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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	545
Point of Privilege	545
Ministers' Statements.....	546
Members' Statements.....	550
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	557
Oral Questions	559
Point of Order	569
Replies to Opening Address.....	577
Tabling of Documents.....	584
Notices of Motion	584
Motions	584
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	585
Report of the Committee of the Whole.....	595
Third Reading of Bills	596
Orders of the Day	596

A.

Daily References

Wednesday, February 23, 2000 545

B.

Ministers' Statements

57 - 1(3): Federation of Nunavut Teachers Negotiations (Ng)..... 546
58 - 1(3): Municipal Health & Social Services Committees (Picco) 547
59 - 1(3): Early Childhood & School Services Workshop (Arvaluk)..... 548
60 - 1(3): Summaries of Nunavut Statutes (Anawak)..... 549

C.

Members' Statements

119 - 1(3): Recognition of Author Simon Tookoome (McLean) 550
120 - 1(3): Travel to Ittuarturvik (Puqiqnak)..... 550
121 - 1(3): Hunting Killer Whales (Irqittuq) 552
122 - 1(3): Aqsarniit School Science Fair (Picco) 552
123 - 1(3): Aqaumajuq Fisheries (Iqaqrialu) 553
124 - 1(3): Support for Inuit Cultural Institute (Anawak) 553
123 - 1(3): (Continued) Aqaumajuq Fisheries (Iqaqrialu)..... 554
125 - 1(3): Members' Visit to Whale Cove (Thompson) 555
126 - 1(3): Members' Visit to Whale Cove (Alakannuark)..... 555
127 - 1(3): Resolution Island Clean-up (Tootoo) 556

D.

Oral Questions

196 - 1(3): Suicide in Nunavut Communities (Nutarak) 559

197 - 1(3): Assistance from CLEY for Elders & Youth (Alakannuark)..... 559

198 - 1(3): Health Board Deficits (O'Brien) 560

199 - 1(3): Stop Work Order on Aqumajuq Fisheries (Iqaqrialu) 562

200 - 1(3): Funding for Cultural Instructors (Irkittuq)..... 563

201 - 1(3): Proposal Call for Airport Engineering Services (McLean) 564

202 - 1(3): Comments to Media by Petroleum Products Staff (Tootoo) 565

203 - 1(3): Manitoba Presentation on Pre-Feasibility Study (O'Brien) 566

204 - 1(3): Retroactive Funding to Municipalities for Fuel Increases (Akesuk)..... 570

205 - 1(3): Training for Aqumajuq Fisheries Employees (Iqaqrialu)..... 571

206 - 1(3): Premier's Travel (Irkittuq)..... 572

207 - 1(3): Gun Control Legislation (Kattuuq)..... 573

(Out of Order) 208 - 1(3): Gun Safety Training (Iqaqrialu) 574

209 - 1(3): Letter from NTI President on Fuel Increases (Akesuk)..... 574

210 - 1(3): Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centres (McLean)..... 574

E.

Tabled Documents

29 - 1(3): Churchill to Kivalliq Region Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study (O'Brien). 584

30 - 1(3): Increase in Gasoline Prices Effect to Inuit and Traditional Lifestyle
(Thompson) 584

F.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 7 - Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 596

G.

Motions

11 - 1(3): TD 27 - 1(3) to Committee of the Whole 585

Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Wednesday, February 23, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Would Manotik Thompson say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

Point of Privilege

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today on a point of privilege. Mr. Speaker, a reporter for the Rankin Inlet bureau of the CBC radio inaccurately represented yesterday's question period, during this morning's news broadcast. Specifically, this reporter in her news story reported that five members of this Assembly questioned me on the estimated budget surplus.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify to my honourable colleagues that only two members of this Assembly questioned me on this very important matter. Furthermore this reporter stated, and I quote, "Many were upset that they hadn't heard about the size of the surplus earlier" unquote.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will recall the subject of an estimated surplus was disclosed to my colleagues earlier this month. During yesterday's question period my honourable colleague for Arviat accurately noted this fact. However Mr. Speaker, the CBC reporter failed to reflect this accuracy in her story, but chose instead to report that members had not previously been informed of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the notion that my colleagues were frustrated and upset by this does not in any way accurately reflect the proceedings of this chamber. Mr. Speaker, when media misrepresents the proceedings of this House it is something that all members of the House should be concerned about. It is a violation of parliamentary privilege that all members of this Assembly take seriously.

Mr. Speaker, this morning's distortions of the truth as reported by the CBC radio are irresponsible, unacceptable and do not respect this House, or the members of this House that work diligently to serve the people of Nunavut.

I humbly request that Hansard be reviewed once it is published and I further request that you come back to this House with recommendations on how we can ensure that members' privileges are not violated. It is only in the best interests of this Assembly to have accurate representations of its proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng for your point of privilege. As members of this House are aware, the fact that we are sitting in Rankin Inlet has resulted in the delay of the usual practice of producing the Hansard blues the next day. When the blues are received we will review them and report back to this House in a timely fashion.

Before we proceed to the orders of the day, I would like to give special recognition to Anthony Maningnaluk, the Sergeant at Arms for the remaining portion of this sitting. Mr. Maningnaluk has served the Canadian Rangers since 1992 and we are pleased to have him here with us today. We are also pleased to welcome our new pages from the Alaittuq High School; they are Silu Ittinuar, Charlotte Kusugak, Tamora Nahangululik, David Niveatsuk, Pam Pilakapsi and William Tiktak.

>>> *Applause*

Speaker: To ensure the Hansard is correct, Mr. Maningnaluk has served the Canadian Rangers since 1942. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 57 - 1(3): Federation of Nunavut Teachers Negotiations

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to update my colleagues on the latest developments of our efforts to conclude an agreement with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers.

Late Monday night Mr. Speaker, the negotiating teams of both the Nunavut Government and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers reached an agreement for the FNT membership to ratify. If ratified, teachers across Nunavut will benefit from salary increases of 3.5 percent effective September of 1999 and a 2.75 percent increase effective September 2000, and another 2.75 increase effective September 2001.

In addition, the union membership will benefit from a one time professional allowance. This one time payment recognizes the value our government places on the important role that teachers play in our communities and in our classrooms. Mr. Speaker, members of this House acknowledge that it is very important for this agreement to be ratified. With this in mind it has been agreed that specific details of the tentative agreement will not be released until after ratification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Deputy Premier, Mr. Ng. Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 58 - 1(3): Municipal Health & Social Services Committees

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, from the release of the document Footprints through to today, there has been wide support for the integration of the three regional Health and Social Services Boards with the Department of Health. In a few weeks, on April 1, 2000, the operations of the Health and Social Services Boards will become part of the Department of Health.

The reason for this integration Mr. Speaker, is reflected in the Bathurst Mandate. In particular the themes of simplicity, unity and building healthy communities. A tremendous amount of planning work has gone into the first part of the integration, which is primarily administrative. Staff from all three regions and headquarters have been working together to design health and social services as a single organization. They have been developing and getting ready to operate with new systems and they have come to an agreement with central agencies like Finance and Administration, Public Works and Housing as well as Human Resources, for the provision of a range of administrative support.

Mr. Speaker, both my cabinet colleagues and staff from all these agencies have been very helpful in bringing us to the point where we are confident that the integration will occur without the disruption of services to the public. Mr. Speaker, although we officially integrate on April 1, the bulk of work is still in front of us. We are seeking to establish strong relations between the minister and communities and this is our goal. We want to build an effective, sustainable system that is both clinically sound and consistent with the values and knowledge of Nunavummiut. We are determined to put our efforts into a new partnership between the department and Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, following consultation with many members here today, I have held a series of discussions with all the Mayors of Nunavut about the formation of Hamlet committees on health and social issues. The response has been very positive and I expect that most if not all communities in Nunavut will soon have established these committees. These committees will facilitate discussion in their communities and between their communities and the Department of Health about their own community's priorities. They will also be able to work with us to make the best use of resources on behalf of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, when I say resources I mean the knowledge and skills of our staff, of community members and other agencies and financial and physical resources of all the agencies working in Nunavut communities. These discussions will be critical in determining how we will structure the system in the future; what role communities may play and how they may organise themselves to do it, and how we should organize the department to make it work best. Mr. Speaker, these committees will also capture concerns and issues that local residents have today about program and service delivery, so there will be an immediate accountability link from communities to the department and from the mayors directly to the minister.

My department will support the work of committees with a financial contribution as well as information and orientation. Our regional staff will be dedicated to helping communities build up their own capacity. Mr. Speaker, this working relationship with communities will form a major contribution to the reform of programs and services, which is the final goal of integration. Like every other jurisdiction in Canada, it becomes more and more challenging to maintain the same level of service that we enjoy today, let alone improving it. Clearly we need to be certain that we are supporting programs and services that have the greatest impact on the wellbeing of our communities, families and ourselves, and we need to be sure that we are working in ways that promote self reliance and continuing pride in who we are.

Mr. Speaker, as you can see, we are making progress towards making our health and social services system a made in Nunavut one. I look forward to providing further updates to the members in the coming sessions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Minister's Statement 59 - 1(3): Early Childhood & School Services Workshop

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I wish to share with members of the legislature an important workshop hosted by our Early Childhood and School Services Division in Arviat, from February 1 to 3, 2000.

The workshop was an initial opportunity for the Early Childhood and School Services Division program staff to meet with staff from the regional board offices, for instance, in the three different regions Kivalliq, Keewatin and Kitikmeot. With July 1, 2000 approaching, the focus of this workshop revolved around looking at how these different staff will work collaboratively and effectively to ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be the basis for what we do in schools to provide the best education for the students of Nunavut.

The workshop began with the process of creating a strong team, one that can work together and be creative, productive for the benefit of Nunavut students. Facilitated by Jose Kusugak the team tackled the critical issues facing education in Nunavut. Over the

three days the team worked to develop common aims, a vision and action plans. As Henry Isuaqnik, an elder on staff in Arviat noted, Inuit means people, thus enforcing the necessity for participants to see themselves as an important part of the team bringing about this change.

Work that had already been done by boards and by the department was shared in a celebratory evening highlighting old technologies like amautik making, language initiatives with a dictionary project, to the way of the future featuring the elders web site project. The workshop produced a set of priorities and action plans. Key are structural changes such as revising staffing policy to ensure that elders and knowledgeable resource people are able to be employed by schools.

The implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit should be preceded by the development of strategy. We will move into the restructuring strategy carefully, initiating plans first through selected schools in Nunavut as a pilot project.

This workshop marked a very strong and positive step to the work that will be done to reshape Nunavut schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr Arvaluk. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 60 - 1(3): Summaries of Nunavut Statutes

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to speak about justice and the improvements for justice. The laws and regulations have been summarised and a document showing the terms and terminology of justice has been completed. The summaries are an important resource for Inuit who want to understand Nunavut's laws in their own language.

This the first time such a project has been undertaken in Canada and perhaps the first time in the world. This month the summaries are being distributed to the public libraries throughout Nunavut as well as the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The summaries have already been distributed to the members of Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit. Electronic versions will also be made available to the Nunavut Court of Justice Library Website. The Department of Justice will be updating the summaries and translations as the laws of Nunavut are changed and in this way the summaries will continue to be useful.

I am pleased that the Nunavut Department of Justice has undertaken this initiative. It is another way in which we are attempting to make justice accessible to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' Statements. Going down the orders of the day. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 119 - 1(3): Recognition of Author Simon Tookoome

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise with great pride to deliver a member's statement about Simon Tookoome. Mr. Speaker, a book was placed in front of you today. It is Simon Tookoome's first book as an author, titled, "The Shaman's Nephew". Mr. Speaker, I will read parts of the introduction.

Simon Tookoome was one of the last Inuit to live the traditional nomadic life in the far north. Tookoome, as he prefers to be known, resisted government efforts to make him leave the land. He continued to follow the caribou and seals, feeding and clothing his family from the land. However, even he was compelled to join the rest of his people and he now lives in Baker Lake. Nevertheless he has kept his sled dogs and continues to hunt and feed his family. He has also kept his language and only speaks Inuktitut. His people know him as a skilful hunter, a respected elder, a justice of the peace, a drum dancer and, as we witnessed in June, a master of the forty-foot whip.

The world knows him as an artist whose works are shown internationally and his art graces a Canadian stamp. Tookoome is a leading artist from a generation of great Inuit artists. Remarkably the Inuit had never before created art. They did not even have a word for it. The art developed during their time of great change as they entered the modern world. For some, art was a product to sell but for others like Tookoome it was also a way to express an ancient way of living and seeing. So Tookoome has produced a body of art that is strange and wonderful. His story is equally strange and wonderful.

So I would encourage us all to read this Mr. Speaker. And yes, he is here in the gallery today, and yes he will autograph your book if you approach him, and yes he will have some books for sale out in the lobby. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 120 - 1(3): Travel to Ittuarturvik

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really enjoyed Mr. McLean's member's statement. Mr. Speaker, there is a very special area near Taloyoak which has great importance to our residents. This place, which is called Ittuarturvik, is cherished by our residents both as a traditional settlement of their ancestors and also as a place of beauty rich in natural resources.

My constituents tell me that this place has more wildlife in greater numbers than Taloyoak including marine mammals such as ujjuk's, and whales. In English this place is known as Lord Mayor Bay. Inuit from Taloyoak last lived there about 25 or 30 years ago, there is still an old mission building there. In recent years families have started to camp there all summer and I am very pleased that more and more young people are coming to know and spend time in this rich, peaceful place.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, Taloyoak is located on the Boothia Peninsula, Ittuarturvik is located on the coast on the other side of the Peninsula, so to get to Ittuarturvik from Taloyoak residents must first take a trail about three miles to Middle Lake, cross the lakes, further through shallow rapids, then continue travelling on the river. At one point their boats have to be taken on the land along a difficult section of the river then to the ocean. To portage their boats a trailer is needed. For years, community residents have used a small trailer, which was once owned by Department of Sustainable Development.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the members if I could complete my Member's Statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member seeks unanimous consent to complete his Member's Statement. Are there any nays. You can continue Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the trailer was once owned by Department of Sustainable Development and is small enough that it can be towed behind an ATV but big enough that it can support a small Lund boat, and an outboard motor.

The trailer was written off as surplus by the Department of Sustainable Development years ago it is quite old and is now wearing out. Last summer, the trailer broke down on the trail I described. It was used for many years, so, it's starting to wear out. Fortunately a young man skilled in welding went on the land to the place where the trailer broke down, he took portable welding equipment and fixed the broken trailer on the spot.

I would like the Minister of the Department of Sustainable Development to help my community to avoid this kind of problem in the future. I hope it will be possible for the minister to identify minor capital funds from his department in the coming year so this old trailer could be replaced.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a huge capital project but it could mean a great deal to the residents of my community. Helping them to regain to their links to their past at this beautiful dwelling place of their ancestors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 121 - 1(3): Hunting Killer Whales

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will watch my time. Last summer in my community we saw Bowhead whales. Bowhead whales were observed and there were more than one and these Bowhead whales were dead. I'm sure they were killed by killer whales and afterwards when I went to Iqaluit there were three more found dead which were killed by killer whales.

The Bowheads, the skin of the Bowheads which have muktaaq, the Inuit people took the best of the muktaaq for consumption. I rise today to speak about this issue Mr. Speaker because, although us Inuit people don't usually eat food that has been thrown away, we have been eating the muktaaq off the dead Bowhead whales.

Mr. Speaker, the killer whales are now killing the mammals in the oceans of Nunavut, if possible, we would like to see the killer whales being harvested when they are seen. As Inuit people when we are not allowed to harvest Bowhead whales or hunt killer whales, and I know that we won't be harvesting killer whales because they are hindering our subsistence food, at least we should be able to harvest killer whales once or twice a year. Again I will be asking a question about this issue during question period.

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

Member's Statement 122 - 1(3): Aqsarniit School Science Fair

Hon. Ed Picco: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. Uqaqti, the first annual Aqsarniit School Science Fair took place last Friday in Iqaluit. There were 77 projects from grades 5 and 6 and Mr. Speaker, from all accounts, the projects were first rate. For the grade 6 class, Alexia Cousins and Karen Flaherty won first place for a project on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. In the grade 7 class, first place went to Jerry Horlick for an interesting project dealing with the effects of cold on motor oil.

Some of the other award winning science projects included "Lefty and Righty" by Nick Dunphy, the "Effects of Coca Cola on Substances" by Katie Sammon and "Refraction" by Sam Kinder and Enna Tikivik.

Mr. Speaker, these projects were by grade 6 students. Not to be outdone, the grade 7 students turned in winners also. The effects of smoking by Heda Jeffrey and Kylie Mark and a very, very interesting project by Lindsay Lloyd and Lorraine Tieman called the "Perfect Glove". Mr. Speaker, having judged several of these science fairs over the last two years, I know first hand the hard work and dedication students and indeed parents put in to these projects.

Mr. Speaker, Aqsarniit School is in its first year of operation and already school pride and school spirit is very much a part of the school atmosphere. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants and parents and the school staff for the excellent work on the 1st Annual Aqsarniit Science Fair. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

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

Member's Statement 123 - 1(3): Aqaumajuq Fisheries

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the ministers were making their statements it was quite interesting to hear their comments and today I rise Mr. Speaker, under Members' Statements to speak about an important project in my constituency of Broughton Island.

This project is having some problems. This project is a business venture, Aqaumajuq Fisheries, which is the business arm of the Broughton Island Hunter's and Trapper's Organization. Four of my constituents in Broughton Island have been working on this business for clams and selling them in south Baffin communities.

Four of my constituents were given training in diving and safety procedures. We are very happy to be involved in this growing new business in diving for clams and selling them in Pangnirtung and Iqaluit. We even dive for clams in the winter through ice. I know there is a good market for clams, especially in winter. This new business should grow and succeed.

I was very pleased that they were trained with the help of Sustainable Development and the Kakivak Association. I also understand that safety procedures were developed and are being followed. I also understand that their diving equipment has been maintained and kept in good condition with assistance of the Department of Sustainable Development.

I apologize today, I will ask you to excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I have been having problems with my nose all day.

Speaker (interpretation): Perhaps, Mr. Iqaqrialu, I will let you continue later. I will recognize someone else, I'll get back to you later on. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 124 - 1(3): Support for Inuit Cultural Institute

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I have spoken about this since we arrived here, we're quite proud to see the Sergeant-At-Arms. She has worked very hard preserving sewing of traditional clothing, however, although we see how hard she has worked, we've never really recognized her enough, so right now I would like to recognize her again. You see the kayak right in the middle of the floor there, it was made by the husband of the previous Sergeant-At-Arms who is Ollie Ittinnuar.

I just wanted to point out how hard she has worked and how hard Mr. Ittinnuar has worked preserving the culture and traditions of Inuit. He has worked very hard on

traditional hunting and I'm sure you have heard that he has been involved with the ICC, Inuit Culture Institute, to preserve Inuit cultures and traditions. We have to recognize these people for all their work. At this point, although the Inuit Cultural Institute still exists, they have been lacking funding, but currently they have been compiling and recording legends. Mr. Ollie Ittinuar has also been the ICC Chairperson and has documented Inuit traditions and values.

Although we recognize his work, we should be more respectful and we should give him more recognition of all his work. I know that if we're going to be thinking of getting heritage centres, the Inuit Culture Institute has worked very hard in this area and Ollie Ittinuar, I feel, should be involved in that area of work.

Sometimes, when they work together I know they have disagreements, and due to disagreements there is no working collaboration going on. So if we are going to be reflecting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we should be giving more support to the Inuit Cultural Institute and recognize these people who have worked very hard in preserving and maintaining Inuit heritage. I know that Mr. Ittinuar values Inuit traditions. I just wanted to state that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Going back to Mr. Iqaqrialu's member's statement.

Member's Statement 123 - 1(3): (Continued) Aqaumajuq Fisheries

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't want to stop my member's statement when I did. I will just go ahead. We'll continue on with my member's statement.

On February 21st, a safety officer from the Workers' Compensation Board visited Broughton Island and he ordered the four divers to stop work. The stop work order says they must stop diving for clams at the direction of workers' compensation.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important project for my constituency and for the four men who are supplementing their income through this project. They are anxious to find a way to keep working. Today I will be asking the minister for the Workers' Compensation Board why this stop work order was issued.

The Department of Sustainable Development has provided training in support of this project, so I will be asking the Minister of Sustainable Development if he can assist my constituents to get back to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 125 - 1(3): Members' Visit to Whale Cove

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Simon Tookoome for the book. I know that I will finish reading it later on. I would like to thank my colleagues who went to Whale Cove with me yesterday evening, and for those members who were unable to make it to Whale Cove, I thank them for meeting with the Youth Abroad. Especially, I would like to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for going to Whale Cove with us, which is my constituency.

I also would like to thank our Premier, Paul Okalik. I thank you very much for taking the time and opportunity to go to my constituency and also to the members who went to Whale Cove with me, I thank them.

Although we stayed at Whale Cove for a short period of time, we met with quite a few people. Our visit was scheduled, we were fed fresh muktaaq and fish, caribou and fermented meat, so the feast was already prepared for us when we arrived to the community and the rangers did a performance. The young people were taught in a short period of time and they gave us a performance, which we're quite proud of. I just want to thank these people who came along with me to Whale Cove and for the members who stayed behind to meet with the Youth Abroad. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 126 - 1(3): Members' Visit to Whale Cove

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to stand up today to announce how pleased I am about our visit to Whale Cove. When we arrived in Whale Cove everything was scheduled and prepared and lots of people were waiting for our arrival.

They were prepared and waiting for us. They're prepared for us to visit them, no matter which community it is, the smaller communities are anxious to meet with us and waiting for us with open arms.

In the future we should visit and tour the smaller communities more often so they can recognize us as Members of the Legislature and we can be closer to the people of Nunavut. For that reason, I stand up to speak about this issue, and I was proud to see the Premier and the Speaker going with us along with the MLA for Whale Cove.

I also would like to thank my colleagues for going over there. Looking at the Inuit people when we arrived there, when I saw their faces, I could see that they were happy to see us and it showed physically. So, they finally saw what they have been expecting for such a long time. They were not just dreaming or visualising seeing the MLAs, they actually saw us physically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 127 - 1(3): Resolution Island Clean-up

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, about 310 kilometres south of my constituency lies Resolution Island. This island has earned the dubious reputation of being the most contaminated military sight in the north. I think that island is in my colleague Mr. Picco's constituency, however I won't hold him responsible for that.

The concentrations of PCBs on Resolution Island have been found to be up to 160 times higher than the Canadian environmental laws permit. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that the site is being cleaned up through a five-year plan of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The even better news is that the work to clean up this remote sight is being done by our own Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, the development arm of the Qikiqtaaluk Inuit Association.

I want to say how pleased I am that QC has been entrusted with this responsibility by DIAND. First of all, they are employing and training a great crew of Inuit from Iqaluit and other Baffin communities who have worked on this site for the past two years. So far, 13 million dollars have been spent at this site. A very large part of this money has stayed in the north due to the enlightened approach taken by DIAND by contracting QC to do the work. QC has ensured that any employment and benefits have been maximized. On top of that QC is doing a very good job.

Mr. Speaker, recently the Resolution Island senior management team reviewed last year's performance. I can do no better in the praise of the job QC did than quote Mr. Scott Mitchell, head of the DIAND's contaminated sites office, who was interviewed February 21 in the News North. He is quoted as saying "everyone is viewing last year as a major success for what was done on the island", said Mr. Mitchell. "They accomplished much more than was expected, even with the discovery of the lead dump and the sea lift coming in a month late...to our surprise they did it all anyway", he said.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Jerry Ell, President of QC, as well as the crew working on the island for this good work and also give DIAND credit for the trust they placed in this dynamic Baffin corporation. Mr. Speaker, so far the contaminated soil has been cleaned, stock piled and put into containers. The next step will be up to the Nunavut Impact Review Board. The board will have to decide whether the soil can be treated and cleaned up on site or whether it should be shipped south to be cleaned...

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo, your time is up, you have to ask your fellow members to finish your statement. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to conclude my member's statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to complete his member's statement. Are there any objections. You have consent, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, fellow colleagues, I tried to get it done in time. I realise that all the environmental impacts will have to be carefully assessed by the Nunavut Impact Review Board. Mr. Speaker, what I would hope is the method they will choose for the clean up will continue to maximize the benefits to my constituents, the people of the Baffin and the regional development corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. It is so nice to sit in Rankin Inlet where there are people you know around you for a change and I hope to see the session moved again in the future to other locations. But today, it gives me great pride to recognize my wife Emily, my oldest daughter Leann and my oldest son Siksi'naaq, my brother-in-law Sam Tutanuak and the author of, "The Shaman's Nephew", Simon Tookoome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. I would like to welcome the people in the gallery, the visitors. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to be in Rankin Inlet because I won't have this opportunity in Iqaluit. I would like to further recognize my colleague Mr. Luke Issaluk, he is sitting at this corner of the table. He also has a number of relatives and his grandmother is Bernadette Pattiq and the former grandfather Joe Pattiq.

I would like to recognize him and I am very pleased to recognize Marie Titak who has been an interpreter at the health centre for 29 years. I am very pleased to recognize her because she has been an employee for the past 29 years at the health centre and also to recognize a number of other visitors in the gallery. There is also Mr. Thomas Tullik, the cousin of my father. I am very pleased he is here with us today. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize the visitors that when we met with the Manitoba delegation, we worked very

closely with them. I would like to recognize Richard Connelly who has been working very closely with the group from Manitoba and Aline Zollner ADM of Intergovernmental Affairs for Manitoba.

Also from the airport, our airport, there's a person here who is also a staff member at the airport. I would include them all, but I'd like to recognize Johnny Tulugak, my nephew and he's sitting at the back somewhere. I would also like to recognize Kerry Angalik who is a staff member of the government and my cousin Thomas Tullik who has been with us for a number of days.

There's Mr. Simon Tuaya who is just behind him and I think I forgot, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Tommy Sammurtok is here with us and a long time resident of Rankin Inlet Alvin Kanuk is up in the gallery there and is one of our Nunavut employees. Jane Aupaluktuk is also here. So I'd like to recognize these people in the gallery Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. I would like to welcome all those people to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I know it was a slight oversight for my colleague across the floor there, but I can't let this individual go unrecognised, because he calls me about once a week for information on what the government is doing, and he published a very unflattering picture of me on the front page of the Kivalliq News in June, that caused quite a bit of debate about my physical stature on the political discussion forums. So I would like to recognize the Editor of the Kivalliq News. Ma'na Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Akesuk. Item 5.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we were down south with the Management Services Board this summer, I was very pleased to be given some caribou meat and I'd like to recognize Luke Paquet.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the member from Baker Lake has recognized this person as part of our tradition, my uncle, my step uncle. I know he's a very well known artist and I have been with him a number of times. I am very pleased that he is my uncle, my step and he also calls me step nephew. He is very well known across Canada and we have a number of relatives between us, Mr. Simon Tookoome.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Welcome to the gallery. Item 5. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a couple of ladies in the audience that I had the pleasure of working with while I was here in Rankin Inlet with the financial management board. I would like to recognize Christine Nukapiak and Carrie Aiyiliik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I would like to welcome you to the gallery. Item number 5. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a constituent of mine, who is the wife of member Tootoo, Carol Tootoo. Sitting next to Carol is Laura Gauthier, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Executive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 5. I would personally like to recognize Simon Tookoome. He was one of the first artists I have known. Welcome. He is really good with the whip. Item 5, Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Nutarak

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 196 - 1(3): Suicide in Nunavut Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday Mr. Speaker, Mr. Anawak spoke on the issue of suicide and that he would like support for the leadership to address this issue. I would like clarification as to whether this was a Member's Statement or a Minister's Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. As a representative of Rankin North, I mentioned that the leadership should address this very serious issue. I said that in the context of a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 197 - 1(3): Assistance from CLEY for Elders & Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you sir. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. My question is, is the department being instrumental in helping the young people and the Elders.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If any communities or organizations are requesting funding to start programs in their communities they can ask our department anytime. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of young people and elders, have you supported young people or elders in terms of their organizations. Has your department been instrumental or helpful to the youth and elders. What improvements have you seen or have you noticed Mr. Minister.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Youth and Elders, Mr Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I did not quite understand your first question, Mr Speaker. We try and help the elders and youth. As I have stated this week, the elders and youth have already had their conference. We were listening to their comments in their meetings and we gathered this information from their meetings and how they can help one another. Right now the programs that they are trying to work with either in the Kitikmeot, Qikiqtaaluk or Keewatin, right now we are studying the minutes and finding out what they have been seeking from the department, the elders and youth. But we are working on this right now, as I have stated earlier this week. As soon as we gather all the information from these meetings I will inform the members of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 198 - 1(3): Health Board Deficits

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance and it relates to the 30 to 40 million dollar surplus that we read about and hear about through the various media. Mr. Speaker, I know we are talking about predictions for the most part, and Mr. Picco, Minister Picco may refer to Nostradamus and whether or not these are really psychic predictions but in reference to the 30 to 40 million dollars, is it over and above the 20 million dollar deficit that we'll have to pay for the Health Boards. Is that the big picture. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in the past in trying to answer this question, it is an anticipated surplus that we're going to have, anticipated until the final year end takes place March 31st 2000. Until such time as the Auditor General audits the books of the Government of Nunavut and files his report,

some time in the fall of this year, that is the time that the actual surplus will be confirmed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't mean to beat a dead horse here. We're a little short on questions here today so I will stay on this line of questioning. Part of the projected deficit of the three health boards was 8.9 million dollars from, I believe, over the last year and a half. Two years. Can the minister tell me whether this 8.9 million dollars has actually been spent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in respect of the 8.9 million dollars, that the opening accumulated deficits of the health boards, we assumed on April 1st, we have not spent per se, the 8.9 million dollars. There is an understanding that there will be some requirement to offset that deficit from current years unexpended dollars. That was a decision that was made in respect of those deficits, that at some point before the close of the books, the Government of Nunavut's financial statements by March 31st 2000, that that issue of the outstanding deficits of the three health boards will be resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister further clarify this issue of the 8.9 million dollars. This amount has been committed or spent, however you want to phrase it. This may be only semantics. If that is the case, why was it not put into the supplementary appropriation that we did last week here. We debated it and passed it and I remember asking if there were more looming financial matters on the horizon that we'd have to deal with.

I believe the answer that I got was that it was hard to predict if we may have larger amounts that we'd have to bring another sup forward for. I guess what my concern is, is that if we're aware of this and it's in our hands and on the table, why was it not put forth in the sup last week. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, primarily because of the reason that the money, the savings in respect of where that will come from, to cover off the 8.9 million dollars has not been clearly identified at this stage. As members may recall, I did say also because of the fact that that was a prior to March 31st 1999, liability, I did state at that time for the current operating year the 1999/2000 fiscal year that we're still in right now, that we have authorized 5 million dollars. Five point two I believe is the actual figure from the Department of Health, unexpended funds to be allocated to the regional

health boards. So the matter of the 8.9 million dollars as I indicated earlier on the actual financial treatment of that hasn't been finalised yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the general question in reference to the famous projected 30 – 40 million dollars surplus that we all hear about, does the minister have any intentions of coming back to the members so that they can have some input in how this projected surplus will be spent. We've talked about the housing needs and health care and so on and so forth. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes from the perspective of the committee report, in terms of the recommendations that have been made, yes from the perspective of the development of the 2000/2001 budget that is before the committees right now and will be tabled fairly shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 199 - 1(3): Stop Work Order on Aqaumajuq Fisheries

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. On February 21st, 2000, a safety officer for the WCB issued a stop work order to four of my constituents who were diving for clams. The stop work order is in English only and does not give the reasons why the work was stopped. My question to the minister, could the minister explain why the order was issued. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the honourable member for advance notice on the actual inspection report or the stop work order that was given out by the WCB inspector, I don't know quite frankly what the reasons were. It doesn't state whether it was in respect to a safety issue surrounding the employees or whether it was in respect to possible deficiencies by the employer. But I will commit to following up with the WCB to get more details on this particular circumstance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, supplementary question. I understand that the WCB has the responsibility for enforcing safety in the work place. I would like to ask the minister, does the WCB also have a mandate to assist workers and businesses to make their work places safer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the compensation board does have a workers' safety division within their realm of responsibility. Thank you.

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

Question 200 - 1(3): Funding for Cultural Instructors

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. My question is regarding the fact that the department is working very closely with NTI on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and Mr. Speaker, can they respond in English please Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak: I'm sorry, the translation did not come through. Could you please repeat the question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Iqittuq please repeat your question.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): My question is Mr. Speaker, you responded to my question earlier that young people have to learn. My question is, do NTI and yourselves have any plans in place for the youth to learn Inuktitut, their language.

Hon. Donald Havioyak: I think that the question is asking about NTI working on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and about the youth involvement in this working with NTI and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but (interpretation) youth groups and also elders, in the near future will be having meetings with NTI, maybe I answered your question. I couldn't hear part of your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood the response and I understand that the NTI will be working with young people such as youth groups. Will the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth be able to provide funds so that this could be done.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a few days, I can't really answer this but I really want to answer your question about March 31, 2000. Around then there's money for that and also I would like to support the elders and youth. We would like to try to see how youth will work together with elders and help them. Also in the summer time while camping, they could be helping each other so that they don't forget about our culture. At our department Iliquisiliit, they will be looking after it

because they want to try and get definite money to try and do something for it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understood his response. I understand that they're looking for funds and I'm sure they'll be able to find the money before April 1st and as soon as the money is available, would those funds be used to teach the youth about our culture, through cultural instructors.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): I would look at this in the March review of funding. We will be reviewing all the funding. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Last supplementary, Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He seemed to have responded that he would try and do this. I just want to clarify if he's really going to do this or will he just be trying to find funds.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about that, we'll be looking at the funding. When I'm back in Iqaluit, we'll be reviewing the funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 201 - 1(3): Proposal Call for Airport Engineering Services

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister Responsible for Community Government and Transportation. The Department of Community Government and Transportation has recently issued a proposal call for ACAP engineering design services for projects at the Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay airports in the neighbourhood of 2 million dollars.

My question is, will the funds to pay for these projects be taken from the departmental 1999/2000 budgets or from the capital dollars that the standing committees haven't approved yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason for the proposal call is to comply with the regulations that the Federal Government is putting out but I would have to get back to the member as to where the funds are actually coming from. So can I take that as notice and respond by tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 202 - 1(3): Comments to Media by Petroleum Products Staff

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Public Works. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was very pleased that the minister confirmed that she was committed to the principles of openness and responsiveness set out in the Bathurst Mandate. As the minister knows, I was concerned about how this commitment fits with the report in the news article I referred to in tabled document 21-1(3), which said that the minister refused to speak on the issue of fuel price increases stating she had already given enough interviews about the gas prices.

The minister said that she had not spoken to this reporter. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the reporter earlier today and the reporter informed me that it was the minister's executive assistant who told her that the minister would not give any more interviews on that subject for those reasons. Mr. Speaker, my question is, when the minister's executive assistant told the reporter that the minister would give no further interviews because she had given enough interviews already, was her executive assistant acting on instructions from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not at the office at the time and I can't make a comment on what my staff said to the reporter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is that since the minister is committed to openness and responsiveness, will the minister instruct her staff that from now on they should not, or that they should encourage or not discourage interviews from the press on such important public matters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is always interesting what the media is saying. They have to make their money. That has always been the case with my staff. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm afraid I don't understand the minister's response, the minister indicated that she had...

>>*audio unavailable*

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

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I can speak Inuktitut you would be able to understand. Quite often the media misquote the members and it is something that happens quite often. They have to make their money. My responses, my staff know what they are supposed to do and they know that they should work openly. So that is my response.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. So if I understand the minister correctly, she is indicating that she gave no direction at any time for her staff to slough off any possible interview on this topic. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Telecommunications and Technical Services. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson: Actually if you read, Mr. Speaker, in the newspaper, one of my staff was available for interviews and that was Roy Greene. So we were open to the media. Thank you.

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

Question 203 - 1(3): Manitoba Presentation on Pre-Feasibility Study

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is not a question related to the media or CBC, nor Nunatsiaq News but they sure make things interesting. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, on Friday past I posed a question in reference to the recent pre-feasibility study that has been completed regarding the possibility of a power grid between Manitoba and the Keewatin.

The minister indicated that given the fact that there was a delegation coming here from Manitoba this week, basically that he would wait to comment on it at that time. Mr. Speaker, the delegation did come, they did make a presentation. Unfortunately I don't believe that there was anybody from the Executive side of the table, from Cabinet, at that presentation. There were regular members at it and it was a very interesting and detailed report.

Mr. Speaker, given the fact that the delegation did come and make a presentation, provided a fair bit of detail, can the minister indicate his thoughts or his feelings on this report. Maybe he had an opportunity to speak to some of the staff after this presentation. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. O'Brien, I am asking you to rephrase your question. You cannot ask the minister how he feels. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will rephrase my question and I do hope the minister is feeling well. After all he is the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, my question was in reference to the detailed report and presentation that was given to various members of the Assembly here, regarding the possibility of a power grid between Manitoba and the Keewatin and also the possible power array, transportation link, a road link between Manitoba and the Keewatin.

The minister I would assume has had an opportunity to review some of this information and I would like to know what he feels is the next step in this process. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: I am feeling fine, thank you Mr. Speaker. I did meet with the Minister responsible for Manitoba Hydro when they were here and the delegation was here. I also met with the CEO for Manitoba Hydro. The presentation that the member talked about earlier, they said there were no Cabinet people available, that we weren't there for that presentation. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I attended a private presentation with my senior staff of the power corporation here on the Manitoba pre-feasibility study for the power grid link to the Keewatin region of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the presentation was excellent, I might add the presenter, Mr. Wilson, went into some depth on some of the technical as well as some of the logistic concerns with the power grid and the line, as well as, I guess from this Government's point of view some of the major financial implications. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Picco. I am not quite sure Mr. Picco if you understood my question or whether you answered it. I was asking the next step in the process and I am glad to hear, it's nice to hear that you did have a private meeting or consultation with the minister and his staff, but by the same token, I believe that the people that were at the presentation, the Keewatin Mayors and other guests would have liked to have asked questions to yourself and others regarding some of the concerns they had in reference to some communities being bypassed or not included in this report.

So I think it would have been helpful if you had been there. Mr. Speaker, again my question was, what is the next step in this process. We have had a pre-feasibility study and it is my understanding and the minister can correct me on this, there is another, further detailed analysis and an environmental study required. Given that situation, where does the minister stand on this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is Manitoba's report, it is Manitoba Hydro's report so I can't be accountable for what communities are included in the report and what communities were left out of the report. What I can say Mr. Speaker, is that the member is correct. The next step is a feasibility, this is a pre-feasibility study the next step would be a feasibility study.

Myself as Minister of the Nunavut Power Corporation, which we are trying to get up and running right now, our plan is to do a comprehensive review internally for the Nunavut Government, on the impacts of the Manitoba pre-feasibility study. So that would be the next step. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ with the minister, it is my understanding that there were individuals, bureaucrats, that were involved in this study from our side and also the former GNWT staff, that sat in on various meetings and consultations. Mr. Speaker, I think we should tip our hat to the Province of Manitoba, that they went out on a limb to pay for this study, then went to Ottawa and found some additional money to pay for this study.

My feeling is that I think it is about time that we got in the driver's seat and started taking the lead on this study, because the benefits to this region, and to Nunavut, are phenomenal. So, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister, what are his plans and in what way will his department be proactive in taking the lead on this very, very important study. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I think it is safe to say that Mr. O'Brien has probably been one of the strongest advocates for this project, going back over the last couple of years and I commend him for that support.

As the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation, which we are still trying to get started, that we'll have some opportunity to discuss in some detail this afternoon with the Ikuma Report, I submit to the member that the next step is to do a review. This is Manitoba Hydro's report, there were some people from the Northwest Territory's

Government involved in some aspects of it, they did not do the report, Manitoba Hydro did it.

It's a technical study and all it says, Mr. Speaker, in basic terms is that it is possible to build a hydro line, but the cost, Mr. Speaker, could be 350 million, it could be 500 million dollars. Mr. Speaker, some of the things they talk about is every house, every residence, every business in the Keewatin that would be supplied by this grid would convert to electric heat. Mr. Speaker, the cost impacts are great and before this government takes on that type of role, we need to do a comprehensive study of the Manitoba Hydro report from our point of view, from the Nunavut Government's point of view.

Mr. Speaker, that is the prudent thing to do and that is what I as the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation, intend to do. Over the next several months when that report is complete I will present that analysis to the member and to this House and for public discussion here in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Point of Order, Mr. Premier.

Point of Order

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The member for Arviat was implying that we did not attend a meeting. We were not invited and if we were invited we would have gladly have attended such a meeting. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Although I didn't attend that presentation we will look at your point of order and we will continue with the oral questions. Oral questions. You have one more supplementary Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to speak to the point of order, I am not quite sure if it's allowed at this point in time. My question was directed to the Minister for the Power Corporation and in reference to his comments of Friday last, that there was a delegation coming and that we would all hear what the news was and what the presentation was going to be about. That was what my question was in reference to.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this was a public meeting, open to the public. I don't think that any of us need a private invitation to attend a public meeting. So, Mr. Speaker, my final comment to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation is, whether it is 200 million dollars or 600 million dollars, I think the project deserves to be taken on as a new initiative on the part of this government, I think we have to be proactive, take the lead, find out whether it is feasible and what the pros and cons are for the project. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more with the member. I think this government is being proactive. We have to look at the costs and the implications. It is very difficult for me as a minister of this government, to commit this government to millions and millions of dollars until we know exactly what the costs will be. That's why we are doing the next stage, Mr. O'Brien, that is why we are going to do the comprehensive study of the Manitoba report.

On the public meeting, Mr. Speaker, Manitoba Hydro officials through the Clerk's Office or whatever department, they invited people if they wanted to see the report, because there was interest in that here. There was a presentation and everyone had an option to go to view that report, but my understanding was that it was for the ordinary members.

There was a previous presentation made a few months ago, and I wasn't able to attend that one because I was at Federal/Provincial/Territorial meetings in the south. So, Mr. Speaker, as to the member's question, yes we are being proactive, yes we will do the comprehensive study and yes, Mr. Speaker, that study will come back to this House for review. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Question 204 - 1(3): Retroactive Funding to Municipalities for Fuel Increases

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. This year, since the beginning of this year, January 1, the fuel price rates have gone up for the Hamlet Councils in the communities too. They utilize fuel for heating and they are a major fuel customer in the communities.

Are you going to be looking into whether you can subsidize the Hamlet Councils for fuel for the three months since the price went up. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have not dealt with a subsidy program so therefore I cannot give you an adequate response as of yet. I will take your question as notice as to if we can subsidize the municipalities for the three months. We will look into that but I cannot give you detailed information as to how much subsidy will be given out.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. If you will be looking into this, how much money will you be committing for the subsidy program for the new year on April 1st. I am talking about whether you will be including January, February and March to subsidize them retroactively. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister for Community Government & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. If we are going to be looking into these details, since our fiscal year ends on March 31st, if we can find the money for a subsidy program it will be for up to a full year. We utilize fuel less in the summer time than in the winter time. I cannot tell you whether we will subsidize January, February, March retroactively or whether it is for a full year. Perhaps we could subsidize from January 1. Thank you.

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

Question 205 - 1(3): Training for Aqaumajuq Fisheries Employees

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, I would like to work with the department and I would like to thank them for supporting the Pairivik Fisheries. The minister has been giving support to the Pairivik Fisheries and since then the work order has been stopped by the Workers' Compensation Board, perhaps due to safety concerns.

The staff from the Workers' Compensation Board felt that our diving fisheries, Pairivik Diving Fisheries needed more training. I would like to ask the minister if your department would be able to give us support on the training part of it so that they can get back to work. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. He asked if the Department of Sustainable Development would be willing to give those people more support. If the clam fisheries wish to apply we will give them support.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, oral questions.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As soon as my community can get back to work, they want to get back to work. Will the minister be able to tell us when the training program will be implemented. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't know if training has been done, there is none that I know of. Perhaps if they request further training and a certification program for the divers, they can ask or apply to get some funding if there is any funding left over. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is the department working with the Workers' Compensation Board to make sure that the training and certification that is being planned will be acceptable to the Workers' Compensation Board so that the divers can be allowed to go back to work. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if he could elaborate to me some of the details so that I could give you an adequate response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. I will allow you to ask another question. And rephrase it if you want Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please allow me any old time you want. We're talking about the divers training and also why did the WCB put a stop work order on these divers. For safety reasons? We're talking about training for divers and certification for the divers and these divers have been diving for 2 years now and they are very knowledgeable about their job. Why did they do the stop work order. Perhaps we need further training. I don't even know why we would need further training. I'm sure you can look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, you had already asked your oral question to Mr. Ng and I apologise to Mr. Ng, the Minister of Finance as he already responded to you by taking your question under notice. Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 206 - 1(3): Premier's Travel

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to our Premier. Since the Premier is usually invited overseas and around the world and since he is travelling quite a bit, does his travel benefit the Nunavut communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm usually very proud to go visiting and thankful. I realise how we can help and give support to the communities of Nunavut and every time I go to the communities, they make me realise

what their needs are, or what their requirements are and what their issues are so it's very beneficial when I visit the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): I apologise Mr. Speaker, when you realise something, to me that means you never knew, but you realise it for the first time. I just wanted to clarify that term. I know that touring the communities and visiting the communities does benefit him a lot. Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I ask again, will the benefits you see be reflected in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I attend all sorts of meetings. I deal with financial aspects and it's very interesting to see the communities that require assistance and I know that when you have seen them, you really believe what the requirements are and I report to my colleagues about the concerns and the issues that I have heard. These are very beneficial because they don't just come from me, they come from the communities themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 207 - 1(3): Gun Control Legislation

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I direct my question to the Minister of Justice. It's along the line of the question I asked about gun control. NTI are responsible for the Land Claims Agreement and the beneficiaries. We have to pay close attention to the beneficiaries so that they can follow the statutes. I was wondering if you have met with the NTI in regards to gun control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut is not really working on the gun control issue. We don't have that responsibility, it's the Federal Government that has that responsibility through the RCMP. I myself have not met with the NTI in regards to this issue but I have met with the person who worked in that area to find out how we can make it easier for gun registration. But the Government of Nunavut does not have the jurisdiction so therefore I have not met with NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question (Out of Order) 208 - 1(3): Gun Safety Training

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for gun control, gun safety, and training. I've never seen any kind of training on gun safety. Do we have any certified people who can instruct gun safety. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. That was out of order. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Question 209 - 1(3): Letter from NTI President on Fuel Increases

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Petroleum Products. The president of NTI did write a letter to your department. Could you table the letter minister.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Petroleum Products, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a copy of this letter from Paul Quassa. I'll be tabling that letter today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 210 - 1(3): Alcohol & Drug Treatment Centres

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Health. We're almost completed one year in our mandate, Mr. Speaker, and a concern was brought up in my community about drug and alcohol treatment centres. Does the minister responsible have any kinds of plans to open up any new treatment centres. Because I think that there is, in my feeling, a need for these drug and alcohol and healing centres in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very interesting and serious topic. In 1992, we opened up the first residential treatment centre in Nunavut. At that time we projected that 216 people would need residential treatment each year at that centre here in Nunavut. In actuality, Mr. Speaker, instead of seeing 216 clients, we saw 7 clients in 1994, 34 in 1995, 57 in 1996, 25 in 1997 and 21 in 1998. A total of 119 patients in four years.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of that program in 1998/99, according to the figures presented to me was 640 thousand dollars, Mr. Speaker. So what we're trying to do as a government is to analyse where we should be putting our resources. Should we be putting our resources into the community and developing the capacity within the drug and alcohol

counsellors at the community level or should we be putting them into building a facility and then putting programs in that facility.

So that's the question Mr. Speaker, we're doing a review of that right now. Most residential treatment centres in my understanding Mr. Speaker, in the north are closed. In the Yukon, the treatment centre is closed, the Northwest Territory treatment centre is closed, and indeed Mr. Speaker, the residential treatment centre in Apex is also closed. So we're not unique in that aspect, but Mr. Speaker, let me say, if someone in Nunavut needs residential treatment, then they will receive it and they have been receiving it and according to my notes again, we have been sending people out of the territory. We've had four people so far this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That answers part of my question and in our communities and I'm sure the honourable minister has lived in some of them, that when you have an individual that has an addiction problem whether it's alcohol, drugs, or whatever other inhalant, sure we have capable, very capable, drug and alcohol workers in our communities.

But sometimes the individual is in circumstances where an outpatient service does not provide the type of care they need. In some cases I would think that the person would have to be removed from the community to get away from the peer pressure of the alcohol, drugs and inhalants. The minister replied to me that there are four people in the south. To me, that is going against what we were talking about when we were creating Nunavut, was taking care of our own and looking after each other, self-reliance and everything like that.

Does the minister foresee in the very near future having an institution or a little place that people can go to and rehabilitate rather than sending them south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very interesting topic because there are different types of addictions. Mr. Speaker, there's the psychological and physical addiction to a certain drug or problem, for example, alcohol. For those with true addictions Mr. Speaker, the option of residential treatment is one that we've been looking at in the Apex Treatment Centre.

But if we're going to treat people Mr. Speaker, we have to treat the whole person. Taking Ed Picco out of Hall Beach or Baker Lake and putting him in Iqaluit and then treating him for six weeks has been found not to work. That's why those treatment centres in those other communities have closed. If the member is asking me is this government contemplating opening up treatment centres in all of our communities, the answer would be no. What we will do Mr. Speaker, is build a capacity which we are

trying to do right now in each of our communities to be able to treat people with the different types of addictions that they have. The member is right, some of those are drug addictions, and some of those are alcohol addictions and so on. Each addiction is different, they can all be treated differently, the different types of substance abuse that they're having trouble with. Remember Mr. Speaker, let me make it clear, that any person that needs treatment receives the treatment that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognise that the honourable minister is dealing with an addiction himself in regards to tobacco and he is doing very well and I'd hate to see us have to relocate him south some place which would leave a big void there with the Health Department. On a more serious note Mr. Speaker, the whole gist of my question here is we had a drug and alcohol treatment centre at Apex and I know he gave me the numbers but I also know there were people dispatched over to the west, such as Yellowknife. But the thing is we're talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and if we're going to take people away from their home communities, I don't think it's a good idea to send them south because they're not going to have the people around them that probably can help them deal with their problems as good as Inuit people if they're trained to deal with their own people in drug and alcohol related issues.

So I encourage the minister to re-evaluate what he's doing in his proposal and when can we expect to see it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Mr. McLean, for his support in helping me with my addiction. Mr. Speaker, 119 people in roughly four years who went through the treatment centre in Apex. The average cost per person at that time was 50 thousand dollars for a six-week treatment. Mr. Speaker that equates to 6 million dollars over that four year period.

So the member is right, one of the things that we're trying to do as a department is to look at the expenditure of the 6 million dollars to see if that money was spent wisely and could we take that 6 million dollars, Mr. Speaker, Mr. McLean, take that 6 million dollars and put it back into the community and train our drug and alcohol counsellors, train our social workers to deal with those types of addictions in our communities. I agree with the member, I don't agree with taking someone out of their community and sending them south and that's why I'm opposed I guess in certain ways to opening up the treatment centre.

Because over the last few years, the studies have shown that if you take a person out of their community and away from their family, and providing that residency treatment, it doesn't work. Because they relapse and that person has to go back to that same environment. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Question period is over. (interpretation) We will break for twenty minutes.

>>*Assembly recessed at 3:35 p.m. and resumed at 4:15 p.m.*

Speaker (interpretation): Back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Mr. McLean.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti and my fellow colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to reply to the Commissioner's address. As of last week, it's been one year since I had the privilege of being elected as an MLA to represent my home community of Baker Lake. I still feel good for having been elected. This strong support that I have received from my constituency was overwhelming. I want to thank my constituents for having continued strong support and good advice.

It's always difficult to single out certain people who were especially helpful to me because I know some will be left out. However, I want to mention a group of people who have provided critical support and guidance and continue to be very valued advisors and supporters. I am grateful to all the elders of Baker Lake, but I do want to make particular attention of some very special people, Barnabus Pariour and his wife were very inspiring to me. Mr. Pariour has recently been honoured, has recently honoured our community by being appointed to the Nunavut Law Review Commission by the Premier. I want to thank the Premier for accepting this wise elder for such an important role.

I want to thank the late Titus Ateetnat who sadly passed away not long ago. Irene Kiktalak is another valued advisor who has recently been honoured with a doctorate from the University of Guelph. Jacob Akeenalik, a strong member of my campaign committee, and others who provided me with great support were Norman Atungaluk and Sally and David Webster. Robert Seeteenak was my able official agent and Joe Apaluktuk did a good job as my campaign manager. Most importantly of all, I wouldn't have run and couldn't have won without the strong support and encouragement of my wife Emily and our children Leean, Kyle and Terrance. I know that I didn't get everyone's vote in the last election but I now feel that I represent the entire community.

I believe that we will make progress in our community if we pull together as one voice to make a better life for our elders, children and ourselves. I have been fortunate in the past year that I haven't had to be away from home for too long. That was the main reason I chose not to run for Cabinet. The people of Baker Lake told me they wanted me to be accessible. I have opened an office in the Jesse Oonark centre so people can drop in and talk to me, to give me advice and express their concerns. I am very pleased this is happening now.

In this reply to the Commissioner's Address I want to first turn to some of the very important issues I promised to work on during my campaign. One of the key issues I spoke about was the need to create more jobs for the growing population of my community.

Decentralization of Government of Nunavut jobs in Baker Lake. When I was running for office, I knew that the Inuit leaders and the Interim Commissioner had committed to the decentralization of jobs in Nunavut. I promised to work to ensure that some of these decentralized jobs came to Baker Lake where unemployment is very, very high. My goal is not only to have these jobs created in Baker Lake but to have these jobs filled by the people of Baker Lake as well. In that connection, I very much welcomed the Premier's statement on the opening day of this Rankin Inlet session that the decentralization plans of the Government of Nunavut will also include funds to provide training where the capacity may still need to be developed in a community to ensure that the new jobs go to local people.

I was also very pleased when the Premier wrote in his letter to the Mayor of Baker Lake on February 11, 2000, that one of the important benefits of decentralization for communities is the training that will be provided for Nunavummiut. I applaud his commitment. So I am very pleased that 4 out of the 6 jobs of Sport Nunavut are held by local residents of Baker Lake and that the information technology position established by the Department of Public Works in Baker Lake has been filled by Brian Putnak following completion of his training in a specialised field.

I have been working hard to ensure that there will be movement of government positions to Baker Lake once the new government office building is completed sometime in the year 2000. Sport Nunavut is already established in Baker Lake, and is here to stay I might add. I am very pleased that 4 of those 6 positions have been filled, like I said, by long-term residents of Baker Lake. The development division of the Department of Community Government & Transportation will be moving 6 positions into Baker Lake in the near future as well. I am also very pleased that Baker Lake will be the headquarters of the Nunavut library system and will acquire at least 5 positions along with support staff.

I would like to express my opinion that Nunavut should make careful plans to establish its own Workers' Compensation Board. This should be done in full consultation with those affected representatives of employers and workers who contribute to the Workers' Compensation Board and who benefit most from its existence. Making a transition from the present joint NWT and Nunavut Workers' Compensation Board will also undoubtedly require a period of intense negotiations.

Outpost camps, alternatives to jail and another important issue I spoke about in my campaign was the strong concern of my constituents that young and first time offenders who are in jail are not being helped to get better so they do not get into trouble again. The elders in Baker Lake believe strongly that on the land programs at outpost camps can provide effective rehabilitation for certain offenders, young and first offenders and those

serving the last part of their terms. Early in my term I approached the Hon. Jack Anawak, Minister of Justice, with this idea and was very pleased to receive his support and encouragement and as a result, the Nunavut Department of Justice has been actively working with respect to community leaders in Baker Lake in establishing outpost camps as alternatives to jail. I am expecting to see this program in operation this coming fall.

I would like to acknowledge the key role of the Baker Lake Justice Committee. I know that this program when it is implemented will not only prove to be a less costly alternative to warehousing our young people and putting offenders in costly jails far away from their homes, but even more important it will restore and enhance their self-esteem and pride. The outpost camp program also will recognize traditional knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit by taking advantage of the wisdom and knowledge and compassion of our respected elders. These outpost camps will support and teach our young people their traditional economy and way of life. I give my whole-hearted endorsement to this initiative. I am convinced that more communities like this one, in more communities will reduce crime.

Replacing the decrepit old, falling down, rotten Jonah Amitnaaq School. Another issue is the deteriorating condition of the Jonah Amitnaaq School. This school was built in 1957. It is currently the oldest in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This school is in bad shape and in fact it has started to literally fall apart. The situation was well described in a headline in Kivalliq News on November 24, 1999 entitled, "Flirting with Disaster". The story described how a light fixture fell from the deteriorating ceiling of a classroom of the junior high wing and crashed to the student's desk below. Fortunately, this happened just after the students were dismissed for lunch. This frightening incident resulted in the Baker Lake Education Council closing that wing for two months while temporary repairs were made.

In the course of investigating the building, evidence of asbestos was found. Asbestos is not allowed in modern schools or any other buildings today, because it is very dangerous to human beings. Tests were done on various sections of hallway pipes in the school and they were found to have between 10 and 30% of serpentine asbestos fibres. Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that our school children should be exposed to such dangerous materials. I have been deeply concerned about this issue not only for the very obvious and serious health reasons, but also because these concerns are a serious distraction to the students from their studies. I would like to thank the Minister of Education, the Hon. James Arvaluk for his concern and support about this issue from the first moment I approached him about it. I believe that addressing this serious and urgent problem is a priority for the Minister and his department, and I am looking forward seeing concrete plans to deal with this issue.

Community based health and social initiatives. My community also has pressing health and social needs. I believe that the most effective health and social programs must be community based, and taking advantage of our people who have been taking good care of each other for thousands of years. A perfect example of this principle is the Baker Lake pre-natal program run by Betty Houston and Laura Pruver, two long-term local residents.

These dedicated women secured funding from the federal government to teach pregnant women and young mothers how to cook and use country food in a nutritious manner, so that their babies will be healthier.

The program is so successful I understand other communities are adopting it. It has also been incorporated into a health promotion campaign on CBC television. I want to commend these two residents for their hard work to make this program what it is. We know that one of the worrying trends is the health status of northern peoples and its premature and low birth weight babies. This program is working very well against this trend in Baker Lake, and it makes very good use of one of our abundant natural resources, country food.

In my campaign it was also very clear that constituents want to see social issues addressed. One very strong concern was the need to hire and train an Inuit mental health worker. People need counselling for depression, sexual abuse and family violence. They have told me how difficult it was to talk about themselves and these very sensitive issues unless the counsellor can understand the language and culture. This knowledge is not something which can be learned in a southern university or school of social work. This is an example of the residents' desire to take advantage of traditional knowledge about traditional healing.

So since the election I have been trying to gain support from the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Keewatin Social Services board for a simple request that I would like to establish a training position for a local mental health worker. It seems so obvious to me that the people providing counselling and support must understand the language and culture of those seeking help. I am still waiting for results for this important request. I know that the Minister and his department have been working very hard on the transition from health boards to the department of health and getting the department up to capacity. I will continue to push to deal with this need.

On another matter, I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for a speedy response to the Hamlet and myself following our request to get the Baker Lake Health Centre up to full capacity of 5 nurses from its low level of 2 nurses a year ago. I want to also make particular mention of Donna Brown, the nurse in charge who has worked under trying circumstances in our community and I am very pleased she has recently committed to a new term in Baker Lake. We are very grateful to Donna and her colleagues for their commitment to us, especially as we know it is a time of nursing shortages in many parts of Canada.

Supporting the traditional economy. Another serious issue in my election campaign was giving more support to all aspects of what I call the traditional economy. I told carvers that I would try to find ways for them to get soapstone. I am therefore very pleased to note that this year, through the Community Initiatives Program of the Department of Sustainable Development, the Hamlet of Baker Lake was allocated 10 thousand dollars to retrieve soapstone from Jigging Point. I am also pleased that a local man, Mark Toongwak has been contracted to carry and deliver the stone to the new carving room

just opened in the Jessie Oonark Centre. This carving room was funded by the Nunavut Development Corporation, which is ultimately accountable to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

I'd like to thank and acknowledge the Hon. Peter Kilabuk also for the generous contribution from his department for the Baker Lake prospector program which is chaired by my constituent Andy. I hope this will be an ongoing program because I know mining has great potential in that area. It is great to be in my office in the Jessie Oonark building in Baker Lake alongside the print makers who have now been funded four years in a row by the Community Initiatives Program, as well as the lady seamstresses who have been funded for the second year as well.

So Mr, Speaker, the traditional economy is alive and well. I am optimistic that with the continued support of Mr. Kilabuk and his officials, these programs will continue to thrive and flourish for the well being of all my constituents. I am particularly pleased to see support for these programs because the beneficiaries of these programs usually have large extended families. While I am very pleased about the support of what I call the traditional economy since I was elected, there is still much, much more to do. Baker Lake is known for its arts and crafts but we have other areas that rely on our own human resources as well.

To create a solid economic base for our community we also need to support tourism. Tourists that want to view nature, the so-called eco-tourists as well as those who will come for sport fishing and hunting. Unlike tourists in other parts of Canada, who can drive in campers and largely look after themselves, tourists coming into Nunavut will support our airlines and stay in our hotels and rely on our guides and outfitters to take them out on the land. Handled carefully, they will not only preserve the natural wonders, but they will also support our traditional way of life, the Inuit language and culture. The world now knows about Nunavut since the creation of the new territory. Now we have to capitalise on this by getting the world to visit Nunavut, to buy our arts and crafts, to view nature, to hunt and fish. More of our people need to be trained as guides and supported as outfitters.

Our new Nunavut government must develop stronger new strategies to take advantage of our natural resources and our strong traditional economy. I would like to see more support for tourism than is now in place in Nunavut. Tourism could be much stronger in all Nunavut communities. I must say that I am not convinced we are spending our money as effectively as we could on tourism in Nunavut. I would like to see more direct benefits to communities, I would wonder if we are spending too much money on staff and travel, and not on product development and promotion. Is the department measuring the effectiveness of our spending in this area, should our priority not be more community based initiatives, more community tourism officers, and local training programs.

Where we have potential for economic benefits in our community let's train people locally. Isn't it better that we bring one instructor into a community to train 20 local people instead of sending one person out to a far away training program. If the

Meadowbank gold project goes ahead, I will be urging our government to support community based training in areas like heavy equipment operators so Baker Lake residents will have first chance at these new jobs. I will have something more to say about the draft business incentive policy once it is tabled in this house, but I will want to simply say today that I think the best incentive for northern businesses to provide northern benefits is for the Government of Nunavut and NTI to provide incentives based on training and employment of northern residents. Northern benefits mean local jobs and training. Community based training and creating new jobs are the key to achieving the Bathurst Inlet goal of putting people first.

Creating new jobs and the potential for mining. For my constituency realizing my campaign promise to look at ways of creating new jobs in my community requires that I look at the mining sector. With rich mineral deposits near Baker Lake I can see the potential for long-term job opportunities and mining. I understand that Mr. Kilabuk's department has just completed a mining policy for Nunavut. I wish to congratulate the minister and his department for this. Clearly there must be a careful and orderly approach taken to examine every potential mining development and achieving maximum benefits for our residents.

Many of my constituents are optimistic about the Meadowbank gold project of Cumberland Resources, which is located close to Baker, about 70 kilometres north. Mr. Speaker, although the deposit is not huge, this find is apparently the richest concentration of gold in North America. I have been in constant touch with the senior executives of the company expressing my very strong concerns about maximising local benefits to my community if this project goes ahead. If the mine is approved, following the regulatory and environmental review process, which we all agree must be done thoroughly and rigorously, I will be pushing hard that full infrastructure and support for this mine must be based in Baker Lake. This is the only way to maximise business and employment opportunities.

So far the company has been respectful of the fact that their find is located on Inuit lands and that they must therefore work within the Nunavut land claim agreement to achieve a fair and mutual beneficial Inuit impacts and benefits agreement which will reflect my community's desire to benefit from their own natural resources.

Achieving self-reliance. Mr. Speaker, one of the main objectives of the Bathurst Mandate of the Government of Nunavut is self-reliance. Let's look at the enormous challenges this poses. How do we create 10 thousand jobs in Nunavut. I think our government must take a realistic look at the potential of jobs in mining. I know that we must look at each project carefully. The NLCA and the mandate of our Nunavut and Federal government give us the tools to ...

>> *Applause*

I challenge our Premier and his entire cabinet and our minister of DSD to take a closer look at opportunities at mining. If this Meadowbank project goes ahead my community

will be looking at about 120 jobs in the construction phase including maintenance of a road, hauling fuel and supplies once the mine is built. We are looking at 70-80 jobs at the mine itself. This could have a profound and positive effect in Baker Lake, which has suffered far, far too long from at least half the people being without full time employment. I don't have to look far before I see other, bigger opportunities in this region. I don't want to tread on my fellow MLAs turf but I do know that not far from Rankin Inlet is a potential mine, the Meladine project which is twice as big as the one I have spoken about in Baker Lake.

People from all over the Keewatin, if they get trained, should have access to these jobs. I would urge our new government, to become more aware and supportive of the potential from the mining sector and once the mining developments have received approval, following careful environmental and economic review, the Inuit will also benefit through their land claim from royalties which must be paid for minerals taken out of the lands. I believe we must press the Federal Government to give us their share of royalties from these resources.

If our Nunavut Government is serious about self-reliance, we must pay careful attention to any opportunity to create jobs for Nunavummiut which will generate income tax revenues. We know how much we need sources of revenue in Nunavut. Almost every day in this Assembly we hear calls for money, more money to provide subsidies for fuel, power, transportation costs, to build more houses, to provide more medical travel, more nurses, more teachers, but without new sources of revenue we are going to be harder pressed to do more with less.

How else are we going to provide housing, power subsidies, better health care, better education for a rapidly growing population. We cannot rely on the Federal Government for money. We must look for every opportunity to create our own sources of revenue.

When I ran for this office in this Assembly, I hoped I could work with the new Nunavut Government to make life better for the little people in Nunavut. The long term residents, people who don't always have a lot of formal education, these are the people who make up more than 50% of the unemployed people in constituencies like mine.

Let us work together to make sure we don't lose an opportunity to create even one more job. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Congratulations on your first reply to an opening address. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to opening address. Item 10, Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 29 - 1(3): Churchill to Kivalliq Region Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document entitled, "Churchill to Kivalliq Region Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study".

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Tabled Document 30 - 1(3): Increase in Gasoline Prices Effect to Inuit and Traditional Lifestyle

Hon. Manitok Thompson: I would like to table the letter that was written to me and Mr. Peter Kilabuk from Paul Quassa, President of NTI, "Increase in Gasoline Prices Effect to Inuit and Traditional Lifestyle". Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Tabling of Documents. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motion

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, February 25, 2000, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Arviat that tabled document 27 - 1(3) on the Business Incentive Policy be moved into committee of the whole for discussion.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to move my motion today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Notices of Motion. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The member is requesting unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Any nays. There are no nays. You have consent, Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 12 - 1(3): TD 27 - 1(3) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arviat that tabled document 27 - 1(3) on the Business Incentive Policy be moved into the committee of the whole for discussion. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Tabled Document 27 - 1(3) is referred to the committee of the whole. Motions. Motions.

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister's Statement 45 - 1(3), Minister's Statement 50 - 1(3), Minister's Statement 51 - 1(3), Tabled Document 20 - 1(3) and 27 - 1(3) with Deputy Speaker, Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you. We will break for five minutes before we proceed. Five minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 4:50 p.m. and resumed at 5:05 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree to begin with general comments. Does anybody have any comments. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation to come in front of the committee.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Do you have another comment Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, I apologize, but I would like the Power Corporation Minister to sit before the committee.

Ikuma Report

Chairperson (interpretation): The Minister of the Power Corporation sat in his chair yesterday and if he could come up and sit in front of the committee with his officials. Minister Picco could you introduce your officials.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman and good afternoon to the Committee. With me today I have Laura Gauthier, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Executive

who has worked very hard on helping to compile the Ikuma Report and indeed, was the Chairperson I guess of the Ikuma Committee.

Sitting behind us is Mr. Peter Scott, who has been attached to this file from the Department of the Executive. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. We will be dealing with tabled document 45 - 1(3) and 20 - 1(3). We will be dealing with those two items together. If the members have any comments or questions regarding the tabled document and the Minister's Statement. Any comments or questions from the committee members regarding the Power Corporation. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be reading our recommendations on the Ikuma Report. That the Government of Nunavut established the Power Corporation as an independent Crown Corporation. Number 2, that all energy delivery services, electricity and oil be eventually consolidated in one corporation but not now. Three, that the Government of Nunavut consider an alternative to the independent Public Utilities Board form of regulation currently required by legislation. Four, that the Government of Nunavut continue some form of rates subsidy for the short-term future, but only the short-term future. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes we think that the recommendations read by the member fall in line with the report and some of the recommendations, indeed, are from the report. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This report was put together and is in use by the Nunavut Government. I have a question, will these regulations be used by the Nunavut Government, will those regulations be put in place for the Nunavut Government. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the recommendations that you found in the report will be followed by the Government. Those are the recommendations that were brought to Cabinet and confirmed there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We don't fully understand the report and the recommendations and because I am not too clear about the report I am not sure if I would be able to support the recommendations. I feel that I should be able to understand it clearly in order to support it. So as a Government, if we pass the motion

without being too clear about the motion we would look bad later and start to regret our lack of understanding.

So, with that, I wonder if we could deal with this at the next sitting so that we could have time to look through the report in more detail and have a better understanding of it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. If you would rather deal with this in Iqaluit, if you would like to defer this item, you could make a motion to defer this item to the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly in Iqaluit. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I should ask this question first before I make a motion. The documents that we have are a motion and if we approve it will we be following the recommendations. Will we be implementing it as soon as it's approved.

Chairperson: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, going back to November and in consultation with the members and appraising the members over the past several months about what we were doing with the Ikuma Report and what we were trying to do with the Power Corporation coming from the transition agreement, a decision was brought forward because of the transition agreement that we had signed, with the creation of Nunavut, and with the agreement of the NWT Government, and the Office of the Interim Commissioner.

There is a long history there and I am not going to get into that. Mr. Chairman, the member is making a good point, the Ikuma Report is over a hundred pages long and over the last couple of days, many people have asked me about some of the points in the report itself. When we made this report public, and to the members, maybe more people need a chance to study it and debate some of the recommendations in it, but we are not here today to accept the report. We are here to debate the report and to talk about it and to have debate about the actualities itself.

The recommendations have been accepted and we're moving forward. As the members know I appeared before the committee, the committee recommended that I advertise for the Nunavut Power Corporation President, because we didn't do that in the south or in the north. So that was one of the recommendations that we followed.

But I can commit to the member, Mr. Chairman, that if there is a concern with the understanding of the report, because it has been translated, it is a weighty volume, we can arrange to sit down and maybe go through the report itself and talk about the recommendations themselves.

We also have available the summary, and the summary is about thirty some pages and that is a condensed version of the larger report. Maybe that would help the member too for understanding purposes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. If the member would like to make a motion you could but before you do that you have to give other members the opportunity to ask questions, and the motion will be after the questions.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I'll give the other members a chance to ask questions and get back to my motion later.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Following the list that I have. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my colleague brings up a good point in reference to the detail and in some cases the areas that are technical and complicated. Having said that, I've had an opportunity to review the short version and vaguely went through the larger document. I'm not concerned as to what is in the document, I'm concerned about what is not in it.

We talked in the last week in reference to the price of fuel, and we indicated that harvesters will pay an extra one million dollars to fuel their machines and equipment for their harvesting. The price has just risen over Christmas. Having said that, Mr. Chairman, I note that, maybe I've missed it, but in the report it does not identify or ask, the criteria is not set out, to look at other alternative sources of power, for example hydro. I go back earlier statements in the House, in reference to the power grid from Manitoba to Nunavut, and the cost implications and savings that could be there. I'm curious as to why the minister did not include that aspect in his study. It would seem to me that is first and foremost.

We are in most cases totally at the mercy of other people and other countries when it comes to the pricing of our fuel. There is no guarantee that it will stop at thirty dollars a barrel, which it's at now. I would assume the minister is looking toward trying to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels for many reasons. Not only the price of fuel and it being unpredictable, but also from an environmental standpoint. I'm talking about the savings that could be there if we were to look at a hydro line.

So my question to the minister is that, given that the report is very detailed and in some cases very complicated, I think overall that it is a good report but there is one factor that isn't addressed, and I'm curious to why the minister did not put this in the criteria. Thank you

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Thank you member for the comments and questions. On the first page of the summary that the member referred to you will see the reason for the report is spelled out, and those reason are as follows. The options to assess the needs of Nunavut's energy, Nunavut's future electrical energy needs.

Fundamentally the Nunavut Government must decide on one of two choices, to continue with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation or go it alone. If the choice is to work out a shared arrangement with our western partners then several critical questions need to be met. So, Mr. Chairman, the basic thrust of this report was to see if we needed to set up our own power corporation, or should we stay with the west. The answer was we needed to move forward on our own power corporation, and then the report flows into what we need to do logistically and administratively to look at setting up that power corporation.

Looking at alternative energy sources and so on were touched on in the report but were outside the scope of the report. Because the report is premised on should we maintain the transition agreement that Mr. O'Brien is very familiar with, that was signed off with the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the timelines being that if we didn't come to an understanding by April 1, 2000, then the transition agreement set up for the separation of the corporation east and west would be in effect.

So I hope that helps answer Mr. O'Brien's question on alternative energy sources and why they weren't touched on in the report, because that was not the mandate of the report. Thank you Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to qualify my point and my comments. I know there was a very talented group of individuals that were pulled together to do this report. There have been many meetings and gatherings to come to this final conclusion. I just fail to see why the minister would not include this very important aspect of energy. I think it is very clear we have no control over the price of fuel oil and it would just seem to me that I would be logical that it would be included in the study.

I commend you on the report but it's not what is in it, it is what is not in it. It's obvious that this is not the conclusion of your study. When would the minister be contemplating on reaching out to this area. I think the time is here and there is no question in my mind and everybody else's that the sooner that we lower our dependency on fossil fuels the better off we will be in many ways. Thank you Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairperson, this is a good report and it spells out the different options that are available to the people of Nunavut, as Mr. O'Brien has said, but the focus of the report was to see if we should have our own power corporation and should we separate from the Northwest Territories, that was the focus of the report. If you go through the report Mr. Chairman, you will see, for example, on the summary we talk about electrical versus fuel. We talk about the opportunities of economies of scale.

Another recommendation from the report was to integrate the petroleum products division into the new Nunavut Power Corporation, and that would save a lot of money

because of the economies of scale. There are also other technologies that are out there, and with the technologies that are moving very fast, we realize that at the present time we are held captive to outside sources for our fuel because we have to use diesel to generate our electricity, but there are also other alternatives on the marketplace other than going to an electrical line from Churchill. One of those options is the hydrogen cell, actually there is a company working out of the Keewatin, I believe coming out of Arviat or Baker Lake doing some work in that area.

There is also the secondary stage drop type of generators. Instead of having a generator in a river you can put the generator in a lake or pond and that can generate several megawatts of electricity. That was described in detail last week when we met with the Manitoba hydro officials. We could go ahead and spend three hundred or four hundred million dollars to build a hydro line and the technology might move past that point, like we're seeing in other countries or states like California. That was not a part of the report itself, studying what options are available in the generation of energy. The report was predicated on finding out if we should separate or set up our own power corporation.

The next step for the Nunavut Power Corporation, Mr. Chairman, would be to look at what Mr. O'Brien is talking about. I've already committed in the House today to make sure that the Ikuma committee would take an in-depth look at the Manitoba hydro proposal to see what is feasible and what is not feasible from the Nunavut point of view, because that is the report that has been put together for the government of Manitoba with some assistance from the Northwest Territories. But it is technical, and they say it is technically feasible. They have not attached a real price tag for us. That is what we need to do now, to see where we go from here. To get from point A to point B.

I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman, my final comment. Mr. Chairman, I still have difficulty in accepting the fact that this wasn't included in such a major report. The minister has explained himself and I will have to accept that. I think to a certain degree we may have missed the boat. We could have got the jump on this issue sooner than later.

Mr. Chairman, the costs the minister speaks of in regards to the hydro line, I think for the most part when we talk about 200 million dollars for the cost of a hydro line or 400 million dollars or whether we go on and say 1.2 billion dollars for a road linkage, I don't think we should be concentrating on those figures, because let's face it, those costs would have to be picked up by the Federal Government. We are not in a situation where we could, and I think the Finance Minister would agree with that, unless that surplus is greater than he is telling us, to cover a project like this.

I may have to ask the media about the amount of that surplus. Minister, given the fact that it would require federal dollars to take on a project like this, what would your next step

be. I know you have indicated the next step to further this along, when do you anticipate this happening. When can we hope you would initiate another extension of the report, before we spend tens and tens of million dollars of dollars replacing generators and so forth, with existing plants and building new plants.

In some ways we can get the jump on this and access some hydro from outside sources. One last example, it is my understanding that if we wait too long the mining activities that are now coming forth whether it be the Rankin or Baker Lake areas, their needs for power, energy will be immediate and one example given to me for outside this area right here, for a mining company to build a power plant of their own it would be in excess of 40 million dollars. If we could get the jump on this we would have these companies tying into this line we speak of which would help subsidize the cost of this. Not only from an infrastructure standpoint but from the purchasing power.

I think this is an issue that is critical and I think it should be dealt with as soon as possible. I'm somewhat disappointed that it wasn't included in the report. The fact is it is not. I would ask when do you anticipate taking the next step to review this. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: In the recent mining development in the Northwest Territories the diamond mine, they were within 200 kilometres of the Snare Lake hydro project. They didn't run an electrical hydro line from that station to the diamond mine, 200 kilometres away, to give them a power supply. So what that means Mr. Chairman, is that just because we have a hydro line doesn't mean they will hook up to it.

What discussions need to take place Mr. Chairman, is as the Nunavut Government is doing a comprehensive review of the pre-feasibility study, some discussions would have to take place with the mining companies to find out what they consider their peak load would be and would they be prepared to tap into this line. But that is all outside the scope of the report that were talking about today.

The member did ask me when we would be doing the comprehensive analysis of the pre-feasibility study by Manitoba. In the House today I said we would be looking at that in the coming months, I would expect that it would take maybe three to four months maybe longer. It would be inter-departmentally with the co-operation of some of the other departments including the Executive and Sustainable Development. Again the report, the pre-feasibility study by Manitoba Hydro has severe implications for the land claim beneficiaries, environmental assessments, if they began to do the feasibility study today for that project it would take between a year and two years to complete that study.

My understanding is from my briefing last week they are looking to three to five years for construction. So you are looking at six to seven years down the road, for that line and anything can happen in six or seven years. So the first thing this government has to do, the Nunavut Power Corporation, once it is set up, is analyse that report from Manitoba to see what is feasible and so on. That is our next step. And we will do that in the next

three to six months and Mr. Chairperson, as I committed in this House, once that report analysis is done it will go to the proper committee of this House and then to the House itself. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I don't want to say the interpreters are no good and I don't want to say the translators are no good, since we have different dialects. When they say options in English in the translations we could not really understand part of the terminology in Inuktitut. The Assembly has many rules and procedures, the person that is sitting next to me could not really understand it.

Could you say the proper term for options in Inuktitut. The summary, I feel we should find the proper term for option and I just want to elaborate that to the rest of the unilingual members that they thought it was going to be a policy and it is only going to be an options report document.

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I hope they can understand what I'm saying. I'm not trying to say the translators are bad it is because their dialects are so different that's why we had a misunderstanding. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk, for the clarification. And it's not a question it is more of a comment. Thank you for the comment. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the report indicates that one of the recommendations is that we have our own Power Corporation. My question to the minister is by doing this, by having our own power corporation, will it cost the Nunavut residents more or less than it does today prior to the split. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Thank you to the member for the question. Mr. Chairman, there are some start-up costs associated with the start up of our own power corporation but the actual delivery of power to Nunavummiut we don't actually see that as costing us any more and indeed in our analysis it may cost us a little less. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that aside from the initial start up cost that we will be faced with...maybe two questions. One, what would they anticipate those costs will be. Two, he has also indicated that it would cost us less than it does now, through the analysis he performed. Is the minister then indicating that we will be seeing, if this option is pursued, that we will see a reduction in power rates if this option is pursued. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe for illustration purposes if the member has the report in front of him he could turn to note 1010 Option A - Minimum Outsourcing. He will be able to see some of the analysis for himself done by the working group and it is in the tabled report.

If he gets that then I will follow along and go through the analysis and the members can follow and see the analysis also.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: The document is not numbered. The number was 1010?

Chairperson: Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: 1010 Option A - Minimum outsourcing. The reason why I've asked you to look at that Mr. Chairman, is because as the member knows and the Assembly knows that part of Ikuma report was to find out what level of outsourcing we would have in place and what that means is, on April 1st, 2001, would we have the capacity in Nunavut to do all the billing, invoicing, payroll, capital planning and so on. And the answer is no.

So we have to purchase that expertise from one of the other utility companies. We have gone now and narrowed that down to three different utility companies. Once the new President and CEO of the Nunavut Power Corporation is hired, then that person would be able to look at the analyses of which of the REIs we'd want to put into place and then what level of outsourcing. So, if the member has got 1010, on the cost impact of an independent power corporation, he will see the cost there and follow along. He will also see the average cost/kilowatt hour based on those cost differentials.

The member then will note that we've taken all Nunavut communities and amalgamated them and averaged the cost out over a period of time and he will note then that the cost of Nunavut power, a kilowatt hour is anywhere from 41 cents to 63 cents and he will note on year five, 2005/2006, that the average cost per kilowatt hour will be 43.26 cents. Mr. Chairman, that would mean a considerable decrease in some rates in some communities. Now if the member would look at the page before that, page A14, he would also see the start up costs impact on the domestic customer and the annual increase will only be between 1 to 1.9 %.

Mr. Chairman, those are exciting numbers. Those are real numbers, Mr. Chairman. They're excellent numbers Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I must commend the minister for his ability to be able to dance around these numbers on these dazzling charts here. He

does that rather well. He must have rehearsed that a couple of times. Mr. Chairman, these numbers look good, what percentage, he said it was 1 point something, the number he talked about is supposed to be on this page. I still can't find it. I'm just wondering what, like I asked, what would those start up costs be in a number. Not as a percentage of whatever, if I could please ask him to answer in terms of dollars and cents what those start up costs would be. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, I'm not trying to dance around the numbers. The numbers are in front of the member and the members. All I'm saying is that the question was what the rate increase was. I explained that there was no actual rate increase, and actually we'll see some rates drop in some communities. But it depends on what level of outsourcing we do. If we purchase all of our services from let's say Manitoba Hydro, then the costs are going to be more than if we get half of the services from Manitoba Hydro. The graphs and the figures are in the book for deliberations or for questions. But I'll ask the ADM to maybe go into more detail on the costs, on the start up costs.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. I would like the Deputy to go ahead and explain. I forgot her name.

Ms. Gauthier: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If I could maybe draw attention to that document note 1010 that the minister referred to earlier, it looks like there are three similar documents that go one after the other. They map out three different scenarios. One where you see us doing more of the work and building up the power corporation as quickly as we can for April 01.

The second option, which is option B, moderate outsourcing, is kind of a mix of the two in terms of somebody helping us to do some of that work and us doing some of that work in house. Option C, is the maximum outsourcing model where you'll see somebody come in to do a complete turn key or they'll run the operation for us completely without us having to bring on any capacity for the power corp. So that's what the three different scenarios are about.

They are all in the same chart format so that you can see how much each of those options might cost the Government of Nunavut. When you look at note 1010, option A, there are numbers on the left-hand column that go from 1-20. What we've done is for the first three lines, 1-3, that shows you what we would be paying if we stayed with NTPC for the next five years. So you can see under years 1-5, across the top of that chart, the cost per kilowatt-hour that you and me and every other citizen of Nunavut would pay for power.

The next four lines from 4-15 are some of the costs that we've identified in setting up this power corporation. Line 4 identifies all the one-time costs that include leaving or separating from the Power Corporation which totals 2 million dollars. So if you look at line four, that totals roughly 2 million dollars. There are legal and consulting fees, severance liability, head office costs. All of these costs will have a large impact in terms

of these one time activities for setting up this power corporation but even if you factor that into the annual operating costs of the power corporation, the net difference is actually, as Minister Picco had mentioned, they are very much to our favour.

So if you look at line 12, and you compare line 12 and year one, 39.54, to line 3, which is 39.61/kilowatt hour, you'll notice that the rates will actually decrease for that first year. Not by much but there is a decrease. Year two, you look again at line 3 and you look again at line 12, and there's a difference there again of a slight increase. We expect that the cost for delivering power will go up every year because of inflation. There's going to be costs when it comes to replacing a generator in a community or what have you. There's going to be inflation costs as we go so you will notice that the numbers will go up over time but that's consistent with your regular inflation type activities. So I hope that helps to clarify the chart a little bit more.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Gauthier. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank Ms. Gauthier for her answer, for clarifying the chart. It makes a little bit more sense. So looking at it, then in answer to my question, the one time costs that we'll be looking at are roughly 3.8 million dollars in initial start up costs that we'll be facing. Is that correct.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is correct. Of course that would be less the 2 million dollars that would be the Government of Nunavut amount and that's the balance to be amortised, those costs over five years would be 1.8 million dollars. The member is correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Since I'm the Chairperson for the committee of the whole, please before you speak, I want you to be recognised by the Chairperson first. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chairman, maybe in light of the time, I'd like to ask if we could move to report progress now and continue on with some more questions for the minister and his staff tomorrow in committee of the whole. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Did you move a motion to report progress. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. Mr. Tootoo moved to report progress. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. We shall report progress.

Since we are going to report progress, I would like to thank Minister Picco and his official, Laura Gauthier, Thank you for appearing before this committee.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Speaker: Back to the Orders of the Day. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been reviewing tabled document 45-1(3) and would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker, I would move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation): A motion is on the floor. Secunder to the motion. Those in favour of the motion. Against. Carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 7 - Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 - Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet North that the Loan Authorization Act 2000/2001 be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7, has had third reading. Thank you, going to the Orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reminders for this evening, meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services at 6:30 in the hotel board room.

Meeting at 7:30 for all members, Arctic College Board of Governor's Hall. Reminder for tomorrow morning, at 11:00 A.M., hotel boardroom, meeting with the elders.

Orders of the Day, Thursday, February 24, 2000, half past one:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

- Motion 11-1(3)

- 17. First Reading of Bills
- 18. Second Reading of Bills
- 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 41 – 1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 50 – 1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 51 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 20 – 1(3), 27-1(3)

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. This session is adjourned until Thursday, February 24th, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*Assembly Adjourned at 5:02 p.m.*

