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Rankin Inlet

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Enoki Irgittuq
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)
Chair of Caucus

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance and Administration; Minister of Human Resources; Government House Leader

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Nunavut Power Corporation

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)
Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Natilik)
Deputy Speaker; Deputy Chair Committee of the Whole

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Sustainable Development

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Justice; Minister of Community Government and Transportation

Hon. Manitok Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Minister of Housing; Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunuiq)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Lizzie Ittinuar

Editors of Hansard
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 979-6770 Fax (867) 979-6811 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Thursday February 17, 2000

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Levi Barnabas) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mariano Aupilardjuk to open the session with a prayer.

Mr. Aupilardjuk (interpretation): Thank you. At this time we are very proud to see each and every one of you and I am sure that you are very happy to be here also. We are also very happy about the fact that I have seen a woman carrying the mace in Rankin Inlet. At this time we shall pray.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Aupilardjuk. At this time I would like to ask the students of Leo Ussak school to sing O'Canada. Please stand.

>>*O'Canada*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. At this time I also would like to ask Marie Aupilardjuk to light the qulliq.

>>*Lighting of the qulliq*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for lighting the qulliq, Marie Aupilardjuk.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. At this time Mariano Aupilardjuk and his grandson, Johnny Aupilardjuk, will perform a drum dance. I would like to ask them to begin.

>>*Drum Dance*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for the drum dance. At this time Leo Ussak elementary school choir will sing a Nunavut song.

>>*Singing and Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you very much to the elementary school students for singing O'Canada and the Nunavut song. Good afternoon Members of the Legislative Assembly, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen.

(interpretation ends) We are resuming the Third Session of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Today is an historic day. It is the first sitting of the Legislative Assembly to take place outside of Iqaluit. On behalf of all the members of the House I would like to extend our warmest thanks to the people of Rankin Inlet for the gracious welcome that you have extended to us.

(interpretation) Also I would like to recognize the people who worked very hard to put this together so that we would be fully prepared for our sitting. I would like to recognize the youth who worked hard to get us going.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank the students and teachers of Maani Ulujuk School for allowing us the use of your school. Special recognition is due to Lizzie Ittinuar, our Sergeant at Arms for this week. In carrying the mace, the traditional symbol of legislative authority, Lizzie also embodies the strength of our elders and our heritage.

We have been looking forward to sitting here for some months now and it is a testament to the spirit of this community to see the Chamber so full today. (interpretation) Today before we go to the Orders of the Day, I would like to read the remarks sent to us by the Commissioner of Nunavut. It says;

"Mr. Speaker I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills; Loan Authorization Act 2000/2001 and the Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000. Yours truly Helen Maksagak, Commissioner.

(interpretation) Item number two on the Orders of the Day is Ministers' Statements. I would like to let everyone in the House know that we have the channels up on the wall. You have Inuktitut, English, Inuinnaqtun and they are on different channels. You can also hear the floor. Please refer to the notices on the side of the wall. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 41 - 1(3) Decentralization Update

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all before I start I would like to thank you all, to the people that are here in the House. I am very glad to see that there are a lot of people here interested in seeing the sittings. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform members and bring them up to date on decentralization activities, and progress towards our commitment to relocate government operations and employees to various communities throughout Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Decentralization continues to be a priority for those who planned and designed this government, a priority of all MLAs elected to this Assembly. The Decentralization Secretariat was formally established under the Department of the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs in September, 1999. Leona Aglukkaq was appointed as the Assistant Deputy Minister for the decentralization section of our department.

(interpretation) Our intent has been to achieve full decentralization over a three year timeframe, and the allocation of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year indicates this Government's commitment to making decentralization a reality in our communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I have mentioned in the past, the implementation of decentralization is an important step in the development of Nunavut. But it is equally important that decentralization is implemented in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible. A planned approach will not only ensure programs and services are not interrupted during departmental relocation, but will maximize future benefits for Nunavummiut.

Therefore the decentralisation secretariat has taken a detailed approach to planning. This has involved reviewing any critical shortage in housing and office space, determining requirements for furnishings and systems, planning for training and preparation for new recruitment. The planning is ongoing and circumstances are continuing to change.

Advanced planning and costing is part of the larger objective of ensuring decentralization occurs without waste. The government of Nunavut is committed to efficiency in government and this applies to decentralization. The Decentralization Secretariat is committed to analyzing costs and trying to minimize these costs wherever possible.

The Decentralization Secretariat is also committed to supporting the departments that will be relocated and in this process of assisting each department, will develop customised plans to assist in their moves. These plans will look at all the logistics involved, ensuring there is minimal disruption to programs and services during the implementation phase.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker the benefits that decentralization can bring to our communities are many. In addition to stimulating the local economy of each decentralized community it presents a unique opportunity to maximise employment and training opportunities.

(interpretation ends) While the success of decentralization depends on having trained personnel available in these communities it is also true that local training will be more effective with the local community presence of government departments. This means that

individuals will not have to leave their community to participate in public service training opportunities.

The training that is provided to these individuals will not only lead to government employment but will make many other opportunities available to them. Once trained they may wish to be employed outside of the Government and even outside their community.

In any event the benefits and opportunities decentralization can provide through training are many, and will be maximized through the further development of training plans by the Government in co-operation with the impacted communities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker I am pleased to inform the members that a portion of this year's decentralization budget has been targeted at local training initiatives. This shows our commitment, not only to making decentralization happen, but to maximize its benefits.

(interpretation ends) The first year of our training plan will initiate on the job training and the number of community training and employment opportunities will increase each year as decentralization continues to be implemented.

Mr. Speaker it is indicative of our commitment to decentralization that a specific budget allocation required to implement decentralization in the coming fiscal year has been recommended for approval. This budget will be sufficient to implement about one third of our overall decentralization objective.

(interpretation) I wish to assure members that we will continue to move forward with decentralization, not only with relocation but in ensuring that appropriate training plans are in place in our communities and that the delivery of programs and services is maintained.

Mr. Speaker decentralization is a key objective of our government and one that this government will ensure happens as planned within three years. Thank You Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Minister's Statement 42 - 1(3) Visual Identity Program

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I was pleased to unveil the new logo for the Government of Nunavut. This logo will be used to identify the government in our territory, across Canada and throughout the world.

(interpretation ends) It is difficult to choose just one symbol to represent a land and people as diverse as Nunavut. This symbol represents the unity of our territory. It reflects the pride in the traditions of Nunavut and these traditions are a foundation for our government as it moves forward to improve the lives of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) The artists who developed our logo, Andrew Qappik and Dan O'Brien spoke with many people about what they would like to see in our logo. Mr. Speaker, some people in this room contributed to that discussion.

(interpretation ends) Our logo is a polar bear standing on a mound of snow looking up and back to the north star, Niqirtsituk. As you know Niqirtsituk was used as a traditional guide for navigation.

The north star is also included in the designs of the Nunavut Flag and coat of arms.

(interpretation) The polar bear is moving forward towards a more prosperous Nunavut, while looking back into the past, acknowledging the traditions of the Inuit way of life and the teachings of the elders.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker the pages are delivering to each Member a souvenir of the occasion. I hope you will all enjoy this gift.

(interpretation) I also want to take this opportunity to thank Andrew and Dan for their hard work and creativity. There will be a feast tonight to celebrate our new logo and honour our artists. I encourage everyone to participate in this celebration. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 43 - 1(3) Program Partnerships

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker when our new Government was formed on April 1, 1999, we took steps to ensure programs delivered to the public would not be interrupted.

Our first year of delivering these programs has given us an opportunity to see what programs are working and the effectiveness of our delivery. It has also given us the opportunity to speak with members of this House and our program partners on where changes and improvements need to be made.

In fact when I appeared before the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development October 1999, this topic was on their mind as well. They asked me to examine approaches to program delivery that improve the accountability and transparency of their operations.

Mr. Speaker, the department of Sustainable Development delivers its programs through four levels of partnerships.

First, we work in partnership with Hamlets in delivering community economic development services in communities. Second, we work in partnership with outside

organizations who deliver other business programs such as Partners in Development in this region. Third, we work in partnership with industry associates such as Nunavut Tourism and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. Finally we work in partnership with the Government of Canada such as through the Canada / Nunavut Geoscience Office.

But we have determined that that there must be clearer terms and conditions to many of these partnerships, in order that I can report back to this House on the performance of our programs.

Mr Speaker I would like to advise the house today that my Department of Sustainable Development intends to introduce a new policy on our program partnerships on 2000/2001. This policy will provide a clear framework on how we intend to fund our partnerships, the terms under which we are partnering our programs and our expected performance and reporting standards.

Mr. Speaker I am committed to providing the Standing Committee and this House clear and transparent information on how Department program dollars are spent.

I also know from my travels this year that Nunavummiut are asking for better information on our programs and services.

I am pleased to say that we have now sent information on the new Department of Sustainable Development to all Mayors in Nunavut. We have also recently completed a simple program brochure which identifies which people to contact in communities and at the regional level about our program information.

And also Mr. Speaker, I'm examining methods of how we can support and develop the skill level of the Community Economic Development Officers, who are funded by this Government through a partnership agreement with Hamlets. I expect to report on progress on this early in the new fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker this Government through the Bathurst Mandate made a commitment to simplify and enhance access to our programs. The changes I have detailed today are the first phase of continued improvements to program delivery that you can expect from the Department of Sustainable Development. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 44 - 1(3) Integration of School Services

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, representing the mothers and fathers I would like to thank them for our students. Mr Speaker I submitted a progress report on the dissolution of Divisional Education Councils to the Standing Committee on Education, Culture and Health in February of this year. However, I think it is important for all members to be aware of what is happening with

this project so I will provide you with a verbal update. In addition, I would be pleased to share my written report to any interested member.

(interpretation ends) The integration of school services with the Department of Education will bring our department closer to Nunavummiut. Following a decision to dissolve the Divisional Education Councils in the spring of 1999, legislation was passed and work began in May to start the process of change. Since then the Department has set up a steering committee and a series of working committees to undertake work such as a re-designing the organization, establishing electronic communication links with the Board offices and converting to the government accounting system. The team doing the work consisted of staff from both headquarter and Board offices. We made a special effort to involve Inuit staff in the decision making.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, an important element of this work was the need to keep all stakeholders informed in the regions and also the staff were briefed through meetings and individual discussions and this was followed by a series of newsletters to report progress. I briefed the Nunavut Social Development Council and we also had two meetings with the board chairs to inform them of the change and to brief them on progress. I also met with each full Divisional Council at least once in the last 10 months.

It will be critical for us to set up an effectively functioning administrative operation in each region, reporting to an Assistant Deputy Minister at headquarters. The newly designed organizations will not look a lot different than the existing board operations. However by July 1, 2000 they will no longer be at arms length form the Nunavut Government. They will use the Government's central agency services and will conform to Government policies in all areas.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to report that the new organization design is complete and all staff in Board offices received job offers by early December. They now understand their roles in the new organization. We succeeded in fulfilling the Governments promise that there would be no layoffs and this has really reduced anxiety levels amongst staff. I am confident that we now have the resources in place to make the transition on time in July of this year.

The department predicted savings of 1 million dollars through the dissolution of the Boards of Management. I am confident we will meet that target. We have been able to achieve significant savings through the elimination of Board per diems and travel costs. We will also save money through staff reductions made possible through the use of central agency services. These savings will be phased in over a number of months starting at the beginning of the 2000/2001 school year.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker we still have a lot work to do make this project a success. However, we are a bit ahead of schedule and I have no doubt that this important change will proceed on time, within budget.

The dissolution of the Divisional Education Councils and the integration of these services into the Department will move the Department of Education and the Minister of Education closer to our students and all Nunavummiut.

Thank You Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 77 - 1(3): Tribute to Rankin Inlet

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr Speaker . Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to make my first member's statement of the year 2000 in Rankin Inlet, the place of my birth. I had planned to make this statement yesterday, but predictably the unpredictable Rankin weather had pushed us back a day. Some things will never change. As members of this House know I had the honour of serving on the Hamlet council in '96 and '97, with a number of very able colleagues, some of whom I see in the gallery today.

It has been a tremendous feeling to see so many old friends and family over the last few days. Although Iqaluit is my home, this community will always have a special place in my heart. Mr. Speaker, I am quite overwhelmed with and proud of the warm welcome and the hospitality that has been extended by the people of Rankin Inlet to the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I will do my best to live up to their expectations for our performance. Mr. Speaker, we will be sitting here in Rankin Inlet until the end of the month. During the sitting, I look forward to raising a number of issues of concern to my constituents in Iqaluit Centre, who I would again like to thank for their support and guidance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Minister Thompson.

Member's Statement 78 - 1(3) Welcome Legislature to Rankin Inlet

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an MLA for the Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove constituents, I would like for you to feel welcome while you are here in Rankin Inlet. If there are any problems please don't hesitate to let us know. All the people here in this Assembly, the students and the elders, on behalf of them we would like to make you feel welcome while you are in Rankin Inlet. The Mayor, Simon Upatak, Paul Kaludjuak from KIA and the President of KIA, I would like to welcome all the people here on their behalf. Jack Anawak will be making a speech as well.

This school was named after Maani, who was a respected elder. She had a reverence for God and I know that within all her heart she would want you to feel welcome while you are sitting in Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. I would just like to clarify that we don't use the names of members. Members' Statements.

Member's Statement 79 - 1(3) Ranger Service Medals

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the members that two of my constituents of Clyde River were honoured yesterday with special service medals. These two individuals are Rangers. Ranger Peter Kunilusie and Master Corporal Jimmy Tassugat. They were decorated in Ottawa by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson with the new Ranger bar awarded for at least four years of service. I would ask all Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in extending congratulations to these two individuals.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 80 - 1(3) Appreciation for Sessional Assistance

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very happy and proud to be here. If I could just make a comment. In the 1960's and 1970's when the Nunavut Settlements and the Hamlets were being put in place, we never expected to have this actual Nunavut Government. At least now we have established the Nunavut Government and there are some things that we didn't expect that are happening today.

We see drum dancing in the Legislative Assembly, we see a qulliq being lit and the young children singing O'Canada in Inuktitut. These are all things that we should be proud of and that the elders are here too. So on behalf of each and every one of them I would like to thank them and I would also like to acknowledge the pages for a week. I would like to thank them, Elaine Bruce, Alurak and Codie Dean, Tupa Ford, Amie Kuludjak, Joanne Kent and Laura Mary.

These are our pages for this week. I would also like to acknowledge, as I have stated before we see things that we did not expect to see. As the person who opened the meeting with a prayer said, this is the first time that the mace was carried by a woman into the Legislature. Lizzie Ittinuar, who is the Sergeant at Arms, I know that all of the Nunavut residents recognize her, but she has worked very hard to maintain the traditional clothing. I don't think we recognize her for all her work to enhance, keep and preserve traditional clothing. I was very proud of her carrying the mace.

I would also like to welcome the members and we are very glad and proud to welcome you to Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 81 - 1(3) Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I recognized a few people here when I came into Rankin Inlet and I am also very pleased to be here and very proud of the elders here as well as the students. They worked very hard and are also learning from the elders. This is the route we are trying to take and this should be continued.

It is so nice to see the people, when we see these things happening it seems like we are going in the right direction for our future. I just want to make a brief statement. I felt so welcome here when I came into Rankin Inlet and there are a number of people making us welcome and who worked very hard. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 82 - 1(3) Order of Canada Recipient

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize a Cape Dorset carver who was honoured recently. Kiugak Ashoona was honoured in Ottawa last week. He was awarded the Order of Canada. Kiugak Ashoona was honoured and presented with that award for being a world renowned carver for over 50 years. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 83 - 1(3) Passing of Maurice Kukkiak

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been not too many days since we lost our friend and family member, Maurice Kukkiak from Chesterfield Inlet. He was a hunter and I know Mr. Speaker, elders would say that he died doing what he really enjoyed, not through sickness. We send our sympathy and condolences to the family. I have been saddened not since yesterday but previously when somebody dies who is so dear to us. We saw him recently on TV and I was not too happy about that, I did not know if the TV company got approval from the family. He went through APTN

when the day is too close to his date of death. So I am asking them to be aware of these things.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Perhaps we will write a letter on behalf of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to the family members. Members' Statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 84 - 1(3) Passing of John Shorty Uppahuak

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too am very pleased to be here today in Rankin at this Assembly. Not only in Rankin but here in the Keewatin. This is one of the more happy times, a time when everybody is excited, but unfortunately Mr. Speaker, I rise on a sad note.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask the members of this House to offer their condolences to the family of John Shorty Uppahuak who passed away yesterday in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, Shorty was a real treasure in our community and will be sadly missed. Our prayers and thoughts go to his daughters, Patsy Alujut, Annie Olie and Donna Oolariak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. On behalf of the Legislative Assembly we will send our condolences to the family. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak, Deputy Speaker.

Member's Statement 85 - 1(3) Taloyoak Drum Dancers

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize my constituents from Taloyoak for they have been preparing since winter a series of drum dances. They will be going out to perform at various places. They will enhance Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I have met with them twice when I was in the community and there's one young person there and an elder. Their foundation is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. They also would like to share their happiness with you through drum dancing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 86 - 1(3) Passing on of Elders Knowledge

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that I am very proud and happy to be here in Rankin Inlet with the elders, young people and children. I am very pleased that we can at least reach the year 2000 without any real problem in Nunavut. I am very thankful and happy about that. Also, elders are now dying off and our young people are increasing in numbers. Our elders should teach our young people how to live a traditional way of life in the year 2000, which I expect to see.

I would like to encourage our young people to ask questions of the elders, that way they can have a better idea about life as to how we have lived and survived from the past to date. So I am very proud of that fact and I rise today to say so. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 87 - 1(3) Sitting of Legislature at Rankin Inlet

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Today I rise to welcome the elders of Rankin Inlet, the youth of Rankin Inlet and the general population to this sitting in Rankin Inlet. I would also like to welcome everybody from outside the Kivalliq to the Kivalliq.

I feel at home here, very much at home in Rankin Inlet because in 1971 it was my first home in the north. Mr. Speaker, I have heard in the media and I have heard on the street of the cost of moving this Assembly to Rankin Inlet, but Mr. Speaker, a territory is not created every day and I think the cost is not the issue here. The issue here is bringing this Assembly closer to the people. As the children sang this afternoon, Hope & Glory for Nunavut. Ma'na Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Members' Statement 88 - 1(3) Designer of New Logo

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to recognize and be proud of the new logo that was unveiled today around lunch hour. The artist from my home town, I would like to say that I am very proud of him and it also shows us, as we were told this morning, the polar bear is looking back into the past in recognition of the traditions of the Inuit. I would also like to say that I am very glad that the elders are here. For those of us who are younger, and those who are younger than we are, we have to be proud of the people who designed this logo and we are also proud of the elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Members' Statement 89 - 1(3) Baffin Leaders Summit at Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that I am very happy to be here in Rankin Inlet, the welcome is overwhelming and I do have many relatives here in town. However, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Hall Beach residents I would like to thank each and every one, last winter just before Christmas there was a Baffin Leaders Summit and some Members of the Legislative Assembly attended that session.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge some of the Cabinet members who were able to come to Hall Beach. On behalf of Hall Beach residents thank you very much.

>>Applause

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

Members' Statement 90 - 1(3) Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the Rankin Inlet residents.

(interpretation ends) This morning I had an opportunity to be here in Rankin Inlet and enjoy the hospitality and the warmth of the people here. I would especially like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Thompson and Minister Anawak, the Mayor and Council, Sandy Kusugak and Sean Maley for their hard work in pulling off the presentation and the sitting over the next two weeks.

I would also like to take this opportunity and give a special thanks to all the people in the audience and especially all elders, Mr. Speaker, who have come here today for these proceedings and over the next two weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Return to OQ 145 – 1 (3): Size of Housing Lots

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of returns to oral questions. One question was asked by Mr. Iqaqrialu on November 3, 1999 regarding the distance between houses.

The size of housing lots is normally determined as a result of Hamlet Zoning By-laws. Smaller Hamlets use a "Land Use Planning" process in lieu of specific zoning requirements. Another factor which dictates distances between houses is the fire separation regulations. If an individual is accessing a "Home Ownership program" through the Housing Corporation, or for that matter building on their own, they can discuss the position of the house with their building contractor prior to construction.

Return to OQ 137 – 1 (3): Aviation Fuel in Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, this is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Alakannuark on November 3, 1999 in regards to concerns about a lack of aviation fuel in Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay.

As soon as we heard about this concern, during the summer of 1999 we brought 12 drums of certified aviation fuel into Repulse Bay at the request of the member, for emergency use and for medivacs. At the time of this response none of the product has been used and no complaints have been received.

Also we have not received any complaints from the airlines in reference to the community of Pelly Bay either. We have completed an analysis of the costs to provide certified aviation fuel in Pelly Bay which would include proper storage, piping and distribution facilities. Preliminary estimates are in the millions of dollars depending on the options chosen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Return to OQ 132 – 1 (3): Dew Line Clean up

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a response to a question that was asked at the last session. The question was brought up by Mr. Iqaqrialu regarding the Dew Line Cleanup sites. Following the last session I sent a letter to Member Iqaqrialu, as well as all Members of the Legislative Assembly which detailed the status of clean ups at all sites in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the House that environmental assessments have been completed for all 39 Dew Line sites. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Department of National Defence are both using restoration procedures that ensure that the level of clean up meets acceptable clean up standards and guidelines. The Department of National Defence is committed to monitoring the landfill sites following clean up.

Mr. Speaker, my Department's Environmental Protection Services maintains close contact with officials in both the Department of National Defence and Indian Affairs. They also review and provide input into proposals that are submitted by consultants chosen to carry out clean up activities at the Dew Line sites.

In my correspondence to members, I detailed the schedule and status of clean up operations at every Dew Line site and I am tabling this information in the House today. I would like to assure Mr. Iqarrialu that his concern surrounding the clean up of these sites is being closely monitored by my officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Return to OQ 143 – 1 (3): Economic Agreement with Echo Bay Mines

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I left my mike on. Today I would like to make a reply to a question that was brought up by the member for Iqaluit Centre in regards to Echo Bay Mines. This information was also contained in a letter to Mr. Tootoo sent after the last session.

As members are aware, Echo Bay Mines have announced the reopening of the Lupin Mine and officials in my Department have been in discussion with mine officials about ensuring that employment and business impacts fall to Nunavut. The Kitikmeot Inuit Association is also working with Echo Bay to ensure that there are linkages made to the labour force and business community in the Kitikmeot.

However, Mr. Speaker, there are no binding agreements requiring Echo Bay to employ residents of the Northwest Territories or Nunavut. Echo Bay Mines and the Government of the NWT did sign an agreement in principle on a socio-economic action plan, which the company substantively lived up to by hiring Nunavummiut and providing access at company expense to the mine site from Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk.

On the question of whether employees at the Lupin Mine from outside Nunavut will pay personal income tax in Nunavut, this is determined by Revenue Canada on the basis of their principle residence. Therefore an employee at the Lupin Mine whose family and home are in Alberta would pay income tax in Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Return to OQ 88 – 1 (3): Baker Lake Freezer

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that I don't have to keep standing up, I have four responses for returns to oral questions and I will cover them all. One of them will be in English.

(interpretation ends) The first was a question asked by Mr. McLean on October 28, 1999. The Baker Lake freezer was well maintained but has exceeded its life span and requires replacement. Since the community of Baker Lake has an Empowerment Agreement with Community Government & Transportation, there has been uncertainty about Departmental responsibility for funding the replacement. Community freezers are

currently the responsibility of the Department of Sustainable Development, however, the former Department of Public Works, now Public Works and Housing, often provided staff to assist with freezer maintenance.

The Superintendent of Community Government & Transportation, Department of Sustainable Development and Public Works & Housing, have agreed to draft a discussion paper on the community freezer program for their Ministers' review. When the review has been completed, the responsible Department will provide an update.

Return to OQ 93 – 1 (3): Rankin Inlet Utilidor Project

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): The next one is a return to an oral question that was brought up by Mr. Iqaqrialu regarding the Rankin Inlet Utilidor Project. The budget for the project was 8.9 million, with the Hamlet paying the larger share of the costs. The correction of the elevation calculation error on the Nuuvuk Subdivision utilidor did not cause the project to go over budget. There were no additional costs to the Government of Nunavut as a result of the error. Thank you.

Return to OQ 106 – 1 (3): Length of Runway Overlay in Qikiqtarjuaq

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I have another return to an oral question regarding the length of a runway overlay for Qikiqtarjuaq. The project was intended to extend the runway to 3,939 feet. During a geo-technical check, problems with soil conditions causing unstable ground were found after the 3,800 foot mark. Therefore the overlay was extended only to 3,800 feet from the existing 3,475 feet and the angle straightened to produce a standard taxiway shape.

Thirty eight hundred feet is more than sufficient for air carriers such as the Hawker Sidley, which requires 3,500 feet for maximum loads. Thank you.

Return to OQ 107 – 1 (3): Location of Old Dump Site

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): A response to Mr. Nutarak's question on October 29, 1999. The Department is funding the "Abandonment and Restoration" project on the old dumpsite at Pond Inlet, which began in 1999. Three hundred and eighty thousand was spent in 1999/2000. If budget estimates are approved, another 180 thousand will be spent to complete the project in the upcoming year. This should deal with the concern about unpleasant smells in the area.

Once the project is completed to the satisfaction of the Medical Officer of Health, the Department of Health & Social Services will consider the request for the exemption order which is required to allow our Community Lands and Planning Division to prepare leases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a lot of people to acknowledge and recognize. I would like to recognize Laura Qaumak. She was selected to attend the Governor General's Conference this spring so she is going to be attending that.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to welcome you to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of people to recognize. I would like to have all the people sitting on the stage up there to be recognized. If I were to name all the people it would take too long and I'd like to make the elders and the people feel welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors. Mr. Puqiqnak, Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I have a lot of people to recognize. I would like to recognize my wife, Lorraine, I am glad she was able to come down with me. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Today I rise to recognize my constituency assistant, Lena Taparti to Rankin Inlet and also my daughter and son in law, Laura and Downey Qaumak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Right now, Ms. Ittinuar, our Sergeant at Arms, I will ask you to remove the mace so we can have a 20 minute break. For those people who wish to eat with us there is going to be some food out there.

>>House recessed 3:00 pm and resumed 3:30 pm

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Sergeant at Arms. Orders of the Day. Item 6, Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 148 - 1(3): Fuel Price Increase Effects on Hunters

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question directed towards the Department of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, NTI President Paul Quassa has released a report and he was interviewed and we were told that there were going to be fuel hikes. We will be paying almost a million dollars because of the increase in the gas prices. Paul Quassa also stated that the hunters have rights to go hunting, trapping and fishing within Nunavut.

I would like to ask the minister if the ministers are as concerned as we are about the gas price hikes. This gas price hike became effective on January 1, and I would like to ask the ministers if they would work together with Nunavut Tunngavik in regards to the gas price hikes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had received a letter from the President of NTI and I have responded to him about the price hike on fuel. We just followed the world prices of fuel and the price of fuel has gone up in Canada, and we have no choice but to follow it. As the Government we do pay a subsidy for fuel and it is a huge amount.

Nunavut Tunngavik had written a letter to us about their concern over the hunters having to pay the high price of fuel, however, we as a Government have no other form of subsidy program for the hunters because the Petroleum Products Division already has a subsidy program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Do you want to ask a supplementary question. No. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 149 - 1(3): Communication with MLAs on Fuel Price Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Public Works & Housing. Mr. Speaker on January 1st, 2000, the people of my constituency were very surprised to learn that the costs of diesel, gas and aviation fuel were raised by 5 cents a litre by the Petroleum Products Division of the minister's department.

However, it was on January 6th, 2000 that the minister sent a letter to MLAs informing us of this price increase. My question to the minister is, why weren't the regular MLAs informed or told about this increase before it went into place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About the fuel price hikes, this was approved by the Cabinet and there was no other way out. It was evident that we had to go through with this so I apologize to the regular members. We did not inform you right away but we had informed the Hamlet Councils, so I apologize to the regular members. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Bathurst Mandate the Government says that the Government is guided by the principles of openness and the mandate also says that MLAs will be respected as important sources of community opinion. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if she feels, again why we weren't told and why she felt that it was more important to inform the Hamlets and not the elected members that represent those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I do apologize that was your first supplementary, I will allow you another question. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, we are human beings and we do make mistakes in the world, so that was a mistake on our part and I apologize as I stated before. So I apologize again, it was unintentional and we do want to be close to the communities so that is what we did. So again, I apologize. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask then if the minister would be willing to commit to the members of this House, if in future any issues that are related to all of us, that they would make an effort to inform us prior to their decision going out to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we are a new government I am not the sole member to have made that mistake. Yes, I think on behalf of the Cabinet, I think we have to inform the regular members. So I apologize, that doesn't always happen, but yes in future we will try to do so. This is how we learn from our mistakes. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 150 - 1(3): Timing of Fuel Price Increase

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is on the same issue and it's to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, the increase in the fuel by 6 cents came at a very unfortunate time of the year. It was around Christmas time and we were informed or learned that the price was going up by 6 cents. It's like, to me Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, here's your Christmas gift.

My concern is that the fuel that is presently in the tanks was purchased last year and has been there since last summer. Why is the price being increased now on fuel that was purchased last year. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could have increased the price the day the fuel was delivered but we deferred the increase until now. So the price was going to increase then but did not. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the minister stating that she was aware when we purchased this fuel at X number of dollars last summer, last spring, that she was aware the price was going to increase but did not notify the members or the communities that there was going to be an expected increase in our fuel costs.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I apologize, we had to increase the fuel price when everybody was celebrating Christmas. I don't think we can expect prices to go down, but it was not 6 cents, it was 5 cents. The increasing of the price was set for that date. Again, I apologize if we did not notify the members properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Second supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not seeking an apology for the increase, I realize there are reasons for this, I am just trying to get my mind around the process and why it happened at the time it happened. Given the fact that the minister has stated that she was aware that the price was going to increase. My earlier question was, the fact that this fuel was purchased last year, at X number of dollars, what is the rationale for increasing the price of fuel that we purchased at a lower price. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We usually increase the prices during the fall and it's evident as I have stated before we don't expect the prices of fuel to go down. Although we paid for that fuel at that price we have to follow the increases too, so that is just a normal procedure. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately that still didn't answer my question. The minister is basically saying that the fuel that we purchased last year, if we purchased it for example at 30 dollars a barrel, there is an increase of another 10 dollars. So we are paying an increase on fuel that we purchased last year at a lower price. My question to the minister is what knowledge does she have, if any, of where we are going from this point on with increases to our fuel costs.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had tried to look as to how we could decrease the price and at that time you were the Chairman when the Keewatin people were talking about the fuel prices. At that time it was evident and understandable how we could decrease the prices of fuel. My officials in Petroleum Products, I have asked them to look into how we can best deal with the fuel coming into Nunavut.

At this time we are now working on this issue, and that is the work that we are doing for the future. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 151 - 1(3): Price of Previous Year's Fuel

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. On the fuel price increase and gas, oil and other products. Last year the fuel was purchased at a set price. We all know that the world price of crude now is around 30 dollars US a barrel. What was the price of the fuel purchased last year. Does the minister know what the price was of the fuel that was purchased last year. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Two questions. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the question and how much the price was last year and what the price is today, I will have to look into it and take it as notice. Thank you.

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

Question 152 - 1(3): Fuel Price Increase and Cost of Transportation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works & Housing regarding the fuel price increase. In the minister's letter that we received, dated January 6, the minister stated that part of the cost of the increase was due to the higher costs of transportation. I would like to ask the minister if she could inform us as to how much more we had to pay in transportation costs this year over last year with the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a detailed question and I'll have to look into it in more detail. I'll take that as notice as well.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 153 - 1(3): Report on Cape Dyer Project

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Sustainable Development, regarding the letter that I received. There's nothing in there that makes reference to the work that has to be done right outside of my community. If you could direct your staff to do some work, I would appreciate it. This question is for the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu. I didn't hear a question. Possibly you could rephrase it. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could you direct your staff to have the report done on the Cape Dyer project.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the question of Mr. Iqaqrialu, this is totally different than the question that he brought up earlier. The Department of Sustainable Development has the authority to direct anyone should there be any sites that have to be cleaned up. In the letter there are some sites that we didn't identify in the report. There's not much that we can do before we get direction from the members or anyone. Thank you.

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

Question 154 - 1(3): Impact of Fuel Price Increase

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My next question is to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, we were hit with a 5, 6, 7 cent per litre rise in fuel prices last year based on the freight and the world price of crude. I know this year like everything else the cost of living is going up everywhere and we are about to purchase fuel again. I know that we didn't get the full impact on the last increase on the price of fuel.

But we are going to be buying fuel at possibly a higher cost again this year, plus the freight will probably go up again as well. Does the minister anticipate what kind of increase we will be looking at this year so we can maybe look at lessening the impact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the increased prices, if there is an increase in anything the government eats it up. We only raised the price by 5 cents, while we could have put it up more. We had to put an increase on the gas prices. Today I cannot tell you how much more increase there will be this coming year, all I can say is that if anything is coming up, if there is going to be an increase in prices and the world market goes up again, of course there will be an increase up here.

In Nunavut, the Nunavut Government gives at least a 50% subsidy. The MLA for Baker Lake, this is a hypothetical question, so today I can't tell you how much it is going to increase next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral question, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I don't have to stress the importance of gasoline and the impact it has on the traditional economy in Nunavut. We know that there are a lot of subsistence hunters and trappers out there and an increase in the cost of gasoline really impacts how people in Nunavut put food on their table.

I know we subsidize the gas as a government and I know the government and they try to act in our best interest and I myself watching the world price of crude going up know and that there is a ripple effect in that we may be hit with another increase. Is this government or this minister prepared to look at the cost effectiveness and looking at the bottom line when they're purchasing petroleum products and playing hardball and also at the carriers when they're bringing it in.

Are we paying premiums when we purchase petroleum products and will this government look at bringing in fuel at a competitive price. Rather than not being so diligent on it. Thank you Ms. Minister. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker : Mr. McLean two questions and you exceeded your allowable questions. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson: Thank You Mr. Speaker, we will look at the options that the member has suggested as a government I will direct the staff to start looking at that option. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 155 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Drinking Water

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I think everybody knows about Gjoa Haven and the water quality. The water in Gjoa Haven is of poor quality and everybody knows of that now. We have heard it through the media. Through CBC when we were in Iqaluit, and there was also an article done about it in the newspapers.

I talked about this with the Mayor in Gjoa Haven and what they see now is these worms in the water and also they had sent out a samples to find out if there is any bacteria in the water.

They were told that the water is drinkable and the water is good for consumption and Mr. Speaker with that in mind I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services and his department to ensure the good quality of drinking water in Gjoa Haven. They would like to have good water. My question to the minister is what are you going to do about the situation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker : Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco : Thank you Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr Speaker I promised the members during this session I would keep my answers short and to the point.

>>Applause

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker, the member has brought up a very serious issue. The worms are not considered to be a health risk however their appearance in the water is not an acceptable matter. We are currently working with Community Government, Housing and Transportation, Mr. Anawak's department to hopefully rectify the problem as soon as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): : Thank you Mr. Speaker. As Inuit, if you can understand where I am coming from, we have a concern, using this glass as an example, I wouldn't want to drink something that had a worm in it even though it might not do any

harm to your body and I'm sure that nobody in Nunavut or the rest of Canada would want to either.

I'm trying to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, that the people I'm representing in Gjoa Haven have been alarmed and they are wondering whether their water could make you sick. They've been told it's okay for consumption, but when there is something in the water that is foreign nobody wants to see that and the mayor in Gjoa Haven has also stated that there is chlorine in the water and the chlorine doesn't kill these worms. What is going to happen to these people. Is something going to start growing in them. Mr. Minister can you respond to my question so that I can give a response back to the people back in Gjoa Haven. If you would respond please, Mr. Minister.

Speaker: Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco : Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker let me first say that and speaking on behalf of this government, we realize that having that larva having that organism in the water is not acceptable. What needs to be done is that some type of filter or some type of valve on the intake for the water in the water reservoir.

My understanding is Mr. Speaker that the sump pump that sucks the water out was maybe too close to the ground and thus the larva came in. They are not a health risk. But they don't look good for the appearance of the water, and I agree with him. We are working with CGT, and CGT is looking at technical ways for fixing this problem as soon as possible. Thank you Mr Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr Speaker. If we will do something about this problem right away could you give me a time line of when the people of Gjoa Haven will have clean water.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr Speaker. It is my understanding that CGT is working on this problem currently. There has to be information gathered on how the water is transported from the reservoir, to the trucks and then to the domestic establishments - homes and offices and so on. That work is continuing.

What I can say to the member after the session today I will meet with the member and we will find out exactly where we are right now. We'll meet with Mr. Anawak whose department is working on this issue to try and rectify it. And let me say again Mr. Speaker, these worms are distasteful to see but all indications from the department of health is they are safe and we are trying to help the people of Gjoa Haven. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 156 - 1(3): Fuel Price Impact on Harvesters

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker my question is to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Petroleum Products, and it is in reference to the fuel increase issue we spoke about earlier. Mr. Speaker, the president of NTI- Paul Quassa, stated publicly that this increase in fuel would cost approximately a million dollars, or the increase for local hunters would be a million dollars more for the cost of their fuel. I'm wondering if the minister has had any discussions with NTI or the Minister of Sustainable Development, in reference to the concern that is out there regarding this increase in fuel and the impact on harvesters. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, when I received a letter from Paul Quassa when he wrote about the increase of the oil, I wrote a letter to the Minister for the Department of Sustainable Development and Paul Quassa indicating that we are not able to solve the problem. But if they do have any concerns and they wish to help the people of Nunavut and they wish to help through the harvesters income support program that we would be willing to help through that harvesters program, and it stands as it is today.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr Speaker. The minister indicated and I'm pleased to hear that she sent off a letter to NTI in reference to this. Has the minister got a reply back from this letter, and the other part of my question is - has the minister had a discussion with the Minister of Sustainable Development, and if so, what assistance could be provided to local hunters.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Ms. Thompson from Public Works.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. I still have not received a response from the Department of Sustainable Development. But I do know I wrote a letter to Paul Quassa and I immediately tried to tell him that on behalf of the Nunavut beneficiaries we would be willing to try and help. But, I haven't received an answer today. I am keeping the channels open and am waiting for a response.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo

Question 157 - 1(3): Gasoline Subsidies

Mr. Tootoo : Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services and it's in regards to petroleum products. I would like to ask the minister as she indicated in her letter of January 6th, that we could no longer to afford to offer fuel at the same rates as it is costing us more. I'm under the understanding that

there has always has been a subsidy for those fuels. I'd like to ask the minister if she could tell us exactly what is the level of subsidy for gasoline. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo, two questions for the Minister responsible for Public works.

Hon. Maniok Thompson : Thank you. For the subsidy we 're paying nine million six hundred fifty-one thousand two hundred sixty-six. We're subsidising fuel for heating, aviation, gasoline and jet A-1. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to hear that the total subsidy is 9.6 million dollars roughly. Does the minister have that broken down by gasoline, aviation and diesel fuel. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: The subsidy for heating fuel, we're subsidising three million eight hundred seventy four thousand two hundred twenty-nine. For aviation fuel we're subsidizing twenty-eight thousand sixty hundred forty-four. For gasoline the subsidy is two million six hundred forty- seven thousand five hundred and eighteen. For jet a-1 fuel we're subsidizing by five hundred and one thousand one hundred sixty eight. For a total nine million six hundred fifty one thousand two hundred sixty-six, that's how much we are paying from our pocket as a government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr Tootoo: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is nice to see that a large part of the fuel subsidy program is for heating fuel and gasoline, which affects most of the residents of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker I was wondering if the minister could provide us with some information on how they determine what the subsidies are for the different fuels.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information in front of me. I have offered a presentation by the PPD staff to the regular members or any one else on the pricing of fuel. If they're interested I will have to take that as notice. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. (interpretation) There are quite a few members here that are unilingual speakers. Please utilize your interpreters. Mr. McLean.

Question 158 - 1(3): Decision Making Process for Subsidies

Mr. McLean: The nine million dollars the government puts into home heating fuel etc. Mr. Speaker, my question is how does cabinet or the Financial Management Board decide on how much a subsidy is going to be on petroleum products every year. Is it just thrown out there that we are going to charge eighty cents a litre for gasoline and seventy cents a litre on fuel oil. Is there a certain criteria to show how much is a gas subsidy or how much is a petroleum products subsidy. How is that determined. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Who are you addressing your question to.

Mr. McLean: Who ever decides. What ever minister over their Mr. Speaker, decides what the subsidy will be on petroleum products, whether it's Public Works, or the Financial Management Board, who ever they are, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. McLean. Mr. McLean, if there are two ministers then the premier is supposed answer the questions.

Mr. McLean: I guess I would have to ask the Minister of Finance, because I guess he writes the cheque to subsidize the petroleum products program. So would the minister answer me how he figures out how much he is going to subsidize the petroleum products division every year. Is it just a ball park figure or is it some kind of magic formula. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the petroleum products division as you know is a bit separate from government. They operate with a revolving fund that has certain guidelines as far as they're not able to enter into a too large deficit position as a result of the sale of petroleum products. I don't have the full details on how that works but I can provide that information to all members.

I can say in respect to actual increases that the petroleum products division would ask through the minister responsible, they would bring forward, as to what took place this past December, bring forward a request to the Financial Management Board which is all of the cabinet members, the spending arm of the government, for their consideration of the price increase at that time.

I can tell you there was a request for considerably more than the five cents that was passed on recognizing the significance of the increase Nunavut-wide. It was an issue that was debated at great length but recognizing we couldn't let the revolving fund get in too large a deficit, because ultimately the government would have to come back in with additional dollars to deal with that matter, we approved the five cent adjustment. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: I don't want to belabour this topic but my fear is with the escalating costs of transportation, the world price of crude and the nine million dollar subsidy and the revolving fund in the petroleum products, we may see a even higher increase in petroleum products in the next six months. Has the Minister of Finance got some kind of plan in place other than what he just explained to me to make sure that doesn't happen. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. A very good question from the member. I can say that at the same time this whole discussion took place there was a recommendation, or direction, I should say, that the minister go to the petroleum products division first of all to review exactly what was causing the whole escalation of fuel prices throughout Nunavut. I can't remember the exact time frame but I believe they have several months to put that together, to report back to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Can the minister let me know when that request was done. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry Mr. Speaker, I wasn't sure of what the member was asking. If he is asking about when we directed them to do it, it was at the time the decision was made for that 5 cent a litre increase and that was a part of the decision to bring back the additional information and options for the Financial Management Board to review. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. When did he look at re-looking at the matter of escalating costs. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier I don't exactly remember what time frame there was. It was two or three months from the decision but I can find that information out and report back on that. Thank you.

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

Question 159 - 1(3): Changes to Decentralization

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding community empowerment, I would like to ask this question to the Premier about decentralization. When the Nunavut Government was first established and we were elected we talked about decentralization and we talked about infrastructure. We were going to decentralize to Igloolik, Pangnirtung and Arviat, to all these communities.

They had stated how many staff would be going to these communities. For example, Igloolik was to receive 72.5 positions at that time, the beginning of the government. Currently, Mr. Speaker, there has been a large cut back on the positions that were going to be transferred to the communities, such as Pangnirtung and other communities.

We have approved all of these decentralization programs, how much are you going to be cutting back these positions that are supposed to be going out to the communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I have written a letter to the municipalities and I'm sure that you have also received a copy. It took quite a bit of time to translate those documents, but I have written a letter to the Mayor of Igloolik about the 70 positions to be transferred to Igloolik and these positions have been identified as to what their job descriptions are. So we have not cut them back but we are trying to direct them there and we have identified the number of positions going to the communities.

As you are aware there are some positions filled already in Igloolik, in fact the infrastructure is not complete yet and some of the housing is not available for the staff. So if the staff move up there right away they won't have any housing and there would be housing problems. So we have to look in to all these details and the staff need infrastructure to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 160 - 1(3): Fuel Purchase Process

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, the increase in fuel, as indicated in here January 6 letter, indicates that it was due to the rising price of the global price of crude going up. I would like to ask the minister what process is used and how we purchase the fuel for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As to the process that we used for fuel, perhaps I will take your question as notice and then I will return with my reply and I thank the regular members, as a member for Rankin Inlet, I thank you for letting me stand up the whole time.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services indicated that back in the fall when they purchased their summer purchase of fuel, they knew right away that they would have to increase the price. She also indicated that usually they increase the price in the fall. Again, I guess I would ask what led to the delay of the price increase until January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fuel that we purchase for the communities is transported and put in the tanks. We don't see the actual price and the landed cost of this fuel until later. It takes a long time for us to find out the actual price of the fuel and we also do a study and find out whether we are going to be going into a deficit situation or not. We don't know the actual price or whether there is going to be a hike in the rates when the fuel is landed at the community level.

I didn't know whether we were going into a deficit situation or not when the fuel was landed. We had to do an analysis of the costs and whether we are going to stay within budget or whether we are going to have a deficit before we set the price. What I was trying to say was that we don't know how much the cost of fuel is, or what the costs of transportation costs are going to be like, or how much it is going to be when it is landed.

Like I said we just follow through with the global market and when the fuel is brought into the community, and only afterwards do we start getting the paperwork, the invoices and so on. After we do a review of all the paperwork then we make a decision whether there is going to be an increase in the fuel rate. Thank you.

Speaker: Third supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they don't know ahead of time what the fuel and transportation costs are. Mr. Speaker, is the minister saying that they just say we've got all these empty tanks, just fill them up and tell us what it is going to cost us after. How do they determine who is going to do that, I am sure there must be some type of contract in place so that you do know ahead of time what you are getting.

I guess my question is, what is the process. Is there a service contract in place for the supply and delivery of those products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well you have to fill the tanks because we can't operate the communities without petroleum products. We have to buy petroleum products. The cost of fuel is not the only thing that we factor in, there is also the transportation costs and employees salaries and benefits, the gas delivery people at the community level, the administration. There are all kinds of factors put in there before we see the actual costs. Like I said there is 9 million, 661 thousand plus that we pay out, Mr. Speaker.

We don't see the actual costs, there is not only the purchase of the gas, there are other cost factors which eat into the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister going over the information that she provided to us already. However, I believe my question was asking whether there is a service contract in place for the supply and delivery of these products. I would still like to have this answered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to your question, I could take it as notice, I will compile all of the service contracts and so on and I will give you a break down of the delivery men, the people who have the contract at the community level, I will give you a break down of all that because there are a lot of cost factors that we have to put in.

I don't have the break down in front of me so I will get one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Taken as notice. Oral questions, Mr. Nutarak.

Question 161 - 1(3): Community Costs for Fuel

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the question that I was going to ask was already answered by the Minister of Public Works. There are different rates at the community level. For example it will cost X amount of dollars in Arviat, it will cost an X amount in Arctic Bay and so on. There are different rates in each of the individual communities. So what I would like to see the minister produce is exactly how much each community is paying for petroleum products.

Some of the communities rates were increased by 6 or 7 cents. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will put one together and give you the various rates in each of the individual communities, but the Department of Finance agreed to 5 cents. I will give this to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral question period is over. We will go back to the Orders of the Day. Item number 7, Written Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 2 - 1(3): Petroleum Product Contracts

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the most popular minister today, the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, I would like a list of the contracts that exist that are held by local dealers that supply fuel to the various homes and businesses in each community.

I would like to know the status as to when these contracts are up, the value of these contracts, so that we can determine the rates that was asked earlier by one of the MLAs. What I am looking for is the actual contract, when they are renewed and the rates for each contract. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Written questions. Written questions. Item number 8, Returns to Written Questions. Returns to written questions. Item number 9, Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 13, Tabling of Documents.

Item 14, Notices of Motion. Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent of the Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement for first reading of bill 7, Loan Authorization Act 2000/2001. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. The minister would like consent from the House that we waive the 48 hour notice, bill 7, for first reading on Friday, February 18. Any says. No says, Mr. Minister you have consent.

Bill 7 Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with that consent I give notice that on Friday, February 18, 2000, I shall move that the Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time Mr. Speaker, I also seek consent from the Assembly to waive the two day requirement for first reading of bill 8, Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The minister has asked for consent to waive the 48 hour notice so that bill 8, can be read for the first time on Friday, February 18. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Minister you have consent. Please proceed.

Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with this consent, I give notice that on Friday, February 18, I shall move that bill 8, Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Anawak.

Bill 9 An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and other Acts in relation to Judges - Notice

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 21, 2000, I shall move that bill 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and other Acts in Relation to Judges be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Bill 10 An Act to Amend the Boards of Management Dissolution Act - Notice

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 21, 2000, I shall move that bill 10, An Act to Amend the Boards of Management Dissolution Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 11 An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 21, 2000, I shall move that bill 11, An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Arvaluk.

Bill 12 An Act to Amend the Divisional Boards of Education Dissolution Act - Notice

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, February 21, 2000, I will move that bill 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Boards of Education Dissolution Act, be read for the first time.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Thank you. Item 16, 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. Item 19. Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

Before we go ahead with having the Clerk read the Orders of the Day, I would first like to take a moment to invite the public to view the Nunavut Legislative Assembly mace after we adjourn for the day. It is a beautiful work of art and I am pleased that we are able to share that during our time here in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Clerk, Orders of the Day.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow morning, meeting of regular caucus at 8:30 a.m. in the Siniktarvik Hotel board room. Orders of the Day, Friday, February 18, 10 o'clock in the morning.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001
 - Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999/2000
18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. We will adjourn this meeting until Friday, February, 18, 2000, at 10 a.m.

Sergeant at Arms.

>>*House Adjourned 4:41 p.m.*

