to share their skills and involve local people at all levels in dealing with mental health issues in their community. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): A motion is in order. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When we talk about education and it states that it integrates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit when we spoke about education. So perhaps we collect all the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in order to get this motion acted upon.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 28 - 1(3): Community Based Decision Making

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommend development of co-ordinated, community-based decision making on Health and Social Services matters in conjunction with the Community Health Committees and provide the committee with more information on this model and further recommends further clarification of the role of the community, health representatives and an examination of whether they're direct placement in the Hamlets or the community health committees would enhance their abilities in health promotion and prevention and the prevention area. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): A motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 29 - 1(3): Authority to Community Health Committees

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommend that some of the authority and power of the Health Boards be given to the Community Health Committees, especially in the area of health promotion. It is crucial that staff support be given so that the Community Health Committees can be effective. That the Department provide more detailed information of how the communities will be more involved in health and social service matters. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? The motion is carried.

Chairperson (interpretation): A motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 30 - 1(3): Evaluation of Telehealth

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department conduct an evaluation of telehealth in the pilot communities and they look forward to receiving further information on the Telehealth projects. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 31 - 1(3): Completion of Nursing Programs

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department and the College put extra effort into ensuring that the students successfully complete the nursing program and looks forward to receiving updates on the program. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Your last motion. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 32 - 1(3): P3 Projects Review

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommend that any P3 financed projects be reviewed by members in the same manner as any other capital projects, prior to their final approval. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. General comments to the report. Do you agree that the Standing Committee report is concluded. Thank you. Standing Committee Report 10-1 (3) is concluded.

We'll now go onto Standing Committee Report 11-1 (3). Chairman of that Standing Committee, would you like to do your opening comments? Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, as Chairman of the Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, it is understood that the report has been read into the record and we will now continue with the recommendations of the committee's report and if I may, I'll start with the motions that I have prepared.

Chairperson: All those in favour of Mr. O'Brien's request. Proceed.

Committee Motion 33 - 1(3): Translation of Materials

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee recommends that the Department of Justice continue and expand its efforts to make legal materials and publications available in Inuktitut.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 34 – 1 (3): Rehabilitation in Corrections Planning

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that corrections planning place greater emphasis on rehabilitation and healing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 35 - 1(3): Responsibilities with Resources

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that the transfer of responsibilities be accompanied by adequate resources. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 36 - 1(3): Materials for Housing Construction

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that the committee recommends that the minister responsible for housing make every effort to secure additional resources from any government wide surpluses during the current fiscal year to purchase materials for housing construction to start in the year 2000. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 37 - 1(3): Increases in Mining Activity

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommend that the department of Sustainable Development plan effectively for increases in mining activity and work to ensure training opportunities for Nunavummiut to secure opportunities in this area. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 38 - 1(3): One Window Approach

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is the last motion. I move that the committee recommends that the one window approach be developed in a way that improves accountability and transparency. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion is carried.

Any other comments or questions to the reports. Since there are none, do you agree that the reports from this standing committee are concluded? Opposed? Since the Standing Committee reports are concluded, would you like to report to the Speaker now. We will now report to the Speaker. Thank you. Do you agree?

>>Applause.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Sergeant at Arms. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20, Reports of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, Thank you. Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering committee reports 10-1 (3) and 11-1 (3). I would like to report that the committee reports 10-1 (3) and 11-1 (3) are concluded 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. Iqittuq. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Ng. All those in favour? All those Opposed? Motion is carried.

Item 21, Third reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 3 - An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk, that Bill 3, an Act to Amend the Interpretation Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Bill 3 has had it's third reading. Third reading of Bills. Assent to Bills. Mr. Clerk. Would you ascertain if Her Honour the Commissioner is prepared to enter the chamber to assent to Bills.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner (Ms. Maksagak): Good afternoon Mr. Speaker and Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly. As you prepare for a break in the business of the third

session of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to assent to the following Bills;

Bill 1, Loan Authorization Act 1999/2000,

Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act

Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act,

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act,

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

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

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I commend you for the work done to date at this third sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. I wish you all well as you return home to your families. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Please be seated. Thank you Madame Commissioner. Item 22, Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, February 16, 2000.

Item 1 Prayer

Item 2 Ministers' Statements

Item 3 Members' Statements

Item 4 Returns to Oral Questions

Item 5 Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Item 6 Oral Questions

Item 7 Written Questions

Item 8 Returns to Written Questions

Item 9 Replies to Opening Address

Item 10 Petitions

Item 11 Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Item 12 Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Item 13 Tabling of Documents

Item 14 Notices of Motions

Item 15 Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Item 16 Motions

Item 17 First Reading of Bills

Item 18 Second Reading of Bills

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

Item 20 Report of the Committee of the Whole

Item 21 Third Reading of Bills

Item 22 Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. (interpretation ends) This house stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 16, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant At Arms.

>>*Applause*

>>*House Adjourned at 1.45 p.m.*

