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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 22, 2000

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, 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 Manitoq Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Going to the orders of the day, item 2. Before we start, I would like to make a few comments. (interpretation ends) I remind the ministers to obey rule 36 (4), it states; A minister may make statements in accordance with rule 36 (1) but the statement must not relate to his or her responsibility as a minister. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 50 – 1 (3): Nunavut Business Incentive Policy**

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I am pleased today to inform the House of our progress on the development of a Nunavut Business Incentive Policy. This policy has been worked on for some time involving the Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental affairs, Public Works and Housing, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and representatives from the Nunavut business community. I would like to take this time to thank them for their comments and advice to the working group during the consultation period. Much of what they said is reflected within this policy.

I would also like to thank the working group who invested a great deal of time and effort and who produced a document that is workable and reflective of the new north and that creates a truly made in Nunavut solution to one component of our economic development strategy. I would like to reflect for a moment on what the driving force of this policy is. Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, recognises that economic development will be one of the true measures of success of the Nunavut Land Claim and it is imperative that local businesses have the opportunity to share in the material success of the creation of Nunavut. This policy meets those criteria. Article 24 reminds us that there must be increased participation and improved capacity of Inuit firms to compete for business opportunities and government contracts. This policy achieves this objective.

Similarly in the Bathurst Mandate, two of the key goals are to encourage self-reliance and to build healthy communities. The business incentive policy is a vehicle to reach those objectives. This policy ensures that the residents of Nunavut share and benefit from every public dollar spent in this territory. That's what we're trying to do.

(interpretation ends) Much like our land claim, this policy is a living, breathing document. It is not static. It recognises that to be successful, a policy has to be flexible and responsive to the needs of the people it serves. This policy does just that including an ongoing review process that meets not only the needs of the government but also the business community, while implementing both the spirit and intent of the land claim agreement.

In short Mr. Speaker, the policy is a step forward in meeting the objectives and principals of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement and the Bathurst Mandate of our Government.

(interpretation) I will be open to hearing any suggestions before we make the final version. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Motion 07 - 1(3): Minister's Statement 50 - 1(3) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule number 34(5), I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Arviat that the Minister's Statement dealing with the business incentive policy be referred to the committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo is requesting that the minister's statement be moved into committee of the whole. This motion is not subject to debate or amendment. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Minister's Statement 50 -1 (3) is referred to committee of the whole for today. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 51 – 1(3): Clarification on Fuel Price Increases

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in order to clarify the situation with respect to the increased price of fuel, and to assure Nunavummiut that we too are concerned. Mr. Speaker, I feel this is necessary as a result of the tone of some of the comments being published outside of this house, and in response to the concerns raised recently by my fellow members. This is why I rise today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to summarise how we arrived at the situation and try to clarify some of the variables. Of course some of the more detailed information will be provided in a proper format to those members who have specific questions. One of the hardest decisions we've had to make recently involved this price

increase. In fact, Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Finance previously stated, the increase was kept to the absolute minimum. I would like to point out that this is only the second price increase since 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have done a good job at holding the prices steady while the market has been going up and down for a number of years. In order to be able to control price fluctuations, we used a price stabilisation fund with a maximum dollar value of 5 million dollars. Mr. Speaker, this means that in a bad year we can, if necessary, absorb losses of up to 5 million dollars without a massive impact on pricing. Unfortunately, even with expenditure reduction in Operations & Maintenance and Capital, the deficit in this fund has been growing steadily. This is a direct result of trying to hold the line on prices while subsidising all products up to a total of 9.6 million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, when the costs for this year were totalled, we were faced with having to make a very difficult decision. Every dollar used to subsidise these costs has to be removed from other potential programs. We were also in danger of exceeding the maximum allowable dollar value in the price stabilisation fund, a maximum of 5 million dollars. We are not allowed to exceed this maximum amount.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide some information on points of interest. There is a minimal product left in inventory just prior to the fuel delivery. When the prices were calculated for this increase, they were averaged over all the fuel received in addition to the remaining fuel left in inventory. This allows us to spread the higher costs over all the fuel. If we calculated the price only on the new fuel received, we would have required a larger increase to cover the cost of only that fuel. This helped keep the increase as low as possible. If we were to consider providing any kind of additional subsidies, these additional funds would end up coming from other programs. This is one of the reasons I had suggested the possibility of assistance for registered hunters through an NTI funding program.

Mr. Speaker, our fuel and transportation costs have risen an average of 33.3% for the recent sealift season. We are forced to pass on a percentage of this increase. We have also experienced a loss as a result of division due to the smaller quantities of fuel we now purchase. The larger the volume the lower the overall cost. The decrease in volume as a result of this and other factors was approximately 20 million litres.

Finally Mr. Speaker, in addition to the price subsidies we are already providing, our own costs have risen as we are one of the major consumers of petroleum products through our departments. This increase has also impacted our operating funds.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the members brought this topic forward in this house. This gives us the opportunity to respond directly to our constituents. In the future Mr. Speaker, as indicated by my Honourable colleague, the Finance Minister, we're completing a review of our entire petroleum products operation. We will be providing the information to the Financial Management Board in June of 2000. Mr. Speaker, we intend to go even further in order to determine whether there are changes we can make

that will help us rein in some of these expenses. Unfortunately we must also be aware that a large part of our cost structure is subject to the same pressure as the rest of the world. That is the price of oil in our world market.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this statement helps clarify a few of the many pressures facing the petroleum products division in the area of pricing. Once again, I thank the regular members for highlighting this issue and giving me the chance to respond in a proper forum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Akesuk

Motion 08 - 1(3): Minister's Statement 51 - 1(3) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the tabled document on the fuel prices be moved to the committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. So you're asking to move this statement to the committee of the whole for this afternoon. Mr. Akesuk.

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

Speaker: Thank you. He is requesting the minister's statement be moved to committee of the whole. This motion is not subject to debate or amendment. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. The minister's statement 51- 1(3) is referred to the committee of the whole. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 52 – 1(3): P-3 Update

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update members of this assembly on the status of the government's intent to create P3 Health Care Projects across Nunavut. As I've indicated previously in this assembly, the Government of Nunavut recognises that the P3 process represents a viable financing option for delivering large projects. Among other things this includes major infrastructure requirements for the Government of Nunavut such as health care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, construction of large capital intensive projects through conventional financing would impose a significant burden on the limited resources of our government. Financing these projects through the P3 process allows the GN to free up much needed capital funding for other government initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, as this assembly is aware, on April 1st of 99, the Government of Nunavut inherited four potential health care projects from the GNWT. New health care facilities were planned for Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. In May of last year, we successfully concluded negotiations that allowed us to enter into an agreement with

the Arviat Development Corporation for the construction, leasing, and maintenance of the Arviat Health Centre.

Construction on a new health centre was stopped in August when fuel oil was found to have contaminated the excavation site. The contractor commenced cleaning operations until winter weather conditions prevented any further soil removal for site restoration. Ninety percent of the contaminated soil has been removed to date and construction of the new facility will recommence in the spring. It is expected that it will be completed this November.

Mr. Speaker, considerable progress has been made with regard of the development of the other three potential health projects. In May 1999, the Financial Management Board approved a project to prepare a set of policies and procedures to guide the government in the development, award, and management of P3 projects. The Financial Management Board also approved an initiative to undertake a separate but related study to evaluate the status quo of the other P3 projects.

The Policy and Procedures study is virtually complete and a draft of the consultants' report is currently being circulated to the Departments of Finance and Public Works for review. The Evaluation Study is completed and the Government of Nunavut Departments have reviewed the report.

Mr. Speaker, the three remaining Health Care Facilities present some challenges. All three projects were at various stages of the planning process when they were inherited from the GNWT. Our new government in some cases did not have the opportunity to approve the functional plans, establish P3 management teams nor to develop business cases for proceeding with these new health care projects under a P3 arrangement. Mr. Speaker, despite these difficulties, the Government of Nunavut has taken action to ensure that all outstanding issues related to the preliminary planning process are resolved.

In December 1999, the Department of Finance and Administration re-opened discussions with the Sakku Investments Corporation, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and the Kitikmeot Corporation. This allowed us to establish service contracts to complete the remaining work and bring these projects to the stage where informed decisions can be made to proceed or not to proceed with the construction of these facilities.

Currently the department of Finance is finalising the terms and conditions of these contracts with the birthright development corporations. We hope to have these contracts in place to complete the work within the next two weeks. Mr. Speaker, given the strong support by this assembly for improved health services, and facilities across Nunavut, we are committed to moving forward as quickly as possible in resolving any outstanding issues to allow these important projects to become reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 53 – 1(3): Tele-Medicine MOUs

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today to inform the members of this assembly about our plans to participate in separate memoranda of understanding or MOUs with the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador and with a state agency in Australia.

Mr. Speaker, our Honourable Premier recently had an opportunity to visit the Telemedicine Centre of Memorial University of Newfoundland. Newfoundland and Labrador face many problems similar to ours in their efforts to provide Health and Social Services in their province. They have expressed interest in sharing their experiences in the development and operation of their Tetra Telemedicine Centre with us. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce we are in the early stages of developing this MOU with Memorial University.

Mr. Speaker, on the international front, we have also been working with the Australian High Commission since July of 1999 and are in the final stages of developing an MOU which will create a relationship between us and the Queensland Telemedicine Network in Australia. Queensland, like Nunavut, has remote communities with extreme environments. They have faced many of the challenges we are facing and will share their solutions with us. This is an exciting opportunity to learn from an existing network in a new and fast paced technology environment. Mr. Speaker, as a government committed to the health and wellbeing of our people, it is to our benefit to explore these opportunities and learn from national and international experiences.

I thank the members for their continued support for telehealth in Nunavut, and I look forward to apprising the house of developments as these exciting events unfold. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. We've reached our time limit. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Yes, I wanted to make a minister's statement if possible. We'd like to continue.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister asked that the time limit for minister's statements be extended. All those in favour. All those opposed. Minister's statement, Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 54 – 1(3): Quarterly Municipal Funding

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we met with municipal leaders and administrators in November 1999 community leaders requested that the government advance its municipal operating contribution on a quarterly basis.

Until now municipal contribution funding has been forwarded to Hamlets on a monthly basis for a number of reasons. It was the position of the GNWT that monthly contributions were more effective because among other things it gave the territorial government greater control over many community finances. For their part the Hamlets have always maintained the monthly contributions are cumbersome to the communities, the lag between the day they forward their financial reports and the day they receive advances often puts them in a tight financial position.

Last year the new government of Nunavut listened to the expectations Nunavummiut had for their Government. The result, as you well know, was the Bathurst Mandate. Mr. Speaker the Bathurst Mandate lays out the principles from which we shall govern.

Among these principles are two that I believe are important to the issue of community funding. The future of healthy communities depends on people being responsible and accountable for their own well being and we'll work within our means to provide for the needs of our families and communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that communities meeting the departments' financial reporting criteria will be eligible to receive quarterly funding once the main estimates have been approved. Mr. Speaker quarterly payments are the best way for helping communities meet the Bathurst Mandate initiatives for healthy communities and self-reliance.

It will give communities greater authority, responsibility, build capacity and enhance control over their financial well being. It will make communities more accountable to themselves and it will allow communities a greater opportunity to generate revenue based on the potential they can earn on the advanced funds. Mr. Speaker the Department of Community Government and Transportation supports quarterly payments as one way in which Nunavummiut can take charge of their own affairs and their own futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 55 – 1(3): Open Custody Contractors Conference

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members are aware the Department of Justice has approved a number of community based corrections facilities over the past three years, five open custody camps, one open custody home and two alternative homes have been approved across Nunavut. These facilities will allow low-risk offenders to reside in a less restrictive environment and they aim to help offenders gain skills on the land and become more involved in the communities. These facilities are an important aspect of our efforts to deal with our offenders, both youth and adults, in a more appropriate and effective way. It is another way that communities are taking a direct role in justice.

These facilities are run under contract and the contractors are skilled in running their facility. However they have not had the opportunity to meet as a group to share their professional approaches nor to meet together with Department of Justice officials to discuss the new procedures for their facility.

Mr. Speaker, we are therefore holding a three-day conference for open custody contractors in Iqaluit this month. The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for open custody contractors to meet with each other and with Corrections staff. The aims of the conference are to establish on-going communications between the operators and the Department of Justice so that information can be easily obtained and shared, increase knowledge of the different ways the camps and houses implement their programs, identify future training needs, contribute to the revisions and the development of procedures for getting open custody facilities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, delegates will include Department of Justice representatives from each open custody facility, community contacts from communities with open custody facilities and presenters from groups such as the fire department and emergency measures. Our move to open custody facilities is a significant response to the need to keep low-risk offenders out of jail and to give communities more responsibility in caring and counselling for individuals with problems. Conferences like the one this month will help to ensure the most effective operations of these facilities in that the most effective operations of these facilities is in the interest of the offenders and our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 56 – 1(3): Curriculum Initiatives

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to announce several curriculum initiatives which will begin to improve the quality of education we are delivering in our school system.

The quality of education is dependent on the quality of curriculum and the resources we provide to deliver courses. Good curriculum ensures better teachers and promotes improved achievement levels. Education Nunavut is mandated to provide curriculum that is embedded in Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, that promotes strong bilingual language skills, that is holistic and integrated and that reflects the culture of the students and community. This mandate requires that we make significant changes not just in what we teach but how we organize schools. The critical research studies in language and the instruction curriculum resource development strategy will help the early childhood and school services division develop long-term plans to meet the needs of students in Nunavut.

However we already know that the existing curriculum has significant gaps. There is no curriculum for Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun or second languages. There is no curriculum about Nunavut. There is no curriculum designed to help our students cope with the rapid changes and significant challenges which they face daily in our communities.

For the last thirty years Inuit educators have been promised curriculum and resources for teaching in Inuktitut. The Federal Government has funded this work yet after thirty years there is very little to show for it.

Our Inuit teachers are frustrated and tired of hearing the promises and they have been promised time and time again that these would be complied with and many have lost confidence in us and have moved to other career areas.

The other consequence is that our children have been deprived when our teachers are resigning from their work. They are exposed to a southern school environment at the expense of their history, language and culture. We know too well the effect de-culturation has had in our communities. We must act, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, we must produce Inuktitut resources immediately for our classrooms. I am pleased to be able to announce that significant work in this area has been accomplished since April 1, 1999 for the opening of the new school year. In Nunavut we will be able to have curriculum and resources available for all grade levels for Inuktitut language arts.

The work is not nearly complete but we have begun. (interpretation ends) We require second language curriculum for English, French, Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun. Development of these curricula is awaiting the recommendation of the language of instruction research. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime staff are preparing guidelines and benchmarks for second language courses which will be available to teachers for the new school year. Our children need to learn about their rich heritage and unique environment.

Nunavusiutiit will be the social studies curriculum that allows for children to learn about and to take pride in who they are and where they live. If we do not begin to define Nunavut others will do it for us. We need to be the ones doing the teaching, both for ourselves and for students outside Nunavut. Our students need to have a strong sense of who they are, a positive understanding of their place in the world and the knowledge they are equipped to cope with the changes and challenges that face them.

Inuqataginiq is another new curriculum that will help address these needs. So many of our students are at immediate risk that the need for a course that will help them develop skills, capacity and strong collective cultural identity is critical. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, although we have many other projects on the go, I want to focus on the three that are most essential.

These three areas have been identified as high priorities for ECNSS, however we also face significant funding issues. Curriculum design and development is a long and costly process. We require extensive collaboration with elders, resource people, school-based

educators, students and parents if we are going to do the job properly. We must field-test new curricula, develop assessment tools, design guidelines and in-service workshops for teachers, identify and produce resource materials to accompany the curriculum document.

(interpretation ends) Printing documents and distributing them to schools is an additional cost. ECNSS has no actual budget for any of this work. We will be looking for funding and support for curriculum development so our students and Inuit educators finally receive the support and the resources and the leadership they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 111 - 1(3): Repulse Bay Concerns

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, my constituents have given me this honour and privilege to sit at the Legislative Assembly as a member and I have heard from the people in Repulse Bay. They have forwarded their concerns and there are a number of issues that have not been addressed. My constituents would like to participate in the Nunavut process, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, while serving my term I will work to the best of my ability to represent the needs of my constituency. Repulse Bay would like to be well prepared for the future. Right now I am very proud of the fact that they have given me this document to express that they would like to be well prepared. I will table that document during the budget session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 112 - 1(3): Hall Beach School Addition

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make sure that I speak within the time limit. Mr. Speaker, last week I asked the Minister of Education about the school addition in Hall Beach.

The Minister answered that this project has been delayed and the needs had to be considered along with all the other needs in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that the plans were well advanced in the past, over a year ago community consultations took place and an architect began on the plans for an addition. I'm told that the drawings were three quarters of the way to being finished. When the project was stopped, it is my understanding that all the projects were stopped by the new government. The only

projects that were allowed to continue were projects where the work had already started. Projects where contracts had been issued to a contractor to start site work or building or where there were serious health and safety considerations.

Mr. Speaker, the Arnaqjuaq School in Hall Beach was built for kindergarten to grade 9. Since it was built we are offering up to grade 12 in Hall Beach, but the school was not built with that in mind. It has only eight classrooms. This fall there were 214 students in that school, ten more than last year. Mr. Speaker, the school is full and the principal tells me that they are having to hold classes in the library. The new grade 10 to 12 programs are taking up space that was meant for the kindergarten to grade 9 program, Mr Speaker...

Speaker (interpretation): Your time is up Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I am requesting from the members that I'd like to complete my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Any objections to the request. There are none. Please proceed Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The school is full. The principal tells me they are having to hold classes in the library. The new grade 10 to 12 programs are taking up space that was meant for the kindergarten to grade 9 program. Mr Speaker, the minister has said that he will be developing a capital plan for education this coming year. I'm urging the minister to put a high priority on the projects like the Hall Beach school addition where planning was well underway. Where the design was almost complete and where there was a strong need. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 113 - 1(3): Suicides in Nunavut

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Here in Nunavut our life has changed. Our society has changed drastically and we have felt the effects back in the 1970s and after the 70s a number of young people, mostly men, have committed suicide. It was strange then Mr. Speaker, that I think perhaps our young people at that time were introduced to a different time and we have since then tried to develop or come up with a strategy that would help young people.

We would ask the different organizations that had certain responsibilities or delegate some other organization to look into this suicide issue. But since the 70s to now there's over 400 suicides. If we are looking at the statistics, one small community has been wiped out by looking at the statistics. Perhaps sometimes it doesn't impact on us, since April 1st to today there have been 24, I know I'm sure there's over 22, but there are about 24 now. So, that wipes out one classroom, that's an example.

They're all over Nunavut and I think the community leaders should perhaps address this issue more aggressively in order to help their young people. So if you go into a classroom, that's since April 1st until now there's 24 students that have committed suicide, young people that have committed suicide, so, Mr Speaker, I would urge the leadership and the community leaders to address this very serious issue. I would urge the leadership to be more sensitive to the young people in their communities as to how they should address this very serious problem of suicide. I thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Jack Anawak. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 114 - 1(3): Inadequate Education Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker I rise today to express my strong concern about the reduced funding for education. Yesterday, a class of grade 5 students at Nakasuk School in Iqaluit had to be cancelled because no substitute teacher was available. The principal of Nakasuk school tells me that one of the reasons for their increasing difficulty in getting substitute teachers in Iqaluit is that substitute teachers are unwilling to take the responsibility for the large classrooms which have sadly become the norm in our schools.

In Nakasuk School in Iqaluit, for example, the school is projecting an average class size of 31 for Inuktitut programs unless there is some relief. These pressures of class size are taking their toll on our teachers as well. I know of several qualified teachers in Iqaluit who have left their crowded classrooms to take office jobs with the government of Nunavut, in much less stressful situations. The loss of even one trained Inuit teacher is a tragic setback for the goals we all support of enhancing the Inuktitut language and culture in our education system.

I am wondering if we need to consider providing financial incentives to teachers as we did to the nurses in Nunavut earlier this year. The pressures are not just in classrooms, our schools are very short of money for materials and supplies. Our middle school Aqsarniit, which was opened to students this year, had to launch a public appeal for books for its library. In the 1992/93 school year there were 50 teachers for 850 students in Iqaluit. This year there are 1,050 students in Iqaluit, but under the current formula, the funding formula provides them with only 49.5 teachers.

Schools in Iqaluit in the coming year, because of the growth in enrolment, will be short approximately 1.5 million dollars just to keep the same level of service as this year. Mr. Speaker, in recent news reports the Minister of Finance talks about a sizeable budget surplus for this fiscal year. Today, on CBC radio, I heard him say that preliminary estimates indicate that the surplus could be between 30 and 40 million dollars. The government of Nunavut has said that education and housing are two of its main priorities. I look forward to seeing these stated priorities reflected in concrete action. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 115 - 1(3): Government Phone/Fax Lists

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express the concerns of my constituents in Broughton Island regarding the new telephone and fax listing of the government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, although the government of Nunavut are able to communicate in a variety of ways, with wonderful new technology, the smaller communities are neglected to be informed of the very basics of new telephone numbers and fax numbers. This has resulted in correspondence not being relayed in a timely fashion or even lost. Mr. Speaker, it would be appreciated if the departments could provide these smaller communities with their new telephone and fax numbers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 116 - 1(3): DARE Program

Mr McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a program being run in the Baker Lake school and I believe other Nunavut communities called the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program. In grades 5 and 6, it helps students recognize and resist the many direct and subtle pressures that influence them to experiment with alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other inhalants or to even more serious drugs that end up leading to violence and other things.

The DARE program offers preventive measures to help families, schools and communities and Mr. Speaker, the program works. I would like to take this time to thank the RCMP detachment in Baker Lake and especially Constable Jennifer Ebert who delivers this program and helps build self-esteem. Ma'na.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ma'na, Mr. McLean. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 117 - 1(3): Tribute to Mike Bruce

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Later when we move to item 5, I will recognize certain visitors but at this time I'd like to recognize one of the visitors, my father's younger brother Mr. Mike Bruce. I'd like to recognize him because he has been employed by the CBC for a number of years and he has been in the southern hospitals because of his lung situation. I'd like to thank him for attending, being a visitor in the gallery and I am very thankful to the nursing staff for being very helpful to

Mr. Mike Bruce, and I am sure you all know Mr. Mike Bruce who was formerly a CBC employee.

I was very young when he was down south and I only saw him after a number of years. He can read English and write in English and I think he can speak a bit of the native languages and I think he also speaks some Hungarian. I'd like to recognize my uncle, I was named after his former wife, because he's a widower and I'd like to thank him very much for being here with us today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 118 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Soccer and Basketball Teams

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Back in 1972 in Coral Harbour I was in Coral for a month and I would like to recognize Mr. Mike Bruce. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the achievement of the athletes from Sanikiluaq at the recent soccer and basketball tournament held last week in Kuujjuarapik Quebec

These age groups consist of grades 9, 10 and 11. The boys' team placed first in soccer and sixth in basketball. Team members are Meeko Qavvik, Daniel Qavvik, my son Ippu Kattuk, Sam Iqallak, Peter Qavvik, Carson Iqaluk Timothy Cowcharlie.

Also the girls' team placed 8th in soccer and 8th in basketball. Players on the girls' team are Linda Iqaluk, Wanda Qavvik, Winnie Arragutainak, Charlotte Crow, Karlie Meeko, Sarah Cookie and Mary Cookie. Coaches were David Ford and Eva Aragutainak. Mr. Speaker I know members will wish to join me in congratulating these athletes for playing hard and doing well. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

At this time I would like to welcome the children of this school. They are in grade 8 and their teacher's name is Miss Coralee Smith. I would also like to recognize the grade 7 class who are also going to school here and this teacher used to work in Arctic Bay, Julie Miller. Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. O'Brien.

>>Applause

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker it gives me a great deal of pleasure to recognise the new Mayor of Arviat, David Alagalak.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to our gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Keewatin community leaders. Possibly what I could do is say their names and where they come from. Simon Okpatauyak Mayor of Rankin Inlet, Johnny Ningeongan Mayor of Coral Harbour, David Alagalak Mayor of Arviat, Jacopie Ikinilik Mayor of Baker Lake, Donat Milortuk mayor of Repulse Bay, Joe Angotingoar Deputy Mayor of Repulse Bay and Annie Napayok representing Whale Cove.

These are the community leaders of Keewatin and we will have a meeting with them. I would like to recognize them at this time. I would like to recognize also Peter Tatty and his son, along with co-owner of M&T Enterprises Ray Mercer.

I would also like to recognize Sheila Malloy who is the Co-ordinator at the group home and my niece Andrea Glen. Also we have Nauya Williams if you don't know this person, she used to be from Coral Harbour and also the original Rankin Inlet resident Mike Bruce. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from my other community, their names were already mentioned but Donat Milortuk are here from the community of Repulse Bay which is in my constituency.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. James Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. They were recognized already, the mayor John Ningeongan, the mayor of Coral Harbour and this morning Mr. Speaker even when the cabinet was meeting I agreed to go to the high school to give out awards for the science fair.

We gave out medals, the Assistant Deputy Minister was also there. I would like to recognize some of the grade 5, 6 and 7 students who were participants in the awards ceremony. Their parents were also in the classroom. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Welcome to the gallery those people that Mr. Arvaluk recognized. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker in keeping with trying to recognize a relative of mine here in Rankin Inlet every day...

(Audio unavailable)

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I become very aware when we don't recognize everybody who is in the gallery, so at this time I would like to take the opportunity to recognize all the people of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu I will recognize all the people of Nunavut then. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I recognize a few people but I never mentioned it formally in the house. There's a person here who I went to school with for two years in the Sivuliuqtiit program. He's standing down there by the door Robert Nowkatsi I would like to recognize him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Speaker, we have leaders here that I had forgotten to mention the first time around. In the whole of Nunavut there were competitions for the Arctic winter games. There were some people who went to Kugluktuk, Naujaat, Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and I tell you sometimes it's so sad to see your own community lose when they worked very hard.

It's also a very happy event when you see the people who win. We have three pages who will be going to play soccer at the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Amy Kaludjak I'm not quite sure which one it is Amy Kalujjak and Joe Annkin and Laura Merrit they will be going to Whitehorse to play soccer.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I recognize anyone possibly what I can do is give you a short story. When the snowmobile first started coming up to northern communities and when we first saw the snowmobiles available for sale in the store, the first one I saw was in Gjoa Haven at the Hudson Bay Company.

At that time this person and myself, my great friend Ray Mercer and I got a Ski-doo there. Ray Mercer was the Hudson's Bay Company manager and my friend and I bought a Ski-doo for 850 dollars per Ski-doo. We bought that Ski-doo and then we went camping and hunting and at that time I don't believe he had any children when he went to Uqsuqtuq and when he left they had children. I think that was the first time that snowmobiles arrived in the northern communities. So at this time I would like to

recognize this particular person Ray Mercer who provided us with the snowmobiles and the parts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Welcome to our gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the people that I was going to recognize were named by Mr. Anawak but even though that's the case, I welcome the Deputy Mayor Annie Napayuk representing the Hamlet and we will be going over there around 6:30 p.m. this evening. I would also like to recognize Silo Connelly who's just walked in.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to the orders of the day, item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Akesuk

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 182 - 1(3): Canada/Nunavut Language Agreement

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Earlier this year both the Yukon and NWT signed an agreement with the Federal Government to secure funds for the preservation and enhancement of aboriginal languages. Could the minister inform the house as to the status of the Canada/Nunavut agreement. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The agreement has already been signed and our staff members and the Federal Government have been working on this together. We will be focusing on French language, Inuinnaqtun language and the Inuktitut language. We're focusing on these and we're trying to find funding for these programs right now. Thank you Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing these a bit later on.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk

Question 183 - 1(3): Federal Gun Legislation

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question, which I brought up in October, will be directed again to Minister of Justice in regards to the gun legislation. Possibly what I can do is provide a preamble. We the Inuit had a tradition where guns were used to provide food on the table and for survival.

The gun legislation of today is totally against our traditional life style. I asked this question to the minister in October and he said that he would take this as notice and provide us with the information at a later date. Mr. Minister could you provide the information that you were going to provide us.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Justice, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I'm not quite sure what the question is but what I can say is this is not the responsibility of the Nunavut Government. There was no agreement signed between the two governments.

The Federal Government, through the use of the RCMP is working on the gun control legislation and they had a community tour but I had no opportunity to meet with that person. I apologize and I don't know exactly what came about in regards to gun control regulations. There were going to be community consultations and I apologize that I could not have a meeting with that person. Possibly what I could do is get in touch with that person and give you the information afterwards. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The reason I'm asking this question is because in October I believe you made a statement saying that you would have a meeting with the minister in Ottawa. That's why I asked you about what happened at the meeting you had in Ottawa. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We had that meeting with the Minister of Justice of Canada to talk about the gun legislation and how it can be improved for Nunavut, for example filling out of forms that are just in English for those Inuit who don't write the English language.

I can use an example of where the people of Nunavut could have exactly the same rules and regulations but it has to be made easier because we buy guns for hunting purposes and not for anything else. This is the example that I gave at that particular meeting that I had with the Canadian Justice Minister. I was trying to find out how he could make it easier for the Inuit when were trying to get our guns from the RCMP.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Anawak. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. To put a supplementary to the Minister of Justice, in the land claims agreement it states that the Inuit of Nunavut do not require a license or have to pay fees and that's specific in the land claims agreement. My question is did you know that there was such a clause in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and how is it going to be implemented by the Nunavut Government rules and regulations. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Justice, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I believe that this was going to be one of the questions that would be posed to the person when he was doing his community tours. I will make that one of the questions when I talk to them. He was going to be talking to the people of Nunavut about the fees and so on.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Again in our ridings there are a lot of people out there who don't know about the gun control regulations and the legislation. There was one particular person who wanted to buy a gun through a retail outlet and the manager just told him that he would have to call Yellowknife first and that he would have to pay a 25 dollar fee if he's going to be ordering a gun.

When he was told that by the manager he just didn't order the gun anymore and then when he tried to order one from a southern province he was still told he would have to pay a 25 dollar fee in order to get his gun. What is this 25 dollar fee used for. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): The 25 dollar fee is used for the administration done by the retailers or whoever is administering the process. The RCMP member who was going to the communities said it doesn't have anything to do with what the RCMP did, it's something that the Hudson Bay Company does or the retail outlet that administers those types of things. It doesn't have anything to do with the government, it's an administrative fee charged by the retail outlets.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 184 - 1(3): Decentralization of Arctic College Positions

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is back to the Minister responsible for Education and also Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, in the fall session the minister made a commitment to myself and other members in this house that on July 1st 13 jobs would be decentralized to my home community of Arviat. These would be Arctic College jobs. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if this commitment is still as promised and stated in the fall session. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We've been doing very well in Arviat on decentralization. We don't have office space right now to transfer any more positions so what we're trying to do is find alternate arrangements and we're still fully committed and

we're in the process of waiting for additional office space at the moment. Once those are ready then we will transfer Arctic College positions to Arviat. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're more than pleased with the support and the effort on behalf of the Premier in reference to jobs that have been decentralized and promised to our community. I think it is important that we keep sight on what is committed, that we keep following up so it does actually occur.

My second question to Mr. Okalik is, can you give me a time frame that I can relate back to the people of my community so that I can have an idea. When do we expect the accommodations to be ready or found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We're looking at renovating a building that's currently being occupied at the moment and once the new budget is in place and we can renovate the old Health Centre to an Arctic College facility then we'll be in a position to transfer the positions. So hopefully next year, but a lot of it depends on the construction of the new Health Centre in Arviat. Right now it's scheduled to be completed this fall and hopefully we'll be in a position to move into the facility early next year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the minister or the Honourable Paul Okalik rather, if the Hamlet were to find available space to accommodate temporary offices over the next year until the permanent office is ready, would the Premier consider this possibility.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're open to any suggestions that might be put forward and we'll see. We have to wait to see the options and we're open to suggestions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the Premier. I can assure him that the Hamlet will provide some options for the Premier and his staff for their consideration to place those jobs in the community as early as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. There's no question. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 185 - 1(3): NTPC Cut-off Process

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question will probably come out in two parts Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for NTPC. I believe there's a rule or regulation coming from the NTPC where after 48 hours late payment their power will be cut off. Looking at the north and extreme conditions it's very, very serious if the water pipes break because the costs go way up.

Is the minister going to be making a change to that 48 hour late payment cut off. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question so we can clarify the situation around that notice. What happens Mr. Speaker, is the notice is sent out from headquarters in Hay River and it still gives the consumer or the customer six weeks to pay. On that notice it says if it's not paid in a certain amount of time their power will be cut off. As we know Mr. Speaker, we do not cut peoples' power off in December or January when it's 40 below.

The customer has the opportunity to go in to the NTPC office when they receive their bill to explain the situation to the payment agency in their community, to the power plant operator, to the NTPC employee in their community, who will explain when the payment date will be and so on. Also they can contact Hay River who will not allow the cut off of their power supply. So there are options Mr. Speaker, available to the customer after they receive that notification. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's probably like that from your vantage point but when you're at the community level it's different. Will your headquarters employees follow through with the orders and all that you have mentioned. When the bill finally arrives into the community, it's already overdue. Is there something you can do Mr. Minister.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just give me an opportunity to maybe clarify the situation. When the customer receives their bill and they hadn't paid it the month before, they will now get a notice from the Power Corporation saying you have a certain period of time to pay your bill. When you receive that notice you have the opportunity of going in and speaking to the person on the ground within your community to speak to them about the payment, the payment agency about paying the bill at a proper time, at a prompt time, so that your power would not be cut off.

You have that opportunity to do that before any power is cut off. Then the notice is referred back to the community itself, to the power plant operator who would contact the customer and say, look your bill has not been paid, and then that's the third opportunity that the customer has to make representation to pay the power bill. It's not that you receive the bill in the mail and then the power is cut off. So there are considerable opportunities to do that.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, the NWT Power Corporation is a Crown Corporation. We have 33% ownership as the members know. The NWT Government has the rest, 67% of the ownership of the Power Corporation and this is a business decision made by the Power Corporation. It is not a decision made by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You still have not answered my question. Mr. Speaker, your staff, as you have just stated earlier across Nunavut, will you be educating your staff in regards to power cut off in Nunavut.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the staff have already been consulted on the way to deal with arrears on people's accounts. There is a format in place to deal with that. That has been there before this notice came up.

Two weeks ago I had an opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Ootes and explained and spoke to him about some of our frustrations in Nunavut that this notice did come out again. That was not a decision made by the Government of Nunavut, that was a decision made by the corporation itself, at its Hay River head office.

But what I will do Mr. Speaker, is commit to the member and to this House and to the people of Nunavut that we will endeavour to ensure that this system is fair, as fair as possible, that it's in place and we'll have to re-look at this latest move by the NWT Power Corporation on the collection of its arrears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 186 - 1(3): Interviews Regarding Fuel Prices

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Public Works and Services and Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to mention here that the Bathurst Mandate that this government put out states that one of the principles that guides us is to develop an open, responsive and

accountable government. I'd like to ask the minister if she and her department are committed to going along with that principle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the whole government is. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a document that I tabled last week in the house there's an article from the newspaper entitled "Gas Increase Hits Hunters". The minister indicated in there, it has indicated that the minister refused to speak on the issue stating that she had already given enough interviews on gas prices. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if she could explain how those comments fall in line with being open and responsive to the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't at my office when the phone call was made so I couldn't make any comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then is the minister indicating that as the paper states, and I'll read it right from the paper, it says, "Minister Thompson refused to speak on the issue stating that she had already given enough interviews about the gas prices." If she wasn't in her office, then this is in fact something that did not happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I never spoke to the interviewer at the time, Maria Canton, according to the News North article. I have never spoken to her, so in that case, I never said those words. It was her interpretation when I didn't pick up the phone I guess. I wasn't there. Sorry Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 187 - 1(3): Baker Lake Community Freezer

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the return to my question from the Minister of Community Government and Transportation regarding my community freezer, Mr. Speaker, I think there was some miscommunication there because the letter

says there has been some uncertainty about the departmental responsibility for the replacement.

Mr. Speaker, I did not ask for a replacement of the community freezer in Baker Lake, I asked to have the compressors replaced. Mr. Speaker, you don't replace a house when the furnace breaks down and I'm wondering if the minister can commit to having my community freezer fixed up because we're getting into that season again when it's starting to get warm in a few months and the community depends on that community freezer for the country food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Community Government, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the commitment that the appropriate department will work on your community freezer, knowing Mr. Speaker, how important it is to the community. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 188 - 1(3): Polar Bear Hunting Regulations

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question of the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

When there are Polar Bear defence kills or if a female with cubs is killed the disposal of the hide is the responsibility of the Hunters and Trappers. In my community of Taloyoak, there are now two polar bear hides as a result of these types of situations. Unfortunately these hides cannot be sold.

I'm wondering if the government would be willing to look at the regulations and policies regarding these situations.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe he is asking if we are going to be reviewing the policies. We agreed in the past and we made this announcement about the Hunters and Trappers regulations and policies within our department.

The Hunters and Trappers in the communities and the Sustainable Development Department have an agreement in regards to dealing with polar bears. The policy that you have just questioned has been reviewed and once we have consulted other communities, then we will review the other policies that affect all the communities in Nunavut.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Sustainable Development had mentioned that they will be reviewing these policies and consulting the communities. We do not wish to put our traditional and cultural knowledge aside. We want to enhance our skills.

Would the minister be willing to review all the traditional skills once the policies and regulations have been reviewed. How will you be consulting the communities. If you can give me an answer.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Wildlife Management Board will probably be working on their mandate for two to three years and they have a lot of issues that need to be implemented, they will be consider all issues seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 189 - 1(3): Budget Surplus

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Finance. According to the media, we've heard the surplus would be between 30 – 40 million dollars. I'm just wondering if this is true.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Minister Responsible for Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on a preliminary report passed down on February 1st, it is expected that the Government of Nunavut will have approximately 30 – 40 million dollars of unexpended funds by March 31st of 2000. Thank you.

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

Question 190 - 1(3): Cost of Medical Travel

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the newspaper, there is about a 20 million dollar deficit in the health boards combined and accumulated over 2 years, and we know about the high cost of fuel and transportation in Nunavut. Can the Minister of Health tell me what is the total cost of medical travel in Nunavut this year.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't give him the actual cost for this year because this year is not finished yet. This year won't get finished until March 31st but what I can say is that approximately 20% of the Health Boards' budgets go

toward the expense of medical travel. Our best guess at the present time is that should be around 20 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty million dollars. I appreciate his estimate there. Has the minister considered tendering out all medical travel on regular flights and also has he considered tendering out the medivac flights. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker, as the member knows right now, we still have all our health boards in place until April 1st. They are doing the arrangements. For example, the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board has worked out an agreement with First Air. They are doing some agreements like that.

What we're doing as the Department of Health and Social Services and myself as minister, is we've contracted with consultants in Audit Canada to do a major review of our travel, of the policies surrounding travel, to see if there are economies of scale. To see where we can save some money from that budget. I'm hoping Mr. Speaker, to be able to bring that policy forward over the next couple of weeks to get it to the Standing Committee on Health of this Assembly for discussion and hopefully if it's approved at that time, we'd bring it forward possibly after April 1st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's responses on that. Even a 20% savings in medical travel will work out to about 4 or 5 million dollars. So the minister is saying that he is going to have this policy worked out for us before the budget session is over, in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, what I said was that we were working on a draft policy and as soon as the draft policy is complete I will bring that forward to the Assembly to the appropriate Standing Committee of this House for discussion and then hopefully have that implemented.

I'm looking at a time line of the next four to six weeks that is why I said after April first, because that is when the health boards would have been integrated into the Department of Health and Social Services and then that policy, if approved, would become the policy of the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Before I recognize the next questioner, I would like to recognize the grade eight class who is attending school here and their teacher is Alan Everette.

>>Applause

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 191 - 1(3): Staff Housing Policy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Public Works, Government Services and Housing. Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister has taken some action to correct the incorrect statements in the News North article. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, I believe it was some time last spring, that the Minister responsible for staff housing referred to a copy of the staff housing policy. I would like to ask the minister if their new policy on staff housing has been developed and would she refer a copy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will table the policy from the department, I know the staff have been working on one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister tabling that document in the House, however Mr. Speaker, would the minister indicate if in that policy they have continued an old program of the GNWT which was a buy back policy for employees that either were leaving or transferring from one community or another, or leaving the territory. Is that buy back policy in the new staffing housing policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing, Ms Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As with all the policies with the new government, we are reviewing all the policies and we are not implementing the buy back policy as of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the minister stated she would be tabling the policy in the House, indicating there was a policy in place and that it was complete. She also just indicated that they are reviewing it, so I would like to know if it is something being planned or looked at adding into the policy or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Housing.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can table whatever policy is available right now which may be the old one. We are reviewing all policies in this government, so it's in process. We have not been implementing the buy back policy for some time, since we became the new government. If the member wants the old policy tabled then I will do that. I don't have a new policy right now because we are reviewing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was last spring that I asked about the staff housing policy and at that time it was indicated to me that it was under review, and they were going to have it done fairly quickly. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister when do they ever eventually plan on getting around to completing that review and having a new policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get back to the member as soon as possible, I don't have the details in front of me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as notice.

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

Question 192 - 1(3): Consultation with MLAs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is directed to the Premier. Many times we as MLAs have heard about what the government is doing through the media and sometimes we are usually the last people to hear the news. I think that we have a problem. I think that we should have a first hand look at it before anything else is published and as MLAs we should take action in how the statements are worded and what is being taken to the news media. Can you involve regular MLAs more on this. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad when MLAs come into my office to come and discuss with me any of their concerns and they are very welcome and it makes it a lot easier. Do not to hesitate to come and see me in my office as we deal with these issues on a daily basis.

Some of them may have to be taken as emergency measures but sometimes we usually never know what is being said outside, sometimes we have to work on emergency cases, we usually try and let our staff know and the community know what is going on around the communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all have staff and our officials, we have our workers in our own constituencies. You can usually give information to our staff in our communities. If we can work closely together I would prefer that you work and look at this more closely so that we don't blunder.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is fine and we all have different constituents in Nunavut and if you inform us whenever you are at any type of meeting you are holding then you can contact us at any time.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Question 193 - 1(3): Extra Funding for Housing Authorities

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Housing. My question is, Mr. Speaker, the Housing Associations in the communities have limited funds and they always encounter this problem each year and some community members are in arrears. They are in arrears because some of them aren't employed and Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to collect rent from people who are having trouble finding jobs.

It is difficult to maintain housing inventory which is getting older and older, housing authorities have to put their operating and maintenance money into temporary repairs but budgets for preventative maintenance and major repairs are getting smaller and smaller. My question to the minister, has the minister been able to find extra funds to help local housing authorities with operations and maintenance in the current year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will deal with this issue in the budget session Mr. Speaker. I can respond to that question at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Housing. I understand the Government of Nunavut is forecasting a significant surplus this year, which is 30-40 million dollars. Will the minister use some of the surplus for housing Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, once we start on this item of the budget then we can address this issue at that meeting. I am aware that there are some funding problems in the communities and I am also aware that there are some issues that have to be addressed by the Housing Associations.

But, as I said earlier, I will submit options during the Budget Session, so at this point I can't really make any statements on this issue until later Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of the finance budget discussions...

>>Audio unavailable

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of this program, he's going on to a different question Mr. Speaker, the question of renovating some of those older units. Can he expand on his question Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Can you re-phrase your question Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Regarding these housing units, regarding Hamlet budgets, will you add money to the Hamlet budget or to the Housing Corporation.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Housing.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have any new funds but if we had new funds then we would provide some for these new programs for renovation of housing units, but we will consider this item in our budget session. Today, when these older units are being repaired, housing associations have in their budgets a maintenance budget for each year. Thank you.

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

Question 194 - 1(3): Release of Budget Information

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance and it relates to the newspaper coverage of the 30-40 million dollars or the radio coverage of the 30-40 million dollars surplus that we may anticipate.

My question to the minister, and I know he may at some point say there is nothing illegal or wrong about releasing that information, but I'm curious as to the fact that we haven't gone through the budget yet and we hear the Minister responsible for Housing say that

she really doesn't want to deal with that issue now because it wouldn't be appropriate as far as using surplus money for housing and whatever else.

I'd like the minister to tell the members what his rationale is for releasing this information prior to the budget process being completed. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the report came from questions from the CBC reporter yesterday in relation to the health board deficits and the coverage of some of those deficits whether it be for prior to March 31, 1999 or current year deficits that they were encountering.

It deals with, quite frankly, current year operating & maintenance budgets and the overall fiscal frame-works and condition of our financial situation. So it was in that respect that I candidly gave out the amount of what all members have had the opportunity of being advised, as you know, in a caucus meeting about the potential for 30-40 million of excess unspent funds of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've always been under the impression and I think the members also here alongside me that what we discuss in caucus prior to it getting to I guess, an open public meeting, that it would be confidential and we were of the understanding that we would not release that information and that it may in some ways cause some difficulties for people.

My question is, given the fact that we're involved with the various union negotiations, does the minister have any concern that this may in itself, by releasing information, it may cause some uneasiness, even some labour strife, I guess, the fact that we're talking about 30 or 40 million dollars that may be available. Is he concerned about that. I guess my concern is that does the minister feel that was prudent on his part to release this information prior to us getting to the budget process. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one has to recognize that as I indicated, this is one time, 1999-2000 unexpended funds. The primary reason, as members know, is the fact that we are at about 75% staff at this point, so there are significant under-expenditures in those areas throughout government.

That situation will rapidly change given that we are constantly filling positions and expect to be at higher levels of staffing for the 2000-2001 year. Ideally we would be at a 90%-95% level, which is probably a historical operating level of government in respect to staffing. So, I think it is important to recognize that. I'm sure that our union friends are

undergoing collective agreement negotiations now with our government and I understand that situation as well.

If we were to use any of this money, these unexpended funds that we project, quite frankly, to be there March 31, if we were to make commitments for that for future years and then our staffing levels were to reach higher proportionate levels, we would have to look for ways to pay back that money. Otherwise we would operate in a deficit situation, and I don't think any members of this House would want to operate under those conditions Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Hon. Kelvin Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe in the fall session, I could be mistaken so I won't mention which minister, indicated to me in reference to a question I asked about why we would, at that point we were only looking at I think it was approximately 10 million dollars surplus and I felt that we should probably have a lot more because of the fact that there are so many positions that have not been filled.

The comment, or statement, that was made to me by the member on the other side of the House was that, well actually it can't be more because most of these positions that are not filled, the money that would normally pay for that person's salary is being used to pay for consultants and contractual work so that we can have some capacity in the overall government. So, and unfortunately the Hansard here does not clearly state that, so, with that in mind can the Finance Minister tell me now that we have the projected surplus of 30-40 million dollars out in the public and in the media, what has created this possible or projected surplus. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, during the mid-year fiscal update we projected at that time approximately 12 million dollars and since then it has been revised. Given that the main reason, Mr. Speaker, is that we have financial reports that come from all departments of government through Finance and we co-ordinate the summary of that information and make our projections based on that, I can tell you, quite frankly, right now that if we base all of our financial projections on what departments advise us they were going to spend that we would not be in a surplus situation.

Given all the departments saying that they are going to be fully staffed up to the levels that they expected this year and expending funds throughout their programs again on what their expectations were, our budget would be right on, and in fact slightly over-budget. So, the Department of Finance, quite frankly, has had to take another look at the information that was being provided by departments to see whether or not they were realistic and that took a considerable amount of time and that's why so late in the year we can have a better estimate of actual government expenditures, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 195 - 1(3): Housing Corporation Surplus

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Housing. Earlier the minister indicated that she couldn't talk about any funding, any new dollars, for housing. Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if that means that the minister is indicating that in all this surplus that we are talking about, housing itself or her department has no surplus at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, we hired a President for the Housing Corporation and that person is in Iqaluit and my staff members are in Arviat and in my budget we will have a better understanding what the budget forecast is for March.

As I stated earlier we were looking at our departmental budgets and we would have to justify why we have those budgets in place and our staff members will be available for you to answer some of those questions and our finance people will be with us. So, once we get into budget sessions then we will be able to respond to those questions. Thank you.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were talking about the 1999-2000 budget, I was wondering, it says we have, the Minister of Finance has indicated we have a 30-40 million dollar surplus, I would imagine that given the vacancy levels throughout government there are some substantial surpluses in every department including Housing.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if she has any plans of making a submission to re-allocate some of this year's funds from the department that haven't been expended to go towards some of the operating and maintenance functions provided at the local level through the LHO's. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Housing Associations have their own budgets and they don't operate as a government agency, but if there are any surpluses within the corporation they can always use it up in the new fiscal year and if there are any surpluses we will ensure that we use them for those purposes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then I guess the minister is indicating that her department and her staff have not made any plans to re-allocate any

current year dollars towards O&M funding that is provided to the LHO's through the Nunavut Housing Corporation and what she is responsible for. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The housing association staff if they have any problems with certain budget items, then I don't really state how much surplus we have because we're not at the end of the fiscal year, but we can't make a forecast for now how much we will be providing for those communities. I don't have any papers in front of me right now in terms of those forecasts.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Taken as notice. Question period is over. We'll take a break for twenty minutes.

>>House recessed at 3:50 p.m. and resumed at 4:21 p.m.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Sergeant at Arms. Getting back to the Orders of the Day, Tuesday, February 22. Item 7, Written questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 04 - 1(3): Rankin Inlet Birthing Facility

Mr McLean: Ma'na. I have a written question to the Minister of Health regarding the utilisation of the Rankin Inlet birthing station. In the last two years how many births were there at that facility. Second part of the question: was it well received and accepted. Third part of the question: is it cost effective in regards to how many births are being delivered there, and the fourth part: does the minister see it continuing in the future or being disrupted. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Written questions. Written questions. Item 11, Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Nutarak.

>>Applause

Item 11: Replies to Opening Address

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am going to read my reply to the Commissioner's Opening Address.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to reply to the Commissioner's address. I would like to tell my constituents what I have been doing as their MLA since I was fortunate to be elected about one year ago. First I want to point out some very important needs in my community of Pond Inlet. These needs are for new buildings. The needs in our communities are urgent. I think this is partly because when Nunavut was created on April

1, 1999, the new Nunavut government took over from the old Northwest Territories government.

We were very happy to see the creation of Nunavut; however, the way we see it when the new government took over from the Northwest Territories government the capital planning process was interrupted. Under the GNWT, the Hamlet of Pond Inlet worked very hard on a five-year capital plan. We were very familiar with the five-year capital plan; it seemed that as we prepared for Nunavut, the five-year plan was forgotten by the GNWT.

Then when the Nunavut government took over, it seemed that the planning started all over again. Some important projects got delayed or forgotten. This year's budget was not really the budget of the government of Nunavut. It was based on the budget of the government of the Northwest Territories. Right now the government of Nunavut has put together a budget which will be tabled next month, but this budget is not based on the five-year plan. It is only a budget for one year.

The Minister of Finance has said that we will only be able to work on a five-year capital plan after we have finished the budget for this coming year. So the long-term plan, the five-year capital planning process was interrupted when we moved from one government to another. We have several buildings in our community that, as a result of the interruption of the capital planning process, these old buildings which needed renovation or replacement have got older and are now very much in need of repair.

A very good example is our Takijualuk School, the school got so run down that it had to be closed. Other buildings that are suffering from neglect are the community hall, the arena and the health centre. Although these buildings have not had to close down yet, they may not last very long. Something has to be done very soon.

Community hall; the community hall was built in 1977, it is now older than half the population of Pond Inlet. The insulation in the building is very thin and some parts of the walls are not insulated at all. The situation is so bad that every winter if we have enough snow, we insulate the outside of the building with snow to help with the heating. The building was renovated about 12 years ago, but those renovations were only done on the outside of the building.

Inside the building, the person who was doing the renovations pointed out that there was a very serious problem with the roof. Every spring, there have been serious leaks in the roof when it starts to melt. These leaks have meant that there is hardly any insulation in the roof. When the roof leaks, as it does every spring, the lighting and electrical wiring is damaged by water, the Hamlet must close the building when there is water in the electrical system and lights.

Mr. Speaker, the building has to be closed down because of problems with the sewage stink and plumbing in the winter when it is cold, and the building has to be closed down

because of problems with the electrical wiring and lighting on the roof in the spring when it melts.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very important building in our community, this is the only place where children and young people can come to play freely. The community has a strict rule against drugs or alcohol in the building, so our young people, our young children feel comfortable and welcome in this place. Young people are in this building all the time, this is where they gather for dances or to play games such as pool, table tennis or video games. This building keeps many of our young people from getting into trouble.

The community hall is important for other reasons, this is the only place where we can have public meetings, and this is the only place where we can have feasts and community celebrations. This is the only place where the Nunavut Court of Justice can have court.

Mr. Speaker, this very important building is falling apart. The mayor has told me that the Hamlet spends so much time and money fixing this very old building, sometimes he just feels like giving up and closing the building down. The terrible thought of having no place for our young people stops him from closing the building down. The Hamlet is very concerned with the huge amount of money they are spending to keep the building open. These costs are putting a lot of pressure on the Hamlet budget. The money is being spent on keeping the building repaired and causing other Hamlet programs to suffer. The mayor is also worried that the problem with the electricity and the sewage tanks mean that the building might be found to be unsafe or unhealthy.

Arena; our arena was one of the first arenas built when the government of NWT started building arenas in communities. The Pond Inlet arena was built as a pilot project. Unfortunately, it was not a full size arena and we as a larger community are entitled to a full size hockey rink. Government officials have told us that we are entitled to a full size arena. Right now, having a small arena means that we can't ever host hockey tournaments. If our hockey teams want to play in tournaments they always have to travel to other communities. If we participate in regional games, we always travel to other communities. We can never host tournaments or regional competitions.

Our old arena is also very poorly insulated so the building is very cold. My constituents are very concerned that it is not good for people to be breathing in such cold air. While they're skating, it is not good for people to be sweating in such cold air.

Since we have these problems with two old buildings, which are below standard, we have suggested that it would make sense for the government of Nunavut to combine these needs into a new building. This would meet our very pressing needs for a proper community hall and arena and it would also save money. It should cost much less to combine these needs for planning and construction rather than building two separate facilities.

New health centre; our community has been fortunate to have a resident doctor and her family move in last fall. We were very pleased to welcome Dr. Demaio to our

community and we would like to tell the Minister of Health and Social Services this is very much appreciated. I would like to point out that the new doctor does not only serve the residents of Pond Inlet, she also visits other north Baffin communities from her base in Pond Inlet. We are concerned, however, that our health centre is old and too small for a growing population. The health centre will be under even more pressure when new jobs for government are received and more families are put in place in Pond Inlet.

We know that some communities were given new schools, more land, larger water systems, for example as a result of decentralization, however it seems that no one looked at the small size and the age of our health centre in Pond Inlet, even though we will see more government jobs located there. Our health centre staff and space will be under even greater pressure to meet the needs of our growing population and especially now that we have a resident doctor in Pond Inlet who is serving the high Arctic we believe that consideration should be given to having some people from high Arctic communities sent to Pond Inlet for treatment in emergencies rather than the long distance and time it takes to send them to the regional hospital in Iqaluit.

Mr. Anawak, the Minister of Community Government and Transportation, and the Minister of Finance have been told of our pressing capital needs. We are very hopeful that these needs will be reflected in the coming year's budget and built into the government of Nunavut five-year plan.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to explain these needs to my fellow MLAs and the people of Tunnuniquimiut through this reply to the Commissioners address. Taima.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. You were the first one to open the replies to the Commissioner's address. Congratulations. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. McLean.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 09 - 1(3): Replacement of Jonah Amitnaaq School

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a petition from my community of Baker Lake requesting the replacement of the decrepit whole falling down Jonah Amitnaaq school with 336 names. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 24 - 1(3): Letter to NTI

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a copy of the letter addressed to NTI in response to correspondence received by our office. As this response is being alluded to in a recent article, I wanted to table it for the information of all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 25 - 1(3): Fuel Subsidies Details

I have another document to table. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table this document titled "Subsidy by Territory, Customer, Class and Product". This document covers the Nunavut territory for the period of 1998/99, the last full year for which figures are available. This will highlight the amount of funding that the government of Nunavut contributes as a subsidy for all products sold.

Perhaps this will also clarify that fuel is already highly subsidized as it currently stands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Tabling of documents Mr. Nutarak.

Tabled Document 26 - 1(3): Letter to Minister Anawak from Mayor of Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table my reply to the Commissioners address. I also have two petitions Mr. Speaker. One is addressed to Community Government and the Minister of Transportation. One is dated February 14, they are both in my hands and I'll submit them to the House. I will not read them out. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 27 - 1(3): Nunavut Business Incentive Policy

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr Speaker. I would also like to table a document titled "Nunavut Business Incentive Policy", with a note that this document is not etched in stone and is flexible. I'm very open to all the members if you want to see changes.

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

Tabled Document 28 - 1(3): Budget Surplus Article

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document titled "Media Monitor" and the item is the Minister of Finance announces budget surplus. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Tabling of documents. Thank you. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Notice of Motion 09 - 1(3): Tabled Documents 24 & 25 to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, I'll move the following motion: I move seconded by the honourable member from Baker Lake, that the tabled documents, which I don't have a number for, the last two tabled documents by the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products, on fuel prices, the petroleum products division subsidy by territory, customer class and product; and the letter in response to NTI move into the committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Notices of Motions. Mr. O'Brien.

Notice of Motion 10 - 1(3): Ikuma Report to Committee of the Whole

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion. I move seconded by the Honourable member for Baker Lake that tabled document number 20-1(3), the Ikuma Report, be moved to the committee of the whole for discussion. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask for unanimous consent to deal with my motion. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Notices of Motions.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. My motion today is seconded by the Honourable member for Baker Lake, that tabled document number 20-1(3), the Ikuma Report, be moved to the committee of the whole for discussion.

Speaker: Mr. O'Brien, you have consent to ask that your motion be tabled.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion in the house today.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. The member is requesting to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You have unanimous consent. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. O'Brien, please proceed.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 10 - 1(3): Ikuma Report to Committee of the Whole

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable member for Baker Lake that tabled document number 20 - 1(3), the Ikuma report, be moved to the committee of the whole for discussion today.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. O'Brien.

Motion 11 - 1(3): MS 45- 1(3) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues for supporting my motion. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule number 34 (5), I move seconded by the member from Baker Lake that the Minister's Statement 45 - 1(3) dealing with the Ikuma report be moved into the committee of the whole for discussion.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. The motion is not subject to notice or debate or amendment, it is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Minister's Statement 45- 1(3) is referred to Committee of the Whole. Motions. Motions. Thank you. Before I bring up the next item on the agenda I would like to recognize Rebecca Akasuk, the sister of our youngest member, Mr. Akasuk.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 17. First reading of bills. Mr. Anawak.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges - First Reading

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move that bill 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges, be read for the first time.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 9 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Picco.

Bill 10 - An Act Amending the Boards of Management Dissolution Act - First Reading

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable member from Rankin South, that bill 10, An Act Amending the Boards of Management Dissolution Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Your motion is carried. Bill 10 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable member from Iqaluit West that bill 11, An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday, be read for the first time

Speaker: Mr. Ng your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 11 has its first reading. First reading of bills, Mr. Arvaluk.

Bill 12 - An Act to Amend the Divisional Education Council Dissolution Act - First Reading

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Rankin North, that bill number 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Education Council Dissolution Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr Arvaluk your motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Your motion is carried. Bill 12 has had its first reading. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 7 - Loan Authorization Act 2000/2001 - Second Reading**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to move, seconded by the Honourable member from Pangnirtung, that bill 7, The Loan Authorization Act 2000/2001, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to facilitate lending to municipalities, and will benefit municipalities that may not have the ability to borrow from commercial lenders. The loan Authorization Act sets the upper limits for municipal loans for the 2000/2001 fiscal year at 5 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. I'm in receipt of correspondence from the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations & Services.

The committee wishes to waive the review of bills, and to deal with it in the committee of the whole. Bill 7 is referred to the committee of the whole. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of bill number 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. I apologise, Mr. Anawak is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the bill today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You have unanimous consent.

Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges - Second Reading

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Nanulik, that bill 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, in English, it will be clearly understandable when we talk about the need for change. This bill does two things. The first thing it changes is that the head of the Nunavut Court of Justice will be called Chief Justice, and that is why I say that in English it will be clearly understandable, Chief Justice instead of Senior Judge.

The second change is who the appeal court judges swear their oaths to. The law is changed so that appeal court judges can swear their oath before another appeal court judge, instead of before a judge from the Nunavut Court of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Bill 9 has had second reading and it is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading to bill number 10, An Act to Amend The Board of Management Dissolution Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. The member is seeking consent to deal with bill 10 today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You have consent.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Rankin Inlet South, that bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Board of Management Dissolution Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the Act which I have brought before the house today, is an amendment to the Health and Social Services Boards of Management Dissolution Act, that was passed in this assembly in June of 1999.

This amendment is meant to clarify administrative details. It will eliminate confusion that may arise during the integration of the boards, their employees and their assets with the department and the government on April 1, 2000. I look forward to engaging in a more detailed discussion of this amendment with members of this assembly in the days ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. All those opposed. Your motion is carried. Bill 10 has its second reading, and accordingly is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give bill 11 second reading, An Act to Establish Nunavut day as a Holiday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The member is seeking consent to deal with bill 11. Any nays. No nays. You have unanimous consent Mr. Ng. Thank you.

Bill 11 - An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday -:Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable member from Iqaluit West, that bill 11, An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Nunavut Day Act is to respect the history of our territory. This act will encourage all Nunavummiut to celebrate July ninth, the anniversary of the proclamation date of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, by moving the August civic holiday to a date that is of particular significance to all of our territory's residents.

Nunavut day will be a time for all Nunavummiut to reflect on our past and acknowledge those who have worked so hard to fulfil the dream of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. Those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 11 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like consent to deal with bill 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Council's Dissolution Act, to be read for the second time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr Arvaluk. The member is seeking consent to deal with bill 12, to be read for the second time, are there any nays. No nays. You have consent.

Bill 12 - An Act to Amend the Divisional Council's Dissolution Act - Second Reading

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member from Rankin North, that bill 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Council's Dissolution Act, be read for the second time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 12 has had second reading and accordingly is referred to the standing committee. Second reading of bills. Going back to the orders of the day, item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and Other Matters. Minister's statement 50 -1 (3), Minister's statement 51 -1 (3), Minister's statement 45-1(3), Bill 7, Tabled Document 20 - 1 (3) with Mr. Iqaqrialu as the Chairperson.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will begin with a short recess.

>>Committee recessed at 3:05 p.m. and resumed at 3:18 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): We have a quorum now, there are ten members here. We can proceed. First of all, Ministers' Statements 50 - 1(3), 52 - 1 (3), 45 - 1 (3), Bill 7, Tabled Document 20 - 1(3). Which one would you like to deal with first. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): I suggest we deal with Bill 7. I would like to proceed with this please. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Those in favour of dealing with Bill 7. Agreed. Minister do you have an opening statement.

Bill 7 - Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 - Consideration in Committee

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, Mr. Chairman I would like to bring my staff to the table and get right to the detail of the bill.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. You can come up to the witness stand if you've got your officials with you. Thank you for taking the witness stand

Minister Ng. Maybe if you would like to identify yourselves first so that we know who we are dealing with.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left is Mr. Victor Tootoo, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance and Administration. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Finance Minister. Comments in regards to Bill 7 Loan Authorization 2000/2001. Any comments. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to loan authorization, I would like to get a better clarification as to which department is going to be dealing with this bill, whose responsibility it is.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead Mr. Finance Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Finance and Administration is responsible for the loan authorization act, that is why my appearance before the committee today and I didn't get into opening comments because I thought the second reading, principles of the bill outlined it clearly but if the members want...just to say that this is just an annual bill that is required to go before the Assembly because of the fact the Government is asking for the authority to be able to lend to municipalities in the course of the year. So, this act allows that to happen. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If we are going to deal with the municipalities, the Hamlets, in order for them to use this loan authorization, for example, the Hamlets, even though they have some sort of funding given to them, they are always short of funding for of capital items. For example, within my own constituency at Gjoa Haven, if they wanted to get a loan and once this loan authorization act has proceeded and been agreed to, how much percentage of the loan would be given to us.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Finance Minister, if you would like to make a reply.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the spending limit requested under this act is up to five million dollars but I would like to say that it isn't for municipalities for specific capital projects.

This issue, unless it is a tax-based municipality, and the only one of course that would qualify in that situation would be Iqaluit, more than likely it would be in a situation where there are extraordinary needs of a Hamlet such as the situation in Clyde River. I use that as an example during this current fiscal year where they have run into financial

difficulties as a municipality and required some additional funds to get them through that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Finance. Any further comments or statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I believe last year the loan authorization act was approved with a spending limit of 10 million dollars. If I could ask the minister to explain how the new figure of 5 million dollars for this year was arrived at.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, if you would like to make your statement or additional comments.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, last year the loan authorization act set a limit of ten million dollars for the current year and out of that ten million dollars, to date there has been 5.2 million dollars of commitments made. It is felt that we will not need as much for the 2000 and 2001 fiscal year, and hence the lower limit in respect to authorization requested for next year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Finance. Any further comments. Mr. Tootoo, do you have any further comments. Go Ahead.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that they only anticipated roughly about 5 million dollars this year. I would like to ask the minister to explain how they determine what the need is going to be. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Finance Minister, if you would like to make a response.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We carried out consultation with the Department of Community Government and Transportation and through their work with the municipalities we forecasted what might be potential needs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Finance Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: It was based on consultations done by the Department of Community Government and Transportation with the municipalities. Does the minister have any indication or any anticipation of what Hamlets or municipalities will require accessing any of these funds or guarantees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Finance Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no I do not have that information. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Finance Minister. If you have any additional comments.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman if the minister doesn't have that information, I am just wondering how they came up with the 5 million dollars if they are not really sure who is going to be requiring what. Is it just a number that was pulled out of the air or do they have a rough estimate or anticipation at all on the requirements. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Finance Minister, any additional comments.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman there is no known identified need as it stands now. As I indicated, this is supporting the authorization of authority for us to lend in the circumstances where it is required. I would like to state there are some stringent guidelines in respect of lending. It is just not given for any reason whatsoever. The criteria has been indicated in the past - there have to be repayment terms identified, assessment of repayment ability, security issues are looked at, there has to be an approved bylaw by the municipality, established credit criteria and it has to be in conformance with the Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

So those are the criteria that surround the ability to be able to lend under this loan authorization act, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Finance Minister. Any further comments Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Actually, I am glad to hear that there are no projected plans for this. I am just wondering on how, if the minister is aware of how the Department of Community Government goes through the consultation process with the municipalities and Hamlets throughout Nunavut in determining whether there may be any potential need. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Finance Minister if you have any additional comments.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I would anticipate that the past practice has been that through the SAOs and the municipalities which have the Community Government and Transportation regional staff working with them on a monthly basis, if not quarterly, to be current with their fiscal situation. Having said that, then they would be on top of the circumstances surrounding each municipality throughout Nunavut and be able to identify along with the administration of the municipalities whether or not there would be any anticipated needs for financial commitments to be made under this act. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Finance Minister. Any further comments. Are there no further comments to the Loan Authorization Act. We are dealing with Bill 7 Loan Authorization Act 2000 / 2001. We will go clause by clause.

Are there any comments under section 1.

Application 2, 3. Authorization to make loans to municipalities. Those in favour.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 4, Authority to Disperse. Those in favour.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Those in favour of number 6. Are you in Agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 7. In agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 8, in agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 9, in agreement.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 10. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Loan Authorization Act 2001. Do you agree that Bill 7 is approved for third reading and it can be read as it is.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to thank you. You have made me feel quite welcome. Thank you Mr. Minister for taking the time as well as your colleague to give this presentation. Ministers' Statements 50 - 1(3), 52 - 1 (3), 45 - 1 (3), and Tabled Document 20 - 1(3). How does the committee wish to proceed. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to deal with the Ikuma Report Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Ministers' statements 45 and 52 are very similar. Would you like to cover both of these also.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Number 45, the Ikuma Report, The Energy Option for 2001, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Did you want to proceed with your opening comments Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will just do my opening comments from here if it's ok. with you and the committee and I believe that I will just do my opening comments of the report and then tomorrow there will be more detail with the witnesses. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. You made a very good recommendation. We will move that to tomorrow's schedule. We have two other items. Mr. Minister you can make your opening comments now and submit the report tomorrow. Please proceed.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it gives me great pleasure today to begin the opening comments on the Ikuma Report. The Ikuma report was commissioned to look at various options available to the Nunavut Government to provide electrical power to Nunavummiut. The two main parts of the report describe:

- 1) The possible structures for a Nunavut Power Corporation with an analysis of the pros and cons of each structure;
- 2) General policy and regulatory issues associated with power rates and subsidies that must be decided by the people and the Government of Nunavut.
That's us Mr. Chairman.

In regards to the actual structure the Ikuma report favours the Crown Corporation Model for a number of reasons. Those reasons are, Mr. Chairman:

- Simplicity - it already exists in Legislation – we have it on paper
- More Flexibility - it can create its own policies to meet business needs rather than being limited to general Government policy. Of course the Corporation is a Corporate entity on its own
- Better cost Tracking - it is better able to keep track of utility related revenues and costs isolated from hidden subsidies
- More Businesslike - it can focus on the utility business rather than general Government matters and Mr. Chairman most important of all:
- A greater balance between business and social considerations, ability to meet social needs while balancing utility businesslike operations.

Mr. Chairman, based on these findings and with your support, we are now taking steps to set up a crown corporation and I will be pleased to answer any questions about the Ikuma report and the assumptions used to draw its conclusions tomorrow in the Committee of the Whole when we further debate the Ikuma report. In regards to the policy on the regulatory issues associated with the setting up of any power utility in Nunavut, the report provides an overview of current rate setting structure subsidy programs but does not provide specific recommendations on these matters because the Ikuma working group was not mandated, Mr. Chairman to do that. However, based on their analysis, the report does question the efficiency and the effectiveness of the current process of regular rates through a public utility board.

Both the rate setting structures and the subsidy issue require further work before any decisions can be made. To make these decisions will also require input – input from the MLAs, the communities, you Mr. Chairman and other stake holders to determine the balance between the Nunavut Power Corporations need to operate as a for-profit business enterprise or remain sensitive to the social economic needs in the territory.

Something like we are seeing with the situation in Clyde River today. With the possible rate increase that you have brought up Mr. Chairman and articulated very well in this assembly. Mr. Chairman, the report does not provide specific recommendations about a number of questions, many of which, will be the subject of the next phase or implementation work. Some of these questions are :

- How much capacity can the Nunavut Power Corporation develop between now and April 1, 2001
- What level of outsourcing or third party contracting will be necessary for the Nunavut Power Corporation to be operational by the year 2001
- How many headquarters positions will be created and where will they be located Mr. McLean. Where will they be located to ensure that the NPC will be fully operational by April 1, 2001
- What will power costs in each community and how will their rates be regulated
- What options should the Nunavut Power Corporation pursue for providing power in the future - Mr. Chairman that is, what new initiatives and alternatives for improving service and reducing the cost of electrical energy supply would make sense in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, over the last couple of days we have had an opportunity to see the pre-feasibility study about the high voltage transmission line from Manitoba and into Kivalliq and that is one example. There are others such as wind and solar technology, fuel, fuel cell technology, as well as, heat recovery initiatives that increase efficiency of current diesel operations. Mr. Chairman as we consider these options we must look twenty to thirty years into the future.

Mr. Chairman we will need to consider and answer these questions and more during this transition period. Now the next phase, Mr. Chairman, in establishing the Nunavut's own Power Corporation has already begun. The President's position, and I want to make this

clear, Mr. Chairman, during my presentation to the Standing Committee of Government Operations, the committee pointed out very strongly that they weren't satisfied that the position for the president of the Nunavut Power Corporation had not been advertised in the North. Indeed, Mr. Chairman it had not been advertised in the South either. We had to hire a special firm that is used for finding presidents and so on of utilities in Canada and that was the route that we took, but Mr. Chairman, at the recommendation of the Standing Committee we have now advertised the position of the President for the Nunavut Power Corporation in Nunavut –in the North and in the South. We followed up on that recommendation from the Standing Committee.

The President's position is currently being advertised and it is anticipated that someone will be in place by early April. I anticipate, Mr. Chairman, that we will have preliminary recommendations on some immediate operational issues raised in this report within the next eight to ten weeks.

These recommendations will provide some insight into the number of headquarters jobs that could be established. Where these headquarter jobs will be located and the level of outsourcing, Mr. Chairman, which is the key issue here – outsourcing that we will require in order to best serve Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, those are my opening comments on the Ikuma report, tomorrow at the same time, I will be very pleased to answer the questions of the committee on the report and I wish you and the members a pleasant evening and a good supper. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is not enough time today to get into any other matters, can I have a motion to report progress. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Chairman I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Motion is in order. Those in favour of the motion. Carried. Our speaker can come up now.

Speaker (interpretation): The House will come back to order. Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and would like to report that Bill 7 is ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. The motion is in order. Mr. Nutarak seconds. Those in favour of the motion. Against. Motion carried. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

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

Mr. Ng: Mr. Speaker I move seconded by the Honourable member for Kugluktuk that Bill 8 – Supplementary Appropriation No.2 1999/2000 be read for the third time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Item 22 – Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This evening at half past seven at the high school a meeting of members with the Nunavut Youth Abroad Group. Orders of the Day for Wednesday, February 23, at 1:30.

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 Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statements 45 – 1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 50 – 1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 51 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 20 – 1(3)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7

22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for today, I would like to thank our Sergeant-At-Arms Mrs. Lizzie Ittinuar, who has done a magnificent job for us in the past four days.

As I have previously mentioned she embodies the strength of our elders and our heritage. I also want to thank our pages who will be leaving us today. They too have done a wonderful job for us during this past seven days. (interpretation) They are Cody Dean, Tuppa Ford, Amy Kaludjak, Joanne Kent, Laura Merrit and Elaine Bruce. We are having pictures taken with the Sergeant-At-Arms and I invite all the members to participate.

(interpretation ends) This House stands adjourned until Wednesday at 1:30. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5:56 p.m.*

