



Nunavut Canada
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 18

Monday, February 28, 2000

Pages 690 - 747

Rankin Inlet

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Monday, February 28, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Orders of the day Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 67 – 1(3): Mining in Nunavut

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today on a topic of great interest to the people of the Kivalliq, but also of interest to many communities in Nunavut.

That topic is the development of resource minerals. Presently the mining industry in Nunavut consists of two zinc mines, Nanisivik and Polaris, which employ 430 people and generate revenues of 225 million dollars a year. The Lupine gold mine is expected to reopen in the coming months and employ an additional 325 people. They may not be all Inuit people but there will be 325 people employed.

Over the past two years 125 million dollars has been invested by the private sector in exploration for minerals in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, a number of developments have resulted in making Nunavut one of the best regions in the world for investment in mineral exploration.

The signing of the 1993 Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and the creation of the Nunavut Government has lead to great interest and excitement in the mining world about the potential that exists in Nunavut. This year we increased funding to the Nunavut prospectors program to invest in the most important source of early information on mineral deposits.

In September in partnership with the Government of Canada we opened the Canada/Nunavut Geo-Science Centre, which will build an information base on which investment decisions will be made in Nunavut. Next week I will be participating in the Prospectors and Developers Annual Conference in Toronto where Nunavut will have its own trade show booth. I will be able to meet with the investors. Some of the mineral projects have been discovered recently and Nunavut showed tremendous potential here in the Kivalliq region.

Here in the Kivalliq region the Meladine and Meadowbank projects show great potential. The question we now must ask ourselves is, are we ready to take full advantage of these opportunities. The participation of Nunavummiut in the mining and mining related jobs is presently quite low. Mr. Speaker, if in the past industry and government were satisfied that the benefits of mineral development would largely pass over local communities, then let me say that we want more for Nunavut and Nunavummiut.

To achieve these goals we need above all to work with industry and Inuit organizations. Over the course of the next few months we be finalising a discussion paper on Preparing for Mining Development in Nunavut, which I hope will serve as a foundation for a new era in resource development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 68 – 1(3): Justice of the Peace Training

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last October I reported that the Department of Justice was about to start a training program for Justices of the Peace. I am pleased to tell you today that our Justice of the Peace Administrator, Mr. Neil Sharkey, held intensive training sessions for JPs in November and December. He continues to train on a one on one basis and has organised more sessions for March and April. It is important to ensure that we have enough JPs in our communities to carry out the work.

Presently we have 53 active JPs throughout the territory. We also have 17 inactive JPs who are still qualified but who are taking a break from their duties for one reason or another. There are JPs in 24 communities. However all 28 communities in Nunavut are served because some JPs travel as required. There are 10 new applications from individuals wishing to become JPs, and the Chief Judge will be deciding on these soon.

We are doing very well in terms of our numbers, but we must continue to recruit new JPs in the communities to ensure that we have full coverage of all communities. Our goal between now and 2002 is to have a total of 100 active JPs in Nunavut. This would allow us to have three in each of the 25 smaller communities and another 25 who would be divided among the three larger centres of Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. It is

important to have at least three JPs in the communities for a number of reasons. First, we need to be sure that there is always a JP available.

Second, so it will be possible to sit together and hear cases. Supporting each other is important and sometimes two heads are better than one. Third, having at least three JPs in communities will help to avoid conflicts where a JP might be asked to preside over a case involving a relative as the accused or victim.

Recruitment of new JPs is an important task and Neil Sharkey has made it his priority this year along with training. For example, he was recently in Rankin Inlet to discuss JP recruitment with the community. He is working closely with Chief Judge Brown on this. As new JPs are recruited they are assessed for their training needs and then trained by Mr. Sharkey and others. In order to assist the process, Mr. Sharkey is producing a new training manual for Nunavut JPs that will be ready in March.

Finally, I will say that our priority is to hire Inuktitut speaking JPs. While we also have some fine JPs who don't speak Inuktitut, it is important for us to reflect the make-up of our communities by ensuring that important positions like Justices of the Peace are filled by people who can communicate well with community members. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to tell the members that our Justice of the Peace recruitment and training program is making good progress towards its goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 69 – 1(3): Science Awards

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize students from Manni Ulujuk School who won science awards on February 22. I had the privilege of awarding students from grades 5 to 8 that were selected as winners for their science projects with Naullaq Arnaquq my ADM. The total number of students were 47 who placed between first and third place some being tied and in pairs or groups. There were winners in each grade and among these, 2 overall winners were chosen to take their work to the Kivalliq Regional Science Fair in March and 2 others who will be observers.

(interpretation ends) To name a few examples of the projects: Cultural Memory, Test for Fats, Ketchup Waste, Whether or not Weather, Crash. The two groups that were tied and were chosen for best overall and will go to the Kivalliq Regional Science Fair are: First place, S. Ningeocheak and C. Connelly. The other first place contestant is Rebecca Berthiaume. The other two groups that will be observers will be: second place, Kelli McLarty and Kathleen Merritt. Third place: R. Landry, Shuana Scobie and Victoria Ittinuar. Mr. Speaker, our students deserve recognition. I would like to extend a round of applause to all the winners and their teachers for their interest and work in science. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Congratulations to the students and the teachers. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 70 – 1(3): Staffing Capacity and IEP Update

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I raise today to update members of the Legislative Assembly with the third quarter staffing capacity and Inuit employment statistics within the Nunavut Government. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform this House that to date our government has filled 1 thousand nine hundred and ninety-seven positions, or 75 percent of the positions in all Nunavut Government departments and boards and agencies.

Overall Mr. Speaker, our Inuit employment rate is 44 percent. Since I last updated this House in October, our overall capacity has increased by 2 percent. In the Nunavut Government departments staffing capacity has increased to fifty-nine percent with an Inuit employment rate of forty-two percent. Based on the data we received capacity in the boards and agencies decreased slightly to eighty-seven percent with an Inuit employment rate of forty-six percent. Mr. Speaker, our staffing has been aggressive in initiating ninety-eight competitions during this quarter representing an increase over the previous two quarters.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that as graduates from the Nunavut Senior Assignment Program join our public service in April, and we continue to staff up our civil service during the next fiscal year, our capacity and Inuit employment statistics will increase as our government implements the Inuit Employment Plan strategies.

Our Inuit Employment Plan is designed to specifically target training programs to prepare Inuit for Nunavut Government jobs. Later on today Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling these statistics and our government's Inuit Employment Plan in the House so that all members may review it. In closing Mr. Speaker, I believe that if we all work together on a common goal, we can have a government that is representative of the people it serves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Ministers' Statements. Going back to the order of the day. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 147 – 1(3): MLA's Trip to Repulse Bay

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to report to you that we went to Repulse Bay with my colleagues and I'm glad some of the members of the Legislative Assembly could make it to Repulse Bay. I'm very happy they came

along with me and I would like to thank Premier Okalik and Minister Jack Anawak for coming to our community.

Later I started thinking when we got close to Repulse Bay that all of us were Inuit members and I was so proud and happy about that. There was not even one Qallunaaq although I'm not against Qallunaaq. I would like to apologise to our Minister of Health and Social Services because there was no room for him on the plane. I'm very sorry about that and perhaps some time in the future I would like to go to Repulse and Pelly Bay with the minister.

Also the hospitality was great in Repulse Bay and once we landed there we went to the hotel and then to the school gymnasium. They had a feast waiting for us. Everything was well prepared for us well ahead of time and the people were happy to see us. You could really see it in their faces that they were happy to see us.

After that in the evening we went to the community hall and all the members came along and the hospitality was great. The Hamlet Council was incredible and I would like to thank all the Inuit people of Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 148 – 1(3): Baffin Leaders Summit in Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell you of the Baffin Island Leaders meeting held December 6 to 9, 1999. My home community of Hall Beach was very pleased to be the host of the Baffin Leaders Summit. I would like to thank the Baffin leaders for choosing Hall Beach for its meeting, and thank the community and the Hamlet for welcoming the leaders.

Also, I would like to thank the cabinet ministers who attended the meeting including Premier Paul Okalik and Minister Ed Picco, Minister James Arvaluk and Minister Donald Haviyok. I would like to extend my thank you, although some of you only stayed for half the day. Mr. Speaker, we had a very good meeting and later today I will be tabling twenty-three resolutions passed at the leaders summit. They cover a broad range of subjects from transportation to health care.

I would like to mention motion number eleven about ongoing support for the Baffin Leader Summit. The motion points out that it is not clear who is responsible for providing ongoing support of the Baffin Leaders Summit. We have to get this coordinated and find out who will be providing support. Motion number eleven makes that statement. Previously the Department of Community Government has helped organise and provide follow-up for the leaders' summit. In motion eleven the Baffin Leaders

Summit recommended that funding be provided for the Baffin Leaders Summit. They made a motion that the next meeting would be held in May. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 149 – 1(3): Kugluktuk Minor Hockey

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about a minor hockey tournament held in Kugluktuk. I would like to recognize the hockey players from Kugluktuk. There were sixty-seven participants from seven years old to seventeen years of age. There were also five people that I would like to mention by name, who participated very well. In particular I would like to mention Best Goalie Gordon Junior Ilenik, Best Defence player Chris Kiatchak, Best Young Player Gordon Junior Ilenik and Most Sportsman-like player Darcy Havioyak and MVP Lena Adjun. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 150 – 1(3): Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Programs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about why the Nunavut Government was established. Mr. Speaker, I asked a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and I would like to restate again that we worked very hard to create the Nunavut Government so that we will resolve the problems of the people of Nunavut. So that we can amend the legislation and the laws of Nunavut to reflect Nunavummiut.

Our Nunavut government was established for that very reason, Mr. Speaker. I stand today because the elders are dying at a rapid pace and they have to apply for funding. Our elders' programs have to be applied for and still the government is not changing its mind. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking a question during the oral question period to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I think they can change this policy. Mr. Speaker, this is very important to us. We should amend the policy so the elders won't have to apply for funding. As soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 151 – 1(3): Iqaluit Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the youth of my community who will be competing in the Arctic Winter Games in a few short days. Mr. Speaker, some of the youth of Iqaluit will be heading to Whitehorse as early as Wednesday.

Seventy-three young people will be competing in the games. The events that they will be competing in include soccer, hockey, curling, basketball, dog sledding and speed skating. In fact twelve of the eighteen members of the speed skating team are from Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the ages of the youth participating in the games range from twelve to nineteen. Zachary Armstrong age twelve will be Iqaluit's youngest member and a constituent of Mr. Okalik.

I would also like to ensure that recognition is paid to two of Iqaluit's residents who are on Team Nunavut's mission staff. Denise Hutchings and Mike Rafter. In addition, members of the 2002 Arctic Winter Games host society will be in Whitehorse to learn valuable lessons in preparation for the 2002 Winter games. Mr. Speaker, please join me in wishing them the best of success in the games, and for them to enjoy themselves in the spirit of this wonderful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 152 – 1(3): Cambridge Bay Arctic Winter Games Participants

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize and acknowledge some constituents that are attending the 2000 Arctic Winter Games. We have Reggie Maksagak and Robert Maksagak, who are involved in basketball. Jonathan Eder, Jennifer Dion who are involved in badminton.

Corey Klengenberg who is involved in arctic sports, and we also have Elee Tologanak and DJ Evalik who are mission staff at the Arctic Winter Games, and we have four coaches and officials. Mr. Kane Tologanak, Attima Hadlari, Debbie Gray and Sandra Card. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of us I would like to wish all the Nunavut Arctic Winter Games participants the best of luck and a safe and enjoyable trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 153 – 1(3): Appreciation to Chesterfield Inlet

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the mayor, council and people of Chesterfield Inlet for their warm welcome on Saturday. I would also like to thank Minister Arvaluk for inviting me to visit the community. We had an excellent feast as well as a public meeting. I had a chance to visit the dedicated workers and volunteers at the Saint Teresa's Home and congratulate them for sixty-nine years Mr. Speaker, of continuous dedicated service to the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it was nice to visit Chesterfield Inlet and meet some old friends again. Mr. Speaker, many thanks to the people of Chesterfield Inlet for a warm welcome.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 154 – 1(3): Cost of Private Housing

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I rise today to point out a concern from my community of Sanikiluaq. It is in regards to access to private housing that is provided to my community. Today it is very hard to operate and maintain a private home with the cost of living rising. I can use a few examples of monthly expenses. When you have an access home your payments are dependent on your salary. You also pay for your oil and heating, water, your telephone and for other monthly expenses.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuit who are employed need support and the reason they applied for the funding was because they wanted to help themselves. But they need to have support also because they want to go hunting not only for their family but their whole community. It is very important for the Nunavut Government to do this because I'm representing the people of my community and also I will be asking this same question during oral question period.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 155 – 1(3): Inuit Heritage Centre

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre was opened to the public June 3, 1998 by the Governor General of Canada and the elders. The Inuit Heritage Centre was built at the request of the elders as a place where they could put their knowledge and exhibits and hands-on displays to reach the youth in a way they understand.

The elders wanted to protect, preserve and promote their unique inland culture of the people of Baker Lake. The centre's role in the arts community of Baker Lake is to honour the local artists for the contributions they have made to the visual arts and to the preservation of Inuit culture by providing a venue for their works to be exhibited.

This June an early Baker Lake Inuit arts culture exhibition will open in Baker Lake. The exhibition will be shown at the Winnipeg Art Gallery, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Canadian Museum Of Civilisation, the Legislative Building of Nunavut, the Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife and the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. This exposure will promote Inuit Art and hopefully increase sales not only for Baker Lake, but also for the rest of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 156 – 1(3): Visits to Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for visiting Coral Harbour this winter, which is in my constituency and he had a very warm reception. There are people who still remember the visit this winter. They are also hoping to see some follow up done on some issues that were brought up during the public meetings they had in Coral Harbour.

I would also like to thank the members and ministers for visiting Chesterfield Inlet. I apologise that we weren't able to go through with all the planned events but we ran out of time and we had another community that we wanted to visit as well. But I do know and the people of Chesterfield Inlet do know that they will have something to look forward to from the Nunavut Government and I know that they will be looking forward to seeing the follow-up done on the issues that they identified.

I would like to thank Mr. Alakannuark for inviting us to Repulse Bay where we had a very warm reception and Mr. Speaker, I don't usually square dance but with the excellent music I participated in the square dance and with that I would like to thank the people of Repulse Bay because they never change and also for giving us some ideas. Even though they are from a small community, they gave us some excellent ideas and thanks to the government members for going to the smaller communities and listening to the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 157 – 1(3): Tribute to Rankin Inlet

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the member for Akulliq who gave us the opportunity to go to Repulse Bay.

However today I want to talk about life in Rankin Inlet. Most of the communities in Nunavut are original communities, with very few newer residents from the outside. However, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit are where there are people from all over the country.

Rankin Inlet was established as a mining town. We are very pleased that we have it very well co-ordinated. There are still some miners in town, and I'm very glad our town could be well established even though we have all kinds of people from all over the Keewatin Region.

We are very proud of the people who live here in Rankin Inlet, and there were some people who first came here when Rankin Inlet was starting to get established in mining. There are quite a few of them here even though the mine closed a long time ago. They went through very hard times but were able to get back on their feet again. It was very hard for them when the mine closed down but we were able to keep the community going. There are a lot of private businesses that were established in our town. I just wanted to make that statement to say how proud I am of Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 158 – 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Rankin Inlet residents just in case I don't have time to say thank you tomorrow. This is going to be our last session tomorrow so I will take this opportunity to thank the Rankin Inlet residents for the great hospitality and their great reception. The longer I stay here the more I find out about my relatives. I have met many of my in-laws and again I would like to thank all of you in Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 159 – 1(3): Facilities for Youth

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the youth. As parents we all know and worry about our young people as to where they go at night. I know we all feel that as parents.

We worry about our young people and we know our young people need recreational facilities and they need counselling facilities. Mr. Speaker, I've gone into many communities and just recently I moved to Iqaluit and I have seen many young people just roaming the street and visiting each other because they don't have a recreational facility so that they won't get bored they just hang out with each other.

I would like to acknowledge a private facility called Aupaluktuq Qullak and Kativik, right across from the Catholic Church. Mr. Speaker, or young people can hang out in these facilities where they won't get bored. Mr. Speaker, it is evident that the parents have to spend money on their children because their children want to spend money in these places. But these places I just mentioned have rules like no smoking, drugs or alcohol. The young people who are in school have a curfew time. I would like to acknowledge these facilities for helping the young people so that the young people could have places to hang out.

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

Member's Statement 160 – 1(3): Soapstone Mine Safety

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to express the concern of my constituency. In my communities many people are trying to survive through handicrafts and carvings. The soapstone mine is quite far from our communities.

It is very hard to go and get a job at the mining campsite. It is unsafe. This coming summer there will be Inuit people working in the mine. We need to rectify the matter with the Minister of Sustainable Development. I would like to invite him to go down to the mining site and investigate that site because it is not very safe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Members' Statements. At this point I would like to take the opportunity to thank the residents of Repulse Bay and the member for that community for inviting us. I would also like to thank the Premier and the ministers for going to Repulse Bay and the reception was great. Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Ng.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 199 – 1(3): Qikitarjuaq Clam Harvesting

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a return to a question asked by Mr. Iqaqrialu on February 23, 2000. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the member's question regarding Qikiqtarjuaq residents who are participating in a commercial clam harvesting operation. Earlier this month the Workers' Compensation Board, Workers' Safety Officer held a meeting at the Qikiqtarjuaq Hamlet office with the mayor, a representative from the HTO, the secretary of Paparack Fisheries and four clam divers. Mr. Speaker, it was brought to the divers attention that in order to engage in commercial occupational operations, individuals must have a valid commercial occupational diving certificate from a recognised training facility.

Certification obtained through a sport or recreational diving program is not considered a valid certification for commercial occupational diving. Unfortunately, these four divers held recreational diving certificates. Mr. Speaker, the safety officer stated that if the divers were diving for compensation they needed a commercial occupational diving certification with the Canadian Standards Association. The divers agreed and asked for a letter stating this. The Safety officer completed an inspection report containing an order to cease operations and to obtain certification.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that my Honourable colleague the Minister of Sustainable Development's department is working to ensure that these four clam divers will receive training in the near future so that they can attain their commercial occupational diving certification. This will enable them to resume their commercial clam diving operation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Return to OQ 201 – 1(3): Federal Airport Capital Assistance Program.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to a question asked by the Honourable member from Baker Lake on February 23rd, 2000. During preliminary discussions with Transport Canada staff in January, both the Department and Transport Canada identified projects that could be supported with funding through the Federal Airport Capital Assistance Program.

The department uses federal selection criteria to assess projects with high potential for ACAP funding approval before initiating a request for proposals for design. Applications for these projects must contain the detail engineering design referred to in the request for proposals since the proposal forms the basis of the ACAP application. Given the regulatory and safety requirements, funding for this design work has been identified in fiscal year 1999/2000 and will be recoverable from Transport Canada on approval of ACAP application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to OQ 175 – 1(3): Support for Smaller Communities

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a reply to a question that was asked by the Member for Uqqumiut. The question is in regards to support for smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide a response to a question posed to the Premier on February 21, 2000.

The question is regarding the Nunavut Government's plan to provide for the smaller communities who are not receiving decentralised government services. In his remark the Premier noted that the department had been working with smaller communities in developing community plans. I would like to provide the member with further information on these initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, in a number of smaller communities, including the members home community of Clyde River, our department has funded a community planning process that encourages communities to discuss and establish their priorities for development. Other smaller communities such as Whale Cove, Arctic Bay and Sanikiluaq have recently begun these community-planning initiatives.

The aim of these community-planning exercises is to encourage leaders to begin the process of setting realistic economic goals and place a plan to achieve them. Once community priorities are identified, my department officials along with community Economic Development Officers work with Hamlets and assist community groups, businesses and individuals to access funding in support of their priority projects.

A number of different programs in my department may be used for this purpose including the Community Initiatives Program, the Nunavut Prospectors Program, the Business Development Fund and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. These programs are

frequently used by communities to match funding from other programs such as those that are now being offered in Nunavut by the Government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in the Bathurst Mandate this government asked my department, along with the departments of Community Government and Transportation and Health and Social Services to work with communities in building their capacity to address community issues with community solutions.

We know this will involve rethinking some of our existing programs but above all it will take leadership in our communities to tell government how and where we can assist with building on the strength in our communities. I would urge the member of Uqqumiut as well as all members of this House to encourage their community leaders to come forward with realistic community goals, plans and priorities for the next few years so we can facilitate and direct support to these plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to OQ 50 – 1(3): Contracting Information

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am today making a return to oral question 50-1(3) of October 26, 1999 where I was asked to compile certain information on consultants used during the period of April 1st 1999, to October 31st 1999. As the information requested is compiled in almost ten pages of documentation, I will not read them into the record at this point. Instead, I will provide you with some of the background information and table the compiled information at the appropriate time on the order paper.

The information is broken down into nine contributing departments. The departments have worked to be as complete as possible but we expect that we may have missed some contracts because beginning on October 1st 1999, there were no finance staff in some departments. Some finance staff were and are very new to their jobs.

Our computer systems do not account for consultant contracts separately from other contracts or other financial information. Some divisions and functions have moved from one department to another during the period requested. Some departments have moved locations several times since April 1st resulting in disruptions in their physical records. If at a later point during this session or when the Assembly is sitting in Iqaluit, a minister becomes aware of a contract which meets the criteria and has not been included in this documentation, we will arrange for an addendum to be tabled providing the relevant information.

In determining which contracts should be included in this response, departments were asked to use the definition of consultant as set out in the Oxford English Dictionary. Based on this definition and the terms of the original question, the contracts identified are for services, skills rather than for goods entered into after April 1st 1999 and before October 1st, 1999.

They do not include contracts for renewals or extensions of contracts entered into by the OIC, but where a new contract has been entered into and the same person has been hired after April 1st, 1999, it is included.

Consistent with the Department of Justice, they do not include contracts for lawyers who were felt to be distinct from the information requested. The values associated with each contract are either values to date on existing contracts or maximum values. They may include travel, sub-contractors, fees, translations and other disbursements.

The value given is therefore often well in excess of the funds actually received by the consultant for the services personally provided. When looking at this review of consulting contracts, there are a larger number of contracts than this government would like to see. Some of the root causes of this include, there are many vacancies within the public service and many of the consulting contracts are used to fill these vacancies.

The vacancies caused urgent need and short time frames do not always allow time to publicly tender a contract. The lack of knowledge and experience among the GN public service with contracting procedures are due partly to the fact that the public service is relatively new. The costs of advertising are very significant. For example on a simple ad, the advertising costs are around 2 thousand dollars.

Members will have the opportunity to review the data for themselves. But having said first that the level of sole sourcing exceeds those that my Cabinet colleagues and I feel are desirable in the future. I would like to add that some conditions the public service operated under in the past year created continued pressures for immediate action and reduced opportunities to have in place processes such as standing offer agreements which would have responded to some of these pressures.

Of the 104 contracts, 20% are valued under 5 thousand, and 60% have values up to \$25 thousand. Current contracting procedures permit sole sourcing on a number of bases, including allowing DMs to sole source consulting contracts up to \$25 thousand if the advertising costs would be excessive. That provision appears to have been used in a number of instances. Of the contracts over \$25 thousand, 65% were obtained through a public process while among the 10 most expensive contracts, 90% were subject to a competitive process.

It is hard to compare this information to other practices in other governments, as that information is not available in the same form. Part of the question for us should be not how it compares to other governments but how it compares to the process we want and require as a government.

Beginning April 01, 2000, a number of measures have been approved to respond to this concern including; Public Works will create a process to provide quick access to common advertising by the Nunavut Government of upcoming consulting contracts in both Inuktitut and English.

This will provide easy access for consultants to obtain details of such contracts. Two, Public Works will make lists of pending contracts available to all communities in Nunavut, and provide information and connect interested parties with departments seeking contract services. Relevant ministers will report quarterly to the Legislative Assembly and publicly report on the government's progress beginning on April 1, 2000.

It may be necessary that we continue to implement additional measures and I hope the members will join in the discussions of the standards and processes that they consider will give us effective and flexible contracting processes as we move forward in the new contracting year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't recognised an individual that is related to me in the gallery but I'd like to recognise a future relative, Leonard Forbes. He is a future in-law of mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognise, hopefully a future leader of Nunavut and a shy little girl that I hope I don't embarrass her too much today but it's my granddaughter Andrea Kownirk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognise and I'd like to thank again the Premier for going to the Adult Basic Education class and visiting the students. I'd like to recognise the students of the adult education centre with their teacher Angie Kubluitak.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my member's statement, I talked about finding a lot of new relatives here in Rankin Inlet. I'm not too familiar with their names but I can recognise them. It's unfortunate that I can't remember their names but I just wanted to note that.

Speaker: Welcome to the visitors that he is speaking of. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: I'm really bad at remembering names but I'd like to recognise firstly, I think the individual that has been working very hard with the members, Sandy Kusugak. I'd like to recognise Sandy for her hard work and also, I'd also like to recognise my nephew and his wife, Eric and Kristine Nukapiaq, if you could stand. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of visitors to the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognise all of the grade six class that are sitting on the stage with their teacher Chris Niego.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6, Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 237 - 1(3): Changes to Elders Funding Policy

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The Nunavut Government was established so we could make our laws reflect Nunavummiut. Our elders are dying at a rapid pace and still they have to apply for funding rather than allocating funds to the community for elders' programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is very important to us and my question is when is the Nunavut Government going to change their policy so that the contributions can be allocated to the communities rather than having to apply for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In regards to the allocation of funding for elders, we are following the normal policy for applying for grants. We have a policy in regards to the applications. The one we are using is the GNWT's policy through the OIC and we are using these policies right now. We are going to leave those and get new policies that we are going to set up that will be available April 1.

The MLAs from the cabinet and the public, we are going to work on the new policy so it will reflect everyone's interest and we want to help the people in the communities. We are working on making a policy right now. We are going to be listening to you and everyone that wishes to contribute information to the policy. Thank you.

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

Question 238 - 1(3): Use of Apex Treatment Centre

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. On Friday I tabled a copy of an article in the Nunatsiaq News dated September 24, 1999 with the headline, BCC to use Apex treatment centre for inmate rehab.

In it the government official is quoted as saying the proposal from the department of Health, which would have Nunavut Department of Justice take over the centre, has gone to the Nunavut Cabinet for approval and the two parties are simply awaiting a decision.

On Friday the minister advised the House that the Cabinet has not reviewed such a submission to date. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services advise that his department has prepared a proposal for submission to cabinet on the use of the treatment centre in Apex by the Department of Justice or on behalf of the inmates. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I can say is that the Department of Health and Social Services are looking at all options with regard to the Apex Treatment Centre that was closed about a year ago. But nothing has gone to cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if it is a point of order, I don't want to use up one of my supplementary questions asking the Minister to respond to the question that I asked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I will ask the Minister of Health to reply to the member. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought I had replied to the member. I replied to it on Friday, there is no position paper or option paper gone to cabinet. I can't comment on what some senior government official says in a newspaper even if you table it in the House.

No proposal has gone to cabinet concerning the Apex Treatment Centre. What has happened Mr. Speaker, is that, as a government, and has a Department of Health and Social Services, we are reviewing the options for the Apex Treatment Centre.

That could be in conjunction with the Department of Justice, and we are also waiting for some work, as I said on Friday, from some of the interested community groups in Iqaluit

to review all the facilities that are on the ground in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was that I didn't ask the Minister if a proposal has been submitted to Cabinet, I asked him if his department has prepared a proposal to be submitted to Cabinet. That is what I would like an answer for. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then for the third time, yes, options have been presented for the usage of the Apex Treatment Centre, but it hasn't gone to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. I am glad to hear that there was a proposal worked on. And I would like to ask the Minister then if he could advise us if the proposal was submitted then to the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for their review as a possible Cabinet submission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for the Department of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the position paper for the Apex Treatment Centre reviewing the options, was reviewed by myself and also in conjunction with the Department of Justice. Some time over the next week and a half, the senior officials between my department of Health and Social Services as well as the senior officials in the Department of Justice will sit down and review that proposal.

But it didn't get to the Cabinet stage for evaluation or analysis because we weren't sure of the impacts of the Apex Treatment Centre proposal itself, and therefore, it didn't go forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then if I am correct, the Minister is saying that it hasn't gone outside his department. I would like to maybe ask the Minister as to, if this is the same proposal that was mentioned back in September, why is it taking until next week for him and his staff in the department to look at it before it is submitted to Cabinet for review, in light of the need for those types of services in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to correct what the member just said, it has gone outside my department. As I said, it was done with consultation with the Department of Justice, so it did go outside my department with the Department of Justice.

What happened in September Mr. Speaker, what some senior person said within government, we weren't happy with some of the options that were there, as a Minister, so we wanted to review those. We have had some changes of senior people in our department and we want to review those in conjunction with the possible proposals that will come forward in the budget Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 239 - 1(3): Status of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, much has been said by the Minister and others about the importance of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and the involvement of elders in the work of the Government of Nunavut.

Members continue to ask for it to happen, but we don't see much evidence. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the southern ways of alcohol and drug counselling and social work counselling have had little affect on the problems of alcoholism, suicide and violence in many of our communities. The Minister has said as much.

One of the reasons we wanted Nunavut is because we wanted to try more things the Inuit way. This is a great opportunity for us to try to do things differently. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister advise us how his department is going to develop culturally based programs involving the elders and the counselling people with some of these difficulties in their lives. Are you going to be involving the elders more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister responsible for Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank the member for his question, it is an excellent question. Over the past twelve months Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has been reviewing what was done in the past for our Health and Social Services issues and what we want to do under the Nunavut Government.

Some of the exciting things that we are doing, including here in Rankin Inlet, using a birthing centre incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and that type of thing is going forward. As a department we have some strategies that will be coming forward in the budget to specifically deal with involving elders in the Department of Health and Social

Services and in programs and in doing the mandate Mr. Speaker, for programs that we will be delivering after April 1st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 240 - 1(3): Inuktitut Writing Systems

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Speaker, we as Nattilik residents have our regional office in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. We have an Inuktitut writing system but everything is not written in Inuktitut.

For example, when you are a Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, your Ministers' Statements are always in English and they should be translated into Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, the correspondence are usually in English only and the Hamlet Councils have to use their own funding, they have to spend money to translate the Minister's statements so that they can be dealt with at the Hamlet Council's meeting. Since this is your department's responsibility, most of the documents are not translated into Inuktitut while it's your position. Do you have Inuktitut translators, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Point of privilege, Mr. Havioyak.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the material is usually translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtuun and before they are given out they are usually written translated.

Speaker (interpretation): I think the member is talking about the documents that are being sent to the Hamlet Councils, perhaps if you would like to clarify Mr. Deputy Speaker, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although we come from the same region, our dialects are different. I apologize if I did not make you understand. What I am trying to say is that we have regional offices in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk.

The documents are not translated to Inuktitut syllabics, for example the Hamlets of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, when they receive documents from the regional office they are not translated into Inuktitut syllabics and we are both members of the Legislative Assembly for Kitikmeot and my colleague for Akulliq and myself as a member of the Nattilik riding, every time we receive documents.

During the leadership summit the documents are not, when the leadership documents come in they are not usually translated into syllabics, Inuktitut syllabics and therefore, I

would like to ask the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth if you have an office, do you have Inuktitut translators in Kitikmeot region. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Haviyok.

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): In Kugluktuk and in Cambridge and also in Kitikmeot Region some time, I know that documents are supposed to be translated.

If you have problems with that, please would you please let me know, because that is part of my job, all the documents, anything to do with the, if they are not translated as I know they are supposed to be translated. All the documents are supposed to be translated into Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. I need to hear this kind of thing from all of you, so I could know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 1st when the Nunavut Government was established we celebrated the first of April for establishing Nunavut Government. We are the aboriginal peoples of our region, of our land and our own writing system. We should be using our own writing system, especially in Kitikmeot. The Inuktitut language is not used as much as the English language.

The Inuktitut language we value and want to preserve our Inuktitut language and the public places we would like to see our Inuktitut syllabics written on public places such as notices for example, here in Rankin Inlet. We see a poster there, they welcome us to Rankin Inlet, and it is only in English.

The department should encourage and preserve and enhance the Inuktitut language and automatically if you are going post notices to include Inuktitut syllabics. So, I am asking you, I am encouraging you to use that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is only a comment.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I did not hear a question. I want to remind the members of the Legislative Assembly that you should make your preamble brief because your preamble utilizes the question period. So, make your preamble short during the question period. Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 241 - 1(3): Policies Regarding Housing

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Members' Statements, I made a statement and I advised you that I would be asking a question to the Minister of Housing in regards to Access Housing, because it is starting to become unaffordable because they have to pay for their mortgage. I was wondering if we have grandfathered the program from the previous government. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the policies and regulations for housing which are of concern, we are now reviewing all this legislation and we are still utilizing the system that was used by the previous government, just for the time being. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question, although I understood your response, I would like you to explain to me what kind of review you will be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my colleague's comments and the member's statement. I understood from him, that the Access home bills vary from each other and sometimes they cannot really afford to pay for the bills. I know that this is a concern.

In regards to his question, we could look into reviewing this for the private homeowners that cannot afford to pay for the bills, for their Access Housing. Private homeowners should be budgeting their own expenses and once they cannot afford to pay for their expenses they can meet with a counsellor of our department and look at possible changes to their mortgage payment.

To date since it has been a concern, we are in the process of reviewing that and if you can give me better suggestions, we will look into it and usually when the mortgage holders cannot afford to pay for their mortgage we usually meet with the counsellors and figure out their mortgage payment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral question. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 242 - 1(3): Tracking of Contracts

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Speaker, we have heard some comments referring to the fact that we may not be able to track all contracts that have been issued over the last year. I wonder if the Minister can explain to the House, if that is the case how would he and his department be able to balance the books for this government. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it is not difficult in respect of the fiscal year ends and compiling all the information for all the departments, the problem the Premier spoke of earlier in respect to specific contracts or specific types of contracts is

breaking out the information in a timely and fairly accurate manner, given that we don't have, as he has indicated, we don't have all the full financial complements, staffing complements within all departments of government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister saying that come the end of the fiscal year when we have our financial books, I guess, presented for, whether it be to the auditor general or whoever for their review, that we will have the information as required to demonstrate where we spent x number of dollars and for what purpose. Is that a fair statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in trying to follow the lead of my honourable colleague Mr. Picco, keeping my replies short, yes.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will also be brief. Is it fair to say then Mr. Minister, that by the time our books are ready for review at the end of this fiscal year that we will have the information on the various contracts that may be missing now or that you will have that information available for members if they wish to review it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again it would depend on the detail and the category, if there is a specific request we will make all efforts to try and provide that information. Thank you.

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

Question 243 - 1(3): Tabling of Cultural Information

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I put a question to the Minister for Elders and Youth on how cultural matters are being dealt with. He said that he is in the process of gathering the information, together with NTI and that he will table them in the House. When are they going to be tabled. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for asking that question. I will respond to you the Inuinnaqtun way if you please, if I understand

your question correctly, I have been working with NTI on how to deal with the very subject you raise.

I will reply in this way, in meeting with them over the issue of IQ, we worked towards reaching an agreement on a process for consultation with all Inuit. It will be a bilateral process, with us the GN side doing our own consultations and NTI doing their own consultations.

It's a process we hope to complete as quickly as possible and so we will waste no time seeking input from you and any other interested party at every opportunity we can. If that does not answer your question I'd be more than happy to answer further questions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question was in regards to the information that is being gathered, when will they be presented in the House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. I will allow that same question. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think I'm finally understanding your question. As I was saying, we and NTI will be meeting to pool together our resources and every time that we do, you will be given the information that is brought forward. Also at those meetings we will delegate a task force to examine specific areas and they will report both to NTI and to us. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to ask a question for which an answer cannot be found. Once they have worked on the information, when would it be put together and tabled in this House. When. Will it be next year, or beyond. Will it be at the end of our session, or when will they be presented. Thank you.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Once again thank you. The task force we will be jointly forming with NTI will work on defining an IQ policy. You will be hearing from this group and I am announcing this to you for the first time. The task force will be made up of well-known experts in this area and will seek input from you. Once the group has decided on a meeting schedule they will be contacting you. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps my question isn't very clear. My question is when will the information be made available. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): I keep responding to his question, that once the task force tells us. It's still to be determined when they would be announcing that to us, so until we hear from the task force you will be hearing from NTI and us. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Question 244 - 1(3): Assistance for Artists

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Sustainable Development. Are there any assistance programs for artists at the present time. That's my first question, thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. There is now a representative organization for artists and craft makers, and they work through the Department of Sustainable Development's Arts and Crafts Division. They are an excellent source for information such as the kind you are asking for. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask if the application forms for these programs are easily filled in by those who speak only Inuktitut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have made instructions that all application forms be simplified and clear. If anyone or any MLA was given a form that is hard to fill in, our staff can be approached for assistance. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask how much money has been given out. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if the member can explain for which program he is inquiring. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Final supplementary, Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask how much money has been given out in assistance to artists to date, and that is all. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't have the information the member is asking available to me at this time. I would have to sort out what has been issued to date to artists and craft makers and make the figures available to the member and the House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 245 - 1(3): Social Assistance Cost of Living Increases

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My question today and I want to apologize for the long preamble, my question today is for the Minister of Finance regarding the increasing food costs for social assistance recipients. I asked him the question in June and I got a speedy response written back in August. I wonder if the Minister could update me on the status of increasing social assistance for recipients' cost of living and food prices. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any specific information on that, as you know the Minister of Education has responsibility for income support and he is undertaking an extensive review of the income support program in consultation throughout Nunavut. So I will defer to my honourable colleague. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we cannot release the information in respect to finances right now until such time as the Finance Minister has made his presentation on the Main Estimates. However I would like to say in reflection of the Finance Minister's comments, is that I will be making an announcement from my committee, the Income Support Review Committee, to look into the overall income

support programs, the rates, the other matters that relate to, and sometimes hinder the income support recipients, sometimes promotes them, or allows them to make their own living.

Training programs, Student Financial Assistance, all of these things I want to be reviewed so that they become more reflective of the reality of Nunavut's economy, social conditions and the goals that the government would like to achieve in the long term. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I appreciate the Minister's answer and yes, I don't want to sound like I am out of order here and ask him if there is going to be an increase in food costs for social assistance recipients. But Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is here today, and we've heard it in this House many times, that people are having problems paying for their fuel oil. They are having problems paying for their house rents, they're having problems paying for this and that.

The fact of the matter is a lot of people on social assistance are not there because they want to be, they are there because of different reasons and I don't really want to talk about that right now, but the fact of the matter is, the costs of groceries, and we all know that a lot of people have kids in school and a pair of runners is anywhere between 80 and 90 dollars, and they are on a fixed income.

My question to the Minister is, will he consider looking at the cost of living in Nunavut and increasing social assistance for the social assistance recipients. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, of course I would, but those income support recipients are not the only ones having hardship. The students who are trying to maintain themselves in the Arctic College, coming in to the programs, nursing programs and other higher education, secondary education, they are all having a hard time getting shoes and food to eat and pay for their rents.

So I think what I was trying to tell the member was that I want to look at all those programs that receive funding from the government, for those who are not in the wage economy and who are trying to make something of themselves and we would also inform the citizens of Nunavut that the income support program is not a long term solution. It is only an immediate relief until such time as a person can get on their own two feet, except for those who are elderly or disabled, then of course different care is being given.

Yes, I will look at all those requirements, not just for the income support but for everyone else who depends on government programs. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I am happy to hear the Minister's answer on that one and I hope the Minister of Finance was listening to it and, Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the Minister's dilemma in income support and investing in people and things like that but we also know that we are in union negotiations and just recently there was an announcement that northern allowances were going to be raised 15% for government employees and stuff.

But that still leaves our social assistance recipients a little behind everybody else. So I know the Minister is looking at that according to his answer. When can I expect to hear the results of this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have received the applications, approximately 100 applications of people who want to be on the review committee and I have selected 3 with one alternate. I will be making an announcement as soon as we are able to inform those people who have been selected and see if they would accept the terms that we will be giving them in the committee. Once we do that we will give them approximately 3 or 4 months to get their work done and hopefully it will be done by September. Thank you.

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

Question 246 - 1(3): Pond Inlet Health Centre

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Last week I spoke about problems being experienced in Pond Inlet. I also raised the need to consider the health centre there. I want to ask the Minister of Health if he fully understood the issues that I raised. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understood the question and I should take this opportunity to thank the member for inviting me to Pond Inlet about three weeks ago, to actually tour the health centre and we saw the conditions, it is one of the oldest health centres in Nunavut.

I received a letter from the member and also heard the concern at the public meeting and I had a conversation with the Mayor in Pond Inlet, and heard their need and desire to see that facility replaced. That information has come back now officially through the member to the department. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 247 - 1(3): Task Force Information

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Minister in a response to another member's question indicated that he was having a task force look into some stuff for him. I haven't seen any notices or been consulted on anything about this task force, maybe I could ask the Minister if he could please inform us as to what task force he is talking about. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. During a meeting last fall in Iqaluit on IQ, delegates called for co-operation with NTI or that GN determine the plans for IQ and form a task force to work on IQ issues. We approached NTI on how best to organize this task force and who should be on it, should it be from the government or from the Inuit. How are we going to set up the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and what kind of Task Force we would need to work on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Before this Task Force is selected, we will be informed as to who will be on the Task Force. Are they going to be selected from the government or from the public. We are aware that NTI will also select the people that they want to see on the Task Force. This is how it is now. I believe I answered the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I understood what the Minister said, but I believe earlier on that the departments selected some individuals to be on a Task Force and then on the end he said that they are still haven't formed this Task Force yet. So, maybe I'll just ask, has this Task Force been established yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we haven't yet selected the Task Force and we will let you know. (interpretation ends) We are working on this Task Force along with NTI so we can appoint someone from the Nunavut Government, Legislative Assembly, or from the general public and also the NTI will appoint their own to the Task Force. Right now they are still discussing it at this point. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again my question is to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. If I understand him correctly, this is

a joint Task Force between his department and NTI, and it has been something they have been talking about since last fall. Mr. Speaker, I am going to ask the Minister if he has any idea of what the mandate or timeframe of this Task Force is to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to what the timeframe is, I will be handing this information to the Task Force, but in the meantime there is no Task Force selected. I like the idea of the timeframe that you mentioned, I will inform you again as soon as we have set up our format for working in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe Mr. Speaker, my question wasn't clear the first time. I guess I'm confused. Earlier the Minister indicated to the other member that he was awaiting a response from a Task Force to be able to provide him with a timeframe as to when, he said when the Task Force gives me its recommendations, to the member then he would be able to respond to the member, and now I have heard that the Task Force isn't even formed yet.

I am just wondering, I'm confused, maybe if some clarification on that if we can check, I believe that is the understanding that I heard earlier. So maybe some clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I said the Task Force is still under review right now, nobody was appointed. I keep saying that, and also I replied that NTI and us would be working to appoint people for the Task Force.

That is what I kept saying earlier to your question, I keep answering your question. We will be working with NTI and also the elders, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, so if we hear I will let the committee know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 248 - 1(3): Insurance for Social Assistance Recipients

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I might make my question long, but I will try to keep it as brief as possible. This question is for the Minister of Social Services. My question is going to be coming from the understanding that I got from my community. We have, instead of getting monthly social assistance,

they are put to work. My concern is that it might become a safety issue. If one of these social recipients should get hurt, can you tell us what the status is today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I will take it as notice.

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

Question 249 - 1(3): Payment Process for Social Assistance

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask another question then to the Minister of Social Services. Social recipients are supposed to get a cheque once a month, and they are having a hard time making ends meet when they get a cheque once a month, and it is creating a hardship among the people of Nunavut. Is there a possibility of reviewing the whole process so that you could make it easier for the social recipients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the member rephrase his question and be specific. Could you clarify your question please, Mr. Member.

Speaker (interpretation): I'll give you the opportunity then Mr. Iqaqrialu to rephrase your question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Minister Arvaluk. People who are out in the workforce get paid every two weeks. The people who are on social assistance are paid once per month. To make it easier on these people is it possible for them to get bi-weekly cheques. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on the individual's circumstances. Some of the social recipients get weekly cheques if they are not managing their money properly. Some are good and get a cheque bi-weekly, I don't know why they don't get them on Saturday, but they now get them on Friday, possibly because the government employees don't work on Saturdays.

Some of the recipients get them once per month, but the majority of the people get them biweekly, and those with poor management with many children get a cheque weekly, it depends on the individual recipient. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question then to the same Minister of Education. There are some recipients who owe money to the Department of Social Services, I don't know how, they have no idea why they owe money to Social Services. And they're paying for their debts. Could you give an explanation Mr. Minister.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are presently using the Government of the Northwest Territories policies. If a recipient works casually, or if they have gone fishing, or if they have not reported any income, they will end up owing at the end of the year. Or if they haven't reported any income, any income that they did get. I would like to know why the member is asking these questions, and be specific about his questions, so I would have a response. But usually, if a recipient doesn't report an income, then it becomes an, they'll have to return it.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well in my community we are not informed why we have to pay back the monies to Social Services. It doesn't seem like anybody knows why we're paying money back, or maybe it was an error on the department's part. The ordinary people who don't know anything about the polices, or why they have to return some money to the department, and I think that they should know why they are paying back money to the department.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I don't hear a question. Unless the Minister of Education would like to respond. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question, but I seem to be getting the feeling that the member is giving us direction to look into the matter. I could look into it, possibly it would even be better that as he is a member of the Legislative Assembly, he could have investigated the matter and let me know. I'll get them to look into it and I'll write him a letter, and let him know why they're paying the money back. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. We'll take a brief twenty-minute break.

>>House recessed at 3:40 p.m. and resumed at 4:10 p.m.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day, Item 7 Written questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 7: Written questions

Written Question 06 - 1(3): Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Funding Programs

Written Question 07 - 1(3): Department of Justice Funding Programs

Written Question 08 - 1(3): Community Government & Transportation Funding Programs

Written Question 09 - 1(3): Health & Social Services Funding Programs

Written Question 10 - 1(3): Sustainable Development Funding Programs

Written Question 11 - 1(3): Education Funding Programs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have written questions, although the person I'm going to ask is not here. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, in regards to community based funding programs and application processes. With respect to the fiscal years 1997, 98, 99 and 1999-2000 to date.

What programs in the department require individual community governments or organizations to submit applications in order to be considered for funding.

Which of these programs use funding formula at the beginning of the new fiscal year, to allocate the amount of funding that each community will generally be entitled to apply for.

What were the funding allocations made for each Nunavut community at the beginning of each of the past two fiscal years and the current year for each such program.

What specific outreach efforts were made to ensure that the communities and specific organizations within the communities were made aware of the funding eligibility and how to apply.

Were application procedures and forms available in Inuktitut for each of these programs. What specific community development efforts were made in each community so that someone personally worked with the community or groups within the community to assist in the development of funding applications under each of these programs.

How many communities submitted applications for these funding programs, but did not receive funding. For each funding program, which communities did not submit applications. And programs where preliminary allocations were made for each community, how many communities lapse their funding and was it reallocated to another community or purpose at the end of the fiscal year.

How much funding was given out under each of the funding programs in this department for each community in Nunavut. I will be asking the same written questions to these ministers, Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Minister of Community Government and Transportation, Minister for Health and Social Services, Minister for

Sustainable Development and Minister for Education. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my questions be recorded as read.

And Mr. Speaker, I ask that my written questions be responded to in a written response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Written questions. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my reply to the opening address is a little lengthy, and I apologize for that up front. But as regular members we don't have, we have to take advantage of every opportunity we can to express our concerns and issues for the record.

Mr. Speaker, as I reflect on my first year in office, as MLA for Iqaluit Centre, I am pleased with many issues that have been addressed in Nunavut over the past year, but concerned that much more progress needs to be made in other areas. When I ran for office, I committed to work hard to hold the government accountable and to pursue the key issues of housing, education and healthcare.

The commitment I made to demand more openness and accountability in government has meant that I have asked a lot of questions. This may not have pleased everybody. But I am getting a good response from constituents. This is the first time that Iqaluit has been represented by more than one MLA. My two colleagues from Iqaluit and the Legislative Assembly have demanding Cabinet portfolios.

I am pleased that I have been receiving lots of advice and requests for information and support from my constituents. I don't dwell on whether people live in the geographical boundaries of my constituency or not, I am open to anyone in Iqaluit. I believe that in my fast growing community, we must all work together.

I value the times that I have been able to collaborate with Mr. Picco and Mr. Okalik on issues concerning our constituency. This past year has been hectic. Committee work has been demanding. I was pleased with the rigor and openness in reviewing candidates for several statutory appointments made by the Legislative Assembly including the Languages Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Acting Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

I have also had the privilege of travelling around the north. Everywhere I go I hear the same priorities and concerns. These demands have meant that I have not had much time, as I would like to have spent in my own constituency, but I plan to spend more time there this coming year.

One of the concerns I hear everywhere is our government's ability to do the job. The Throne Speech describes the transition to Nunavut as astoundingly smooth and says that credit must be given for the hard work required to make this happen. I absolutely agree that our public servants have worked very hard to ensure that core programs and services are being delivered. But at every turn I hear that we as a government lack the capacity. While I agree that not having a fully staffed government presents tremendous challenges, we cannot allow ourselves to rely on this as an excuse.

In housing Mr. Speaker, I look at housing as an area of top priority for our government. I have watched the capital and O&M budgets for housing being reduced to roughly half of their former levels at the very time when it has been identified as one of the two core priorities. Right now the Baffin District Office of the Housing Corporation is at roughly half of its regular capacity and that has been the case for some time. It seems that many very important housing programs have been reduced and starved. Routine maintenance budgets are down and the money to undertake major preventative maintenance for our ageing housing stock is no longer there.

When I look at the journey taken by many of these employees through the transition to Nunavut, I can see why we have lost capacity and good staff. First there was the well-intended move to achieve greater efficiency by integrating housing with the Department of Community Government & Transportation. A lot of key people and positions were lost in this transition. Then in another well-intentioned effort to refocus resources, certain responsibilities were shifted to Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services. I think it would be fair to say that the results were chaotic.

As I said in my reply to the budget address last May, I was concerned that we would have fragmented delivery of housing programs when Community Government & Transportation was responsible for certain aspects but Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services was responsible for another part of it, Human Resources for the staff housing issue, and Finance yet another.

Housing programs are simply not functioning. We examined these problems openly, candidly and in detail in the committee of the whole for several days last year. I expressed my view that there was historically a good reason for establishing a separate housing capacity in government in the early 1970's. At the time housing programs were fragmented and dysfunctional.

When buried in a larger department, housing tends to take a back seat. Now there are indications of a stand alone Nunavut Housing Corporation that will be created. A new President has been hired. I believe that with the priority we have all placed on housing in our government, public housing, homeownership programs and technical support services for the communities should all be under one roof.

I would like to commend the regular members of this Assembly for not losing sight of the priority of housing. I am happy that the Standing Committee called a special meeting last fall and agreed that it was critical that the new housing units should be built using this

year's anticipated surplus. One of the consequences of the priorities placed by regular members on housing was the creation of the Minister's Task Force on Housing. I am pleased to be a member of that Task Force.

The Task Force has worked hard to submit its interim report before Christmas. The report made one basic recommendation that time is short, build 100 public housing units this coming summer. The Task Force made recommendations on the size of units, two bedroom units, based on what we knew of community needs.

We also recommended allocations based on the needs information that was available. I believe the clear theme of the interim report of the Task Force was urgency. As we said in December, in the Task Force interim report, the Hon. Manitok Thompson, Minister of Public Works and Housing has made a commitment to build new public housing in the summer of 2000. In order to build those units, decisions need to be taken now regarding what and where to build to ensure that lot preparations, and the ordering of materials and the actual building of new units occurs in time for this coming summer.

I say let's get on with it. I quite frankly I can't understand why the government is not coming forward with plans to build these houses now using our budget surplus if necessary. I expected something would show up in the supplementary estimates that were recently approved. Why do we have to wait for the budget session. We have all agreed that housing is a key priority. It's in the Bathurst Mandate. The NWT Housing Corporation had a two year budget cycle for planning and building new social housing and homeownership units, which worked well in Nunavut with the sealift schedule.

Now we have a very short window of time to get things happening before sealift. Planning, tendering, site preparation and selection and construction. I am getting very worried that we are running out of time. If we do run out of time before the new building season, then let's at least do something. Let's provide our communities more support for housing through our local housing authorities and associations. We know they are seriously underfunded.

There are other areas of housing which need attention. For example, we need a comprehensive housing community needs assessment. The last survey was done in 1996 and there have been questions asked about whether it was done properly. I am sure that if an idea like this were to come forward in a supplementary estimate it would be welcomed and I think the time for talk is over. Let's do something.

The importance of education, Mr. Speaker. Education is a huge department. Education is a key to achieving life long opportunities. I believe the earlier we teach our children the better. What it means for our society is that many of the problems that we are facing can be avoided if we provide critical learning and life skills to our children in their early years. I believe these are fundamental questions we must address in Nunavut. How can we enhance our Early Childhood Education programs. How can we better support and enhance child care programs as quality programs that will assist in the development of our young children.

I know the Minister of Education has been occupied on the issue of internal restructuring, which has resulted from the dissolution of the Divisional Boards of Education. As I said in the budget session last year, I don't believe that many of our constituents are overly concerned with this organizational issue.

What they want to know is how the education system will improve and become more efficient and effective in Nunavut. They want to know how soon one of the Bathurst Inlet Mandate goals, namely improving the student teacher ratios, will be achieved. They want to know when we will have a trade school in Nunavut so our apprentices won't have to go so far away for training. They want to know how we can strengthen our academic programs, reduce our drop out rate. They want to know when we can provide meaningful, effective training to many of our citizens who want to grow personally and become self-sufficient.

They need to know that funding arrangements for the schools will be changed so that these types of trades programs will be provide on an ongoing, predictable basis.

So Mr. Speaker, now that the transition away from the Divisional Boards is about to conclude, I would challenge the Minister to develop a plan and a timetable for how our education system can be strengthened. I know that the Minister has developed short term amendments to the Education Act and is working in consultation with many stakeholders on fundamental changes to the Education Act for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to say amending the Education Act is unimportant, I know that amending the Act is significant and we'll want to make sure that we have a full opportunity to carefully study the proposed amendments as will the Nunavut Social Development Council.

However, with all respect to lawyers and policy makers, Mr. Speaker, amending the Education Act does not mean that things will get better. It takes more than amending the Act to ensure that Inuktitut become integrated into the classroom and the curriculum. It will take more than changing the law to deal effectively with the issues that are everyone's concern, such as class sizes, improving academic success and reducing teacher turnover. I think this is at the root of the concerns of the Nunavut Social Development Council, being left out of what they consider a process of meaningful consultation on the new Education Act.

The Nunavut Social Development Council has a mandate under the Land Claim Agreement, to participate in the design of new programs affecting people. As I said in my member's statement earlier in this session, the Nunavut Social Development Council wants to participate in considering the fundamentals of our approach to Education, not just being given a chance to review clauses and sections of the Act.

We need more than structural change and even amended legislation to make a difference. Let us look at reform of programs or creating new programs. Let us not be afraid to do

things differently. For example, if in these times of capital dollar shortages we are looking for places to offer Early Childhood Education programs or child care programs, maybe we can appropriately place some of those programs in our schools. So much of our future depends on how we provide support and inspiration to our children in their formative years.

Yet the child care policy inherited from the GNWT and applied in Nunavut seems to be starving the few child care centres which are operational in Nunavut and making it difficult for desperately needed new ones to come into being, given that we are decentralizing many positions and families to our smaller communities and given the demographic realities of Nunavut. This is a critical issue.

As I said in my member's statement last week, looking at the pressures on every childcare centre in Iqaluit, let's make sure these very important programs succeed. Let's take immediate steps to provide more support for Early Childhood Education. We need to begin training northern residents to become childcare workers. We need to overhaul and enhance our policies for grants and contributions for non-profit child care societies.

The good news is that our legislature and our government have signalled that education will be one of the two core priorities of our new government. Now we need to figure out how we can make a difference, now we have to figure out how we can make it better and this work is urgent. I will not offer a detailed prescription for our ailing education system today, Mr. Speaker, however I would urge the Minister to make changes happen. I wish him to be bold and I wish him to be creative. He must not be afraid to do things differently.

I am confident that the support will be there from our legislature if the Minister can develop new and better programs aimed at improving our education system in Nunavut. My constituents tell me that is something that has to change.

Improving Health & Social Services Mr. Speaker. I am encouraged that we have made some progress in Health & Social Services. The Nunavut Nursing Program has started and new financial incentives are in place to attract and retain nurses. The Minister of Finance told us earlier in this session that even as we speak, service agreements are being negotiated and finalized which will allow further work to continue on our planned new Baffin Regional Hospital.

Our region has been waiting for this facility since before the health transfer in 1988. The present facility is now becoming acutely overcrowded and the regional hospital is unable to deal with a number of important and growing medical needs ranging from safe protective custody for mental patients who might be in danger to themselves, to isolation wards for those with contagious illnesses, to proper space for physical therapy and other rehabilitation.

A new hospital should allow more procedures to happen closer to home in our region rather than sending people south on expensive medical travel. We have to make sure this

one is done right because it is going to have to last a long time. We have to make sure we continue to make progress with the new hospital. We spend 20 million dollars a year on medical travel. We have to find ways to reduce this onerous expense.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that voluntary groups and non-profit societies are the key to operating successful and credible programs in Health & Social Services in our communities. There is no way the services they offer would be done as effectively or efficiently by government departments, yet many dedicated community groups seem to be in a perpetual state of financial anxiety. Our homeless shelter in Iqaluit is feeling extreme pressures with the surge of population growth in Iqaluit. They seem to be suffering from one financial crisis after another. Our women's shelter too is facing tremendous pressures.

I want to commend another strong, new community organization, which has been established this past year and is now meeting some important community needs in Iqaluit. The John Howard Society have been instrumental in re-opening the Sailivik Centre, they have established a breakfast and lunch program for kids and adults and they provide opportunities for people to do community service, fine options and alternatives to jail.

Fortunately, organizations like the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and NTI are expressing their concern and their social conscience. They are backing up their concerns with dollars and other forms of real support. I think we should welcome these partnerships with Inuit Organizations. The Baffin Larga facility in Ottawa was a major commitment of QC and Nunasi in providing greatly improved services for Baffin residents who must travel to Ottawa for medical care.

I am pleased to see that we are finally making progress in getting Baffin residents access to this excellent facility which I had the opportunity to visit last year. I was pleased that the regular members worked together during our session to emphasize to our Minister of Health & Social Services and to the people of Nunavut the importance of taking a holistic community based approach to addictions.

We must see alcohol, drug and substance abuse as symptoms of the need for healing and wellness. They cannot be treated in isolation, they must be dealt with in the context of the whole person. We must take immediate steps to develop integrated community based programs building on the strengths we already have in our communities, committed, caring people who are from the community and who are often in the best position of all to help their peers.

We know what does not work. We understand why it was necessary to close the only alcohol and drug treatment centre in Nunavut. Now we have to design programs which work for the immediate needs of our people.

The need to do things differently. Mr. Speaker, a word about my home community of Iqaluit. Our community is dealing with the pressures of rapid growth and change. We are also doing our best to meet our responsibilities as the Capital of Nunavut. I see our

Town Council is dealing with this crushing burden. It seems like a number of serious issues are facing our community all at once.

I think that in the run up to division the GNWT put off dealing with a number of crucial issues in our community. The sewage, water, land development should have all been in hand. Now Council is working very hard to deal with these tough issues like the utilidor hook up costs in the lower base which are effecting some of my constituents. These issues, like those in other communities are arising at a time when we don't seem to have as much public money as we had in the past. The cost of living is rising at every turn. We can't cut services further without real risks to people. There are no immediate prospects for new revenue from Ottawa. Our developing economy can't afford tax increases.

I think the only thing we can do is ask some hard questions about the way that we do business as a government. Are government departments as efficient as they might be. Can the service departments of our government be organized differently. Can we find ways to do things differently so as to be more effective and efficient. Can we manage our human resources in a way which promotes more productivity and improved morale. Can we make better use of our abundant natural resources to create employment and wealth in our communities.

Can we identify fundamental values of Inuit and apply those values to make our new government different. Can our government change so that it can adapt and survive in a harsh physical climate, the way Inuit adapted and survived for thousands of years in an unforgiving Arctic environment.

As we focus last on the transition from the NWT and look to the future of Nunavut, the Cabinet under the leadership of the Premier and the Minister of Finance will be asked these fundamental questions.

The Bathurst Inlet mandate sets out important goals and objectives, its fundamental task is to put people first in examining whether there are ways of doing things differently. I urge our Cabinet to be creative and innovative. Question the old approaches. Question the old models. Question the old way of doing things.

I know that the Standing Committees of this Legislative Assembly are resources Cabinet can rely on. Provided you approach us in a spirit of partnership, open communication and mutual respect. If we are to put flesh to the bones of the Bathurst Inlet mandate, we have to first ensure that we are as efficient and effective as we can be. This can only be done by re-examining and if necessary, challenging every assumption that has gone into the design and operation of our new government. Now as we approach the end of the first year of our new government, it is time to ask these tough questions, which I think need to be asked.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I wish to say in reply to the Throne Speech, that the Bathurst Inlet mandate contains many noble goals and commitments. Since the vision we have

had time to settle in, time to get on our feet as a new government. Now we have to take the Bathurst Inlet mandate and make it real. The time for talk is over, we need action, now we have to get to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Item 10. Petitions. 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. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 33 - 1(3): Inuit Employment Statistics

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a report of statistics for the Inuit Employment Strategy. There have been quite a lot of people in Nunavut questioned. We have 6,299 who were asked in the whole of Nunavut. This is a compilation of that information. There are unemployment rates and which communities have the most unemployment. There are statistics compiled in this report, and we have learned that there was approximately 20.5% unemployment in 1999 compared to 23.9% previously. This report has very good information, with all the statistics provided in regard to employment and unemployment in the Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Irqittuq.

Tabled Document 34 - 1(3): Baffin Leaders Summit Resolutions

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are resolutions, 23 resolutions that were tabled at the Baffin Regional Summit that was held in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 35 - 1(3): List of Consultants

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the listing of government consultants contracted between April 1, 1999 and October 31, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Continuing tabling of documents. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 36 - 1(3): Inuit Employment Plan**Tabled Document 37 - 1(3): Towards a Representative Public Service**

Mr. Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents Mr. Speaker. First is the Inuit Employment Plan. The IEP will serve as a plan that will give the Government of Nunavut guidance in its efforts to enhance Inuit employment.

The second document I would like to table Mr. Speaker, is a document entitled "Towards a Representative Public Service". This is the staffing statistics as of January 4, 2000 for the Government of Nunavut and its boards and agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Tabling of documents. Notices of motions. Item 14. Notices of motions. Item 15. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 18. Second reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister's Statements 50-1(3), 51-1(3). Tabled documents 24-1(3), 25-1(3), 26-1(3) with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair. For correction of Hansard, Tabled Document 27-1(3). Sargent at Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Good afternoon all of you who are getting homesick and thinking of home. We are going to be going into committee of the whole. We discussed Minister's statements, 50-1(3). Fuel price increases. Did you want to go ahead with the discussion. I didn't hear you. Did you want to go ahead with the fuel price increase debate. Comments to the discussion at hand. Any comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe in this discussion we would ask if the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products would like to take the witness table with her staff for further questions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): You are a little bit ahead Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister and her officials can go up to the witness table at this time. Welcome to the committee of the whole. We would like you to introduce your officials.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The person beside me is Roy Green with finance, or who deals with finance and is very knowledgeable about fuel issues.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Any questions. Comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if we could kind of pick up where we left off on Friday, we were talking about the Revolving Fund, or the Price Stabilisation Fund of 5 million dollars.

And, maybe if, I can't remember if I was given the answer last week, I was just wondering if this year if we have used up to, if we have used the whole 5 million dollars or are we, have we used it all up or not. I guess that is just the result of the differences, result in the increase in the fuel prices. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green will be responding to the questions

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Stabilisation Fund opening balance was 2.2 with a forecast for 11 months. For the year-to-date we're still living within the 5 million dollar limit. At this point in time it looks like the balance should be around 4.5 at the end of this current fiscal year.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in light of that I will just ask the Minister or Mr. Green what would happen or what will happen if the price of the world oil increases over the next year prior to us ordering our fuel for next year, if we are sitting at 4.5 million dollars right now and it is going to cost us more for next year. Basically, then if I understand it correctly, you can correct me if I'm wrong, we have half a million dollars to play with, otherwise, the price of fuel is going to be increased again. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As part of the long term liability of PPD during the latest 5 cent increase by the financial management board, we were instructed to develop a long term strategy to have this completed by June 30, 2000, which would address the long term plans for fuel price adjustments.

So, we are in the process now of accumulating this data so once we pull this report together we will be looking at what options are available to us. One may be looking for some surplus revenue being placed back in the Stabilisation Fund. Another option may be to look at the limit for the short term and I can't say at this point in time if there would be any further recommendations for retail price increases. But that would be part of the report that we will be submitting to the Financial Management Board regarding fuel prices.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Mr. Green for his answer. I believe then he is saying basically looking at three options, either pay down the Revolving Fund out of some revenue or budgeted amount from the department, increase the Stabilisation Fund or increase the prices to the consumer.

Given the prices have already gone up, and again, I appreciate the fact that there hasn't been a price increase for quite a number of years, what would be the process that would have to be followed, whatever option was chosen or looked at, what would be the process for picking or setting, if it was decided that the consumer couldn't pay any more for fuel.

Either, one, we pay down the Stabilisation Fund to allow some more flexibility or else we increase it. In those options, what would be the process that things would have to go through in order for that to happen. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. The process used is the ministry is given recommendations then the minister informs the members. Like we said, we asked for a review to be done to decrease fuel prices and we wanted to get some input, so once the review is done, we will decide what options we are going to be using, and they would be presented to the Ministers or to the Standing Committees that I work with who would be informed. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess as I stated on Friday, I don't know if the Stabilisation Fund is, I think you mentioned last week, was something that was set within the budget and approved by this Legislative Assembly, and I would imagine any money, either of those options involve money, so those would then have to come through the Standing Committee into the House either in a budget or in a supplementary appropriation.

I am wondering if there would be a process set up in the event that we ran into this time around, when it comes next time around, next year or the year after, where all of a sudden we have a big increase in fuel prices right around the time when we have to buy our fuel, that either a supplementary appropriation or something would have to be done for approval at that time. I am just wondering if that would be the process that would have to be followed on that, that it would come here for our approval. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The process that is in place now for fuel price increases, the recommendation is done by the finance department in Petroleum Products, and what we do then is we send the analysis along with our recommendations to the

Minister's department, to approve or come back to us for some alternative action. If the Minister is in agreement with the proposal that has been submitted by the Petroleum Products, then we had the decision whether to increase, approve the recommendation or otherwise they could reject it. But basically that's the process that we are using now. The only thing different about this report is that this report is being prepared for the Financial Management Board and this report will cover what we think needs to be done for the long term, not necessarily in the short term.

Unfortunately at this point in time there is not a whole lot that we can do in terms of the re-supply simply because 90% of our budget is for, I'm sorry 80% of our budget is for transportation costs and the cost of fuel, the other 11% is for the fuel delivery contractors to provide the fuel on behalf of petroleum products and those contracts don't expire, for the transportation contract it doesn't expire until October 15th, 2001. The commissions that we pay for the fuel delivery contracts don't expire until August 31st, 2001.

So basically we have no control over those cost components. The remaining 9% is basically the operating and maintenance expense, which include the repair and maintenance to the tank farms plus the evaporation But we do want to look at this long term strategy and we will probably be looking at something that extends beyond those contracts and see what we can do in the long term to try and get the price of the fuel down because we realize the economic implications that those prices are having on the various consumer groups.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The members are aware, but I would just like to clarify that we are dealing with 51 - 1(3), fuel price increases, Minister's Statement. Just so that we could proceed smoothly. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if that's the process and I understand it's in the works, if we are looking at options that do effect the price that consumers pay, if the Minister will commit to doing some consultation with the public, the people that have to pay that increase prior to anything being submitted for final approval to Cabinet. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The work that we are doing, we will be consulting with the public as we go along.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just have a few questions, Chairman, for the Minister and her staff. In reference to the subsidy that is looked after by the Minister's department, it is in excess of 9 million dollars for the Petroleum Products Division. Under commercial it indicates that there is 1.61 million dollars in subsidy under commercial. That breaks down into jet A-1 at 425 thousand, and also AV gas at 162 thousand.

Can the minister and her staff explain this type of subsidy as to actually who it is going to and stuff. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess I should probably try to explain this 9.6 million dollar subsidy that has been talked about for the past week. Basically what that 9.6 million dollars includes is the total costs of delivering the service to Nunavut. What I should clarify here is that Petroleum Products acts through the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund Act that was established in 1972. That fund is used to finance the inventory and the accounts receivable and this is where the O&M expenses are paid.

So it is applied through this particular fund. PPD's mandate is to recover all of it's operating costs, not the full costs, not all the costs are passed through the revolving fund. PPD's mandate is to recover the actual product costs, the actual transportation costs, the commissions for local fuel deliveries, dispensing and delivery services, operating & maintenance, common evaporation services and taxes.

So the retail prices are based on those components and based on a 5 cent increase and the costs of those components, right now the total subsidy in that fund is 1.8 million dollars, not 9.6. The 9.6 is not 1999/2000 figures, they are based on 1998/99 figures and they include, the 9.6 includes inventory carrying charges and it also includes the interest costs and the amortisation expense and the interest costs of the fixed assets for the tank farms.

So of that 9.6 million dollars that we're talking about, for the last fiscal year, 9.1 million dollars of that is the fixed cost component, it is the total true costs of delivering the services to Nunavut. So when we look at our subsidies from the revolving fund, we look at it from two angles, because the price itself is based on recovering the operating costs, not the entire cost of the program.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That was quite a long dissertation and explanation of what I was looking for, and I'm still not sure whether you answered my question or not. Going back to the my question, in reference to talking about commercial, and I see another category in the same column under Federal Government, 196 thousand 6 hundred and 91. Can you explain why there would be a subsidy listed under the Federal Government.

Mr. Green: Once again the subsidy....

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Green. Could you please wait until you are recognized by the Chairperson, I don't want you to forget that. Thank you, Mr. Green you can go ahead.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Sorry. All I can tell you in terms of PPD's mandate, our mandate is to recover the operating costs from the retail prices. So the subsidy that you are seeing for the Federal Government includes the fixed cost components, the portion of the inventory and the finance charges plus the...those are the long term, fixed cost components that don't enter into the pricing component.

Under the revolving fund we are not subsidising the Federal Government, those are coming from the fixed assets that factor into the pricing components and they are basically they are outside of the revolving fund. So I am not sure if I have given you the information that you are looking for.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will go as far as to say that I think you did. I think you answered my question. Another question I have in following the same line of thought here, when contracts are awarded you have indicated that at the end of 2001 all of the fuel contracts, and correct me if I'm mistaken, will terminate or come up again for renewal or for tender. Is that what you said.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

Mr. O'Brien: What is the...

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien I have to recognize you before you speak. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister what is the intention of your department in reference to these contracts coming to an end. How do you plan on tendering these out again, what process do you intend on using and furthermore are all these contracts that we speak of, are these coming to an end under normal circumstances, in other words are all these contracts up at the same time at the end of 2001, or because this is Nunavut and the new government you are starting from square 1.

How, maybe you could elaborate on exactly what this means by the tendering process and all contracts, in reference to the delivery ending in 2001. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: With regard to the fuel delivery contracts, I believe they were 10 year contracts and they were signed prior to division, and they expire on August 31st 2001, so all the fuel delivery contracts will have to be renegotiated. With regard to the NTCL contract for the purchase and transportation of the fuel, that was signed in the first week of April 1999, and most of the work, and the tendering and the evaluation were all done prior to division. Those contracts there have been RFP's issued again to tender those

contracts after they expire for the fuel delivery contractors in August 31st, 2001 and for the transportation of fuel contract that will be October 15, 2001.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister in reference to any of these contracts that may have had five year options for continuation, are you saying that these options may not be considered now, that we will go straight to the tendering process and, I guess my earlier question was, what competitive type of tendering do you plan on carrying out here in reference to these contracts.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. There is somebody with their hand up, Mr. Arvaluk, point of privilege.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure this is the right place to ask questions on the tendering process and some other details that can be dealt with through full caucuses and a briefing on the procedure that the Minister is presenting. Well the questions that are being asked, because I think we are using up a lot of peoples' time on the details of the tendering process rather than having more substance that can be asked later in the House, like in this process.

I think we should get a briefing first in the caucus before we use up the public time in those questions, I don't know, that's my point of privilege.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. As I have stated earlier on, we are dealing with 51 - 1(3), fuel price increases and that's what we are dealing with. So I think each and every person has a copy of that. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not going to respond in detail on the Minister's point of privilege or order, or whichever it was but I take exception to it. I certainly don't want to get the impression that the members from the caucus or the executive are trying to lead the questions in the question period that the members on this side of the House may want to ask.

This is why we are here. Mr. Chairman, back to the issue, trying to get to the bottom of why we are at the prices that we see with the fuel and home heating fuel and gasoline and so on. In reference to these contracts, it is my understanding that if Charlie Sunbeam and Associates gets a contract to deliver fuel in a community and that contract was 1 million dollars, but if somebody in another community gets the same contract to deliver the same amount of fuel to the same number of homes and that contractor, his bid is accepted at 2 million dollars, and all things being equal, that cost must be passed on to the consumer, to the homeowner, to the guy that drives his ski-doo and is having to go out and harvest.

So this is where I am coming from, if these prices vary that much it must be reflected in the cost to the consumer, which could be a local hunter, it could be anybody in the

community that is paying for his own fuel. So this is where I am coming from and I guess that was my next question.

Is that price, the price of a per litre I guess, is that price not passed on to the consumer if there is a variance in what we pay to the various contractors for delivering this fuel or do we absorb that somehow. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien, at this time I will let the people at the witness table respond to you and I will get to the other members too because they have questions and then get back to you a little later on. Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't mind being at the witness table for a long time, I live here and I am from here and my staff don't have to go home as yet, so it's totally up to your discretion, I just wanted to point that out.

When the fuel prices went up our staff was given direction to review the prices in regards to Mr. Tootoo's question in regards to looking at the recommendations. My staff will be reviewing the recommendations and looking at how we can deal with it better.

The review will start and from that, we are just using a system from a previous government as the Nunavut Government. So at this point in time we will review it because we are mandated to, we were directed to review that. At this point in time I cannot respond to you right now, but in regards to the figures, Mr. Green can respond to the technical questions. I am just trying to elaborate to you that after the fuel prices increased we will do a review on all aspects in regards to the fuel prices and then we will table a motion.

So I will refer the question to Mr. Green in regards to Mr. O'Brien's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. With the question that was raised whether the commissions that are paid for the fuel delivery contracts were put into the costs of the fuel, it is. It is part of the price that we need to recover from the retail sales.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. I have other names on my list. Please wait patiently for your turn. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What I'd like to understand, or clarify, I don't know if it has any relevance to this topic but this Stabilisation Fund, 5 million dollars, if it's for health issues, perhaps we would have to come up with another 10 million dollars. I would like to get further clarification on the Stabilisation Fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): If you'd like to respond either the minister or Mr. Green.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This 5 million dollars is for a Stabilisation Fund. We can't go over the 5 million dollars, it's a policy. What did you say about the health hazard. We don't understand his comments and you were talking about we don't understand how health is relevant to this topic. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu could you clarify your question please.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't know if I can make myself clear but the health department has a 20 million dollar deficit. I was wondering if we could get another 10 million dollar deficit. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I want to explain to you we don't have health issues here on the fuel price issue. Perhaps either one of you could make a comment. I know that we're not dealing with health issues or Health and Social Services at this point in time. Madame Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The deficit of health boards is totally different from the Stabilisation Fund. Perhaps you should ask that question to the Finance Minister or the Minister of Health and Social Services. You should be directing your question to either one of these ministers because we're dealing with fuel price increases. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Now I understand that it's not going to have an impact on the deficit. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. First to the minister and Mr. Green, I don't want you to feel like we're attacking you or anything like that because sometimes we get caught up in the heat of the debate and it may feel like we're attacking you but we're not.

Mr. Green, you've got a lot of information and you're probably the most knowledgeable person in this room about fuel prices right now so, we appreciate the way that you're answering the questions and thank you. And on that, a fuel price increase affects us all. I have to go back and stand in front of Hamlet Councils and HTOs and my constituents justifying and I'd like to have information so that I can pass it on to people.

And when we explain to people what's happened then they generally accept it and that's why maybe the method that we're questioning might not seem...but I'd like to pass this information onto my constituents whether it's a radio show, Hamlet Council and stuff like that.

That's why we're probably spending a lot more time on it than we have to. But it really impacts the hunters and trappers and everyone in the community so I appreciate your answers. So I'm going to ask quite a few Chairman and this is for my own information.

My colleague asked a question on the jet fuel and AV gas. Are we subsidising air fuel at the pumps in Nunavut to the airline companies. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In terms of the jet aviation fuel, the revenue exceeds the cost for us to deliver this service to Nunavut so actually in a sense the jet aviation fuel is used to subsidise the home heating and gasoline fuels. In terms of the AV gas, no, the actual value is 151 thousand.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. On the Jet A1 and the 100 AV, do we have to do this. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In reference to your question, no we really shouldn't, don't really have to do this. This is something we can look at. Like the product, the AV gas to see if we can't, we probably can look at means, depends on the consumer to pass along the full cost of this program, fuel costs to this particular consumer but in terms of the aviation, we've already got a surplus of 701 thousand a year in jet fuel. That is one area that maybe we can take a look at. Probably look at increasing the price in the future to recover our operating costs.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I think if I remember correctly, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation put a tender out to haul their own fuel into Nunavut in some locations and I see a 1.7 million dollar subsidy there. Do we subsidise the power corporation's fuel too. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Once again, what you see there for the Power Corporation, those are the long term costs that are outside of the revolving fund for the inventory for financing charges because what happens is we do purchase fuel for the power corporation and basically it sits in our inventory until we sell them throughout the year so there is a cost. We're actually subsidising the inventory ferrying charge because it's in there. Thanks.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Okay, so you've answered my question there. Now, so, the power corporation can go out and tender fuel and get it delivered cheaper and then we're storing fuel for them, like I mean, us, the government. Wouldn't it be wise that the Nunavut Government and the power corporation bought fuel together. Because the volume would probably give them a better deal in buying it. And how come we're letting the Power Corporation who is an arm of us go out and do a special deal when their volume is not as much as us. Does that make economic sense that we have the government buying two lots of fuel, when they could buy it all together at once. Is this correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There were six communities this year that entered into a separate agreement for the power corp., and you are right in your assessment in that if we buy this then we're losing economies of scale. So, because of the Power Corporation's decision to re-supply six communities outside of petroleum products, we actually put up our transportation costs for those communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. To me that seems a little bizarre because the cheque is coming from the government of Nunavut and if you could buy more fuel as a group we could probably pass it on to the consumer and that's one of the reasons we're here and I think maybe that's a good question for the Minister of the Power Corporation I'll ask why they're doing that. To me that just doesn't make sense as a businessman.

My next question is on the price of fuel here, I think it's \$0.83/ litre at the pump. I asked you the question that \$0.13/ litre for the Keewatin, how much of that \$0.83 is tax, administration, the cost and the local consumer that makes up the \$0.83. I think you would probably have that here. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll just run the costs so you can make note of those. The blended rate which is the landed costs and the transportation costs is 44 cents, commissioned delivery charges, 12 cents, the evaporation is 3 cents, the operating expense is 9 cents, the Northwest Territories tax which is the Nunavut fuel tax is 6.4 cents, the excise tax is 1 cent and the GST on those components is 5.4 cents. The total cost is around 90 cents to Rankin and we're selling it for 83.25 cents.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The 44 cents a litre cost, that's the price that's purchased from the Iraqis or whoever we purchase it from, so looking at this and it costs 90 cents a litre so it gets subsidised here also. My last question and final question, how

much of an increase do you think we're going to have this year by October that's going to be passed to consumers. Just a rough ballpark. Will it be 5 cents, 6 cents a litre in October, November. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I did an analysis on the Internet today to look at how the world crude has been moving and since we bought our fuel back in July of last year, the fuel costs have gone up 10 cents a litre. So to tell you at this point in time how much we can expect to pass along to the consumer, I wouldn't be able to tell you at this point. All I know if we had to recover operating costs, the minimum we would require would be 10 cents.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So if I'm correct here, we're looking at a minimum of 5-10 cents a litre price increase in the fall. That's to sort of prepare my constituents and myself for the likelihood of that happening in the next six months. Thank you Mr. Chairman. That's all I have for now.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. O'Brien then Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll try and be brief in my questions. I think you indicated minister, that there were six contracts outside of the normal tendering process for fuel. One in particular is the Power Corporation. I'd like to know what the other five are and I guess the million dollar question is if we were to go and tender our fuel as one, what type of a saving are we talking about. What difference of fuel per litre.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all the six communities that we're referring to, they are all the power corporation re-supply communities. So I think it's around 20 million litres in decreased sales so I can't give you the exact estimate but some calculations that we've done in some communities being anywhere from 5-10 cents per litre difference in the transportation cost because the contract that we've entered into is a fixed contract for transportation costs. So if we order less fuel it's going to drive the costs up. Because of that, in some communities, the fuel delivery charge did go up an average of 10 cents a litre.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Green. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how soon can we as a government, I'm trying to look through my notes to see as to the dates that the minister's staff gave me a reference to, terminating the existing contracts or finishing up with them before we go into the tendering process again. I believe it was 2001. Is there a possibility of doing that sooner so that we can get these savings in place.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We cannot break the contracts, we'll have to wait right to the end. Thank you.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was referring more to the contracts that went out with the power corp. with those six areas.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I haven't been a party to those contracts that were signed for NTCL but to the best of my knowledge, I think those contracts were signed for three years and I think there's two years remaining on those contracts.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't think I made myself clear, and that's my fault not the minister or staff. What I was referring to is the big tankers that come into our communities and one in particular, to mine, I believe it was a 10 story Russian tanker unloading fuel for the power corporation, this was fuel that NTCL or others would not be delivering, that would have reduced their load.

That was the area I was referring to. How long are we tied into those agreements in reference to, the decision was made prior to the Nunavut Government coming into affect. It was made by the last Assembly, the last cabinet minister or Financial Management Board to allow the Power Corporation to deviate from the norm and buy their own fuel. We accepted that arrangement, maybe not knowingly that it was going to increase, or maybe we did, in such a significant manner. So that was the area that I was referring to. The Power Corp was sort of being allowed to go on their own and not get the same deal that if we went as a whole family that we would get and that's obvious from your numbers. So I guess my concern was how do we get around that. And the sooner the better.

The second point I want to make in reference to all the information, the jargon and the detailed comments that are made by the ministers and their staff, it's very difficult for members here. We sit down and we have a face to face dialogue with yourself minister, and other staff people about how these figures are arrived at and the cost of fuel and the subsidies and so on and so forth but it's a little more difficult to go back to the community and take this information and try to make sense out of it to make it simplified so that everybody understands.

I'll be honest with you, I just don't understand all the jargon that you've thrown at us today, the leaflet to the people in the community so that the guy who is going out hunting

and finds that the price of fuel is just too much. If we could in some way put it in a form that is very simple so that everybody understands it. Then I think it will go a long way to making our jobs a little easier so that the people in the communities understand why the cost is up. So, I would like the minister to commit to that in order to simplify the documentation. A one or two page document so the people in the community could see for themselves and they could go through and understand it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are quite a lot of numbers that you have to deal with in regards to fuel prices. We will work on getting easier to understand information out to the communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, a few questions. I just want to go back to one that I didn't understand earlier and just to make that point along with Glenn. I'm just trying to wrap my head around all this information because I will have to explain it to my constituents. I think as everyone is seeing it is not a very simple straightforward issue. It is very complex and that is why we have all these questions. We are just trying to understand it.

As someone has said earlier the decision was made earlier by the government and as regular members we'll have to live with it in our communities and our ridings and have to answer to it when our constituents ask why did this happen. That is what I see this being about.

We do really need to understand this and I don't believe we are wasting public time in doing this. Just one quick question on the DND and the federal government subsidy of what looks like just over 200 thousand dollars. Is that an actual subsidy or did you indicate that we would be recovering that from the federal government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson. Those subsidies, I guess what I was trying to allude to earlier and trying to emphasise, the PPD's mandate is to recover its operating costs from the retail sales from the cash component that I mentioned earlier. What you have seen in this report for the DND and the federal government are the cost components that are outside of the revolving fund, which is not mandated to form part of the retail price.

But it is a cost to the Government of Nunavut to deliver this program unless our mandate is changed so we can start recovering the full cost of services for some consumer groups. Right now that mandate does not exist. We have to change our mandate in order to

collect the total cost to certain consumer groups like the federal government and the Department of National Defence. But at this point in time the Petroleum Product's mandate is only to recover its operating costs. Not all the costs of delivering the programs.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So now that I understand, we are subsidising the federal government for their fuel. I think they should pay what it costs us for the full service of that delivery and I believe the same with the airlines. They are passing on everything to the passenger.

You can look at the freight rates and how much the prices of tickets and cargo rates have gone up in the last two years. But I really believe that we should pass those full costs on especially to the federal government. You say it's not in your mandate. What would have to happen in order for that to be included in your mandate so we do recover all those costs from the federal government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman, as part of the review for our long term strategies that is one option that we can take a look at interest groups like the federal government and the Department of National Defence to recover all of our operating costs. The only concern I've got with some of the other commercial groups. For example for the airlines if we pass on a 5 cent increase to the airlines then they turn around and increase the prices by 7.2. That means it is still going to be a cost to the consumer and Nunavut if we pass some of those costs to some of those commercial groups.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. We are running out of time here it's almost six o'clock. Mr. Iqaqrialu I'll give you an opportunity.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity. I thought that Mr. McLean had a very good question regarding whether or not there was going to be an increase in fuel prices this fall. For myself in my other community it is going to have a drastic impact on my community if there is going to be another increase in my community in the fall.

I will be very concerned if you are thinking about increasing the price. It would be a thirty to forty percent increase in the fuel rates in my community. If there is going to be a 5 or 10 cent increase it's going to have a tremendous impact in my community. That's how I understood it, so I kept it as short as possible because it is almost six o'clock. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Perhaps the minister or her official will answer.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was a question of whether there was going to be an increase in the near future. We don't know but it is very likely and we are trying do a review and we will be putting together some recommendations for your review after.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a number of other questions, but recognising the clock maybe I will ask if we can move to report progress and continue with more questions tomorrow. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. Thank you. Madame Minister and Mr. Green, I would like to thank you for taking the time and for being at the witness table.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 51-1(3), and would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Seconder. Mr. Nutarak seconds. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting tonight at 6:15, at the hotel board room of the Standing Committee of Culture, Health and Education. Orders of the day for Tuesday, February 29, 2000.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 50-1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 51-1(3)
 - Tabled document 24-1(3), 25-1(3), 27-1(3),
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills,
 - Bill 9
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. I will now adjourn this meeting until February 29, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant at Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.*

