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Iqaluit

Acting Speaker: The Hon. Uriash Puqignak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Deputy Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq

(Amittuq)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak

(Kugluktuk)

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Hon. James Arvaluk

(Nanulik)

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Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday March 22, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): I would like to ask Ms. Lucy Tuupik Iyago to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker's Opening Remarks

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Iyago. Good afternoon. Before we proceed to the Orders of the Day, I would like to say a few words.

First, I would like to welcome all members of this House back to Iqaluit, as we reconvene the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly. I want to express my thanks for the support that I have received from all members during recent days in preparing to serve as your Speaker.

It's been a few months since we sat in this Chamber, and I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the clock that we recently received from the Ontario Legislative Assembly as a gift to commemorate the opening of the Assembly. I am sure you will agree that it adds to the beauty of the Chamber.

On behalf of this House, I want to extend our deepest condolences to the family of the late Ipeelie Kilabuk. Ipeelie was a friend of many of us, a true leader in his community, and one of the driving forces behind the creation of Nunavut. His wisdom and humanity will be missed by us all.

I would also like to welcome back to the Chamber Simon Nattaq, who will be serving as Sergeant-at-Arms today. Starting tomorrow, Jaco Ishuluktuk of Pangnirtung will be serving as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Finally, a warm welcome to our Pages -- some of whom are now veterans, some of whom are new. They are:

- Fauna Kingdon
- Naunuq Kusugak
- Peter Gilhuly
- Katie Tufts
- Diane Iyago
- Pascal McLellan

>>Applause

We will now proceed to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 74 - 1(3): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Honourable Jack Anawak will be absent from the House from today until Friday, March 24 to attend a funeral in Repulse Bay.

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

Minister's Statement 75 - 1(3): Ratification of Collective Agreement with FNT

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to rise today to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly that the first collective agreement between the Government of Nunavut and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers has been ratified.

Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the membership of the Federation of Nunavut teachers ratified a three year collective agreement. This new agreement represents over six hundred teachers who are helping students right across Nunavut acquire skills they need to become productive members of our future workforce.

The three year agreement includes salary increases of 3.5 percent, 2.75 percent, and 2.75 percent in each of the three years respectively, retroactive to September 1, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the new collective agreement covers a number of important areas of concern for Nunavut's teachers, including professional development, recognition for language proficiency in Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun, a one time professional allowance, and significant increase of 25 percent to the Northern Allowance.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am confident that professional relationship that we have established with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers through the collective bargaining process will continue, and our goal of supporting good employee/ employer relations will continue to be top priority with this government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 76 - 1(3): Arctic Winter Games/Hodgson Trophy

Hon. Donald Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Minister of Community Government & Transportation it gives me pleasure and great pride that I rise today to recognize the achievements of the first Team Nunavut to participate in the Arctic Winter Games.

Although we are approaching our first anniversary as a Territory, it was at these Arctic Winter Games that Nunavut was able to inspire real pride amongst Nunavutmiut. Our Premier, Honourable Paul Okalik who attended the opening ceremonies at the Takhini arena along with several other visitors and spectators from Nunavut.

We all agree watching the Nunavut team marching into the arena was an emotional experience for us all. I would like to on behalf of the government to recognize the strong support of the parents who at their own expenses travelled to Whitehorse to cheer for our team Nunavut.

Our section was held for parents, coaches, our mission staff came to a relaxing and to an enjoyable time and to share stories of our athletes' accomplishments up until that Wednesday evening.

During our reception, Minister Anawak expressed the Government of Nunavut's sincere thanks to the mission staff under the direction of Patrick Tagoona, our Chef de Mission.

They did a superb job of managing the Nunavut team through successful Arctic Winter Games. I would like to repeat our thanks to them in the house. Mr. Speaker on behalf of the government I would like to express our deepest thanks to Marilyn Neily and Jim McDonald, our Nunavut representatives at the Arctic Winter Games International committee for a job well done.

As you know the next Arctic Winter Games will be held in Iqaluit and Nuuk in the year 2002. I took great pleasure in noting that 26 members of the Iqaluit Host Society attended the Whitehorse games. While there, they worked hard to learn from these Games and are now in a good position to move forward with the planning of the Iqaluit-Nuuk 2002 Arctic Winter Games.

During the seven days of the competition, 249 Nunavummiut represented our Territory in Whitehorse. In all, Team Nunavut brought home 34 hard earned Ulus-11 Gold, 10 Silver, 13 Bronze. I would like to point out that the most successful medal total was in the Arctic Sports category, where Team Nunavut won 12 Ulus.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the Ulus there is one major honour that was bestowed on Team Nunavut. The Hodgson Trophy is an award that was earned by each and every member of Team Nunavut. And it is an award we should be very proud of, because it exemplifies the ideals of fair play and team spirit.

Mr. Speaker, although the original trophy rests with the president of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, I would like to give the Members of the Legislative Assembly an opportunity to view the framed version of the Hodgson Trophy, won by our very own Team Nunavut.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me once again on behalf of our Government extend our congratulations to all our athletes and team members for a great team effort. Quanna Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 77 - 1(3): Social Work Week: March 20-26, 2000

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to you and our colleagues to Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I wish to announce that the week of March 20 to 26 is Social Work Week in Nunavut. Nunavut Social Workers are joining their colleagues from across Northern Canada to celebrate this special week.

I am sure we all recognize that social workers make a significant contribution to the well being of our communities. Every day, they face unique and difficult challenges as they strive to help improve their lives.

The purpose of Social Work Week is to raise awareness of the important contributions that social workers make in our communities. Their dedication to serving and caring individuals, families and especially children is essential to building healthy communities.

As the minister of Health and Social Services, I ask my colleagues in this Assembly and everyone in Nunavut to join me in recognizing March 20 to 26 as Social Work Week in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Minister Ng.

Minister's Statement 78 - 1(3): Notification of Tabling 2000/2001 Budget

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, that tomorrow, Thursday, March 23rd, I will table the Government

of Nunavut's second budget and deliver the budget address for the 2000/01 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance. Ministers' Statements. Orders of the day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 175 - 1(3): Arviat Aboriginal Head Start Program

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the Arviat Aboriginal Head Start program for being selected as one of 6 Aboriginal Head Start programmes within Canada to participate in the National Aboriginal Head Start indigenous community linkages program.

The goal of the community linkages program is to exchange information on how to transmit aboriginal cultural values, language and beliefs in the pre-school setting. There will be 6 partnered sites across Canada to which Arviat head start program will be linked through the Inuit Head Start Program in Ottawa. The reciprocal visit between Arviat and the Ottawa programmes involving 3 staff members of each program will occur before March 31st 2000. Mr. Speaker, congratulations once again to the Aboriginal Head Start Program and the dedicated hard working staff in Arviat. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation). Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Members' statements. Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 176 - 1(3): Importance of Inuktitut

Mr. Okalik (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak in inuktitut to be aired on TV for the people of Iqaluit. Especially in my constituency, as your representative I would like to say its very important to speak in Inuktitut whenever possible. I believe that the Inuit can do what ever they want to do if they put their minds to it. I would like thank those people that have assisted us in this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Okalik. Members' statements. Mr. Haviyoyak.

Member's Statement 177 - 1(3): Kugluktuk Double Suicide

Hon. Donald Haviyoyak (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people of Kugluktuk I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit, Suicide Prevention Staff and the

people of Nunavut for giving the people of Kugluktuk much needed support during the difficult times in dealing with a double suicide in the community.

I would also note that after a public meeting on the issue, the leaders and the people are working hard to put the community members lives back to normal. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you Mr.Havioyak. Members statements. Mr.Tootoo.

Member's Statement 178 - 1(3): Arctic Winter Games

Mr.Tootoo: Thank you Mr.Speaker. Mr.Speaker I am very happy to be able to rise today to pay tribute to the young althetes who performed so well at the Arctic Winter Games this month in Whitehorse. Mr.Speaker, the first appearance of Nunavut as a territory at the Arctic Winter Games was a historic occasion.

All over Nunavut the people were proud of our atheletes. The spirit of Nunavut was best illustrated by winning the Hodgson trophy. A real honour for all those participated. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congradulate some Iqaluit residents by name coming from myself and the other 2 members from Iqaluit, Mr.Okalik and Mr.Picco.

We would like to recognize Lucassie Peter, Kyle St.Laurent, Peter Gilhuly, Nick Nauyuk, Silver Ulu winners in the 2000 meter speed skating.

Billy Atagoyuk and Jonathan Flaherty , Bronze Ulu winners in Bantam hockey. Lucassie Peter again, a bronze Ulu winner for speed skating. And to the coaches, officials and volunteers who accompanied their team. Patrick Tagoona, Tommy Bruce, Mike Rafter and Danise Hutchins.

Mr.Speaker, I can name many more. Their hard work and commitment to our youth helped to ensure the success of Team Nunavut. Mr.Speaker, in closing I would like to say that Iqaluit is already working towards the 2002 Winter Games when the games come here. The success in Whitehorse will build upon our confident in the next games. We'll put on a world class show. Thank you Mr.Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you Mr.Tootoo. Members' Statements Mr.O'Brien.

Member's Statement 179 - 1(3): Arctic Winter Games

Mr. McLean: I rise today to commend the young people from Baker Lake for their hardwork and sportsmanship at the recent Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse.

Trevor Atungalak, Edwin Paturmiraqtuq, Jeffery Hart, Devon Killarlark, Patrick Angujuak and their coach Brian Putankas. And, for those that stood out at the games

were Larry Nakoolak who received a gold wrestling, Jason Paturmiraqtuq, who received a silver Ulu in Airplane, and Richard Iyago who received a bronze in hockey. And I eagerly await the 2002 where the medal count for Baker Lake will increase. Mattna Uqatti.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr.Mclean. Members statements. Mr.Ng.

Member's Statement 180 - 1(3): Maya Elise Kristen Aliguknaluk Niptanatiak

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr.Speaker. Mr.Speaker on Tuesday March 14th Maya Elise Kristen Aliguknaluk Niptanatiak was born at the Stanton Regional Hospital in Yellowknife. Maya came into the world at 11:43 pm approximately 10 weeks premature weighing in at 4 pounds 5 ounces.

Shortly after her birth, she was sent to the neonatal intensive care unit at the University Hospital in Edmonton for an extensive examination. I am happy to report, Mr.Speaker, that baby Maya was given a complete clean Bill of health and arrived back in Yellowknife this past Monday. Once she gains enough weight she'll become the newest edition to the population in Cambridge Bay.

Mr.Speaker, members may be wondering about the significance of my newest constituent. I'm happy to report that baby Maya is the first grandchild of Nora Kelly Niptanatiak and just as importantly the first grandchild of my wife Susie and I.

>>Applause

In closing, I wish to acknowledge Dr. Mansouri and the staff at the Stanton Regional Hospital for a safe delivery and also thank the doctors and nurses at the University Hospital in Edmonton who attended to baby Maya. Thank you Mr.Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr.Ng. Members statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation). Thank you Mr.Speaker. I can hear Inuktitut and Inuinaqtun in my reciever. I would like to get this technical problem resolved.

>>Audio Unavailable

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq

Member's Statement 181 - 1(3): Appreciation to People of Rankin Inlet

>>Audio Unavailable

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco

Member's Statement 182 - 1(3): Temporary Canada Customs and Revenue Agency Office

>>Audio Unavailable

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu

Member's Statement 183 - 1(3): Tribute to Athletes in Constituency

>>Audio Unavailable

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): ...plus this could also help to improve our lives in our territory and I would also encourage young people to attend school so they can become better representatives in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Then we will go back to our orders of the day. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Thompson.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 195 - 1(3) LHO Funding

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, and if my parents are watching I am smiling at them. I have 4 Returns to Oral Questions, Mr. Speaker. The first return is to an oral question that was asked by Mr. Tootoo on February 22, 2000. Mr. Speaker I rise today to provide a response to that question posed to me by Mr. Tootoo. The member asked if my deputy minister had any plans to make a submission to reallocate funds to the local level of housing association.

Local housing organizations are formula funded. The formula is based on objective and measurable criteria including the number of units managed by the local housing organisation's portfolio and the economic condition of the community. This is determined by the potential revenue and the costs to operate in the particular geographic location

Mr. Speaker at the end of each fiscal year a public audit firm completes an audit to determine the financial status of each local housing organization. Until this audit is complete we cannot determine the actual financial position of the local housing organizations. Therefore, we cannot consider reallocations of the government surplus.

(interpretation ends)As stated in the Bathurst Mandate any surplus funds obtained to improve the current housing staff would be a positive step towards addressing Nunavut's current housing situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return to OQ 151 - 1(3) Price of Previous Years Fuel Purchase

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Another return to oral questions posed by Mr. McLean on February 17, 2000. I rise today to provide a response to Mr. McLean's oral question. The member wanted to know the price of fuel purchased last year.

Mr. Speaker the per litre price of fuel products purchased in 1998/99 and 1999/00: for 98/99 diesel was 18 cents per litre; Gasoline was 21 cents per litre; and Jet A1 was 18 cents per litre. In 1999/00 diesel was 27 cents per litre; gasoline was 28 cents per litre; and Jet A1 was 22 cents per litre. The overall average price increase for 1999/00 was as follows diesel increase of 9 cents per litre. Gasoline increase of 7 cents per litre and Jet A1 was up 4 cents per litre.

Return to OQ 152 - 1(3) Transportation Costs of Fuel Products

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I rise today to answer another question posed to myself by Mr. Tootoo, on February 17, 2000. That question was what was the transportation costs of fuel products this year over last year.

Mr. Speaker the per litre transportation costs for fuel products in 1998/99 and 1999/00 was 1998/99 diesel was 18 cents. Gasoline was 18 cents. Jet A1 was 9 cents. 1999/00 diesel 19 cents. Gasoline 19 cents. Jet A1 9 cents. Mr. Speaker, the overall average increase in per litre transportation costs for fuel products this year over last year; diesel was 1 cent, gasoline was 1 cent and Jet A1 was no change.

Return to OQ 160 - 1(3) Fuel Purchase Process

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): There was another question asked by Mr. Tootoo on February 17, 2000. Mr. Speaker I rise today to provide a response to the question posed to me. The member wanted to know what process is used when there is purchases for petroleum products for Nunavut.

PPD has signed a 3 year contract with NTCL to purchase and transport fuel for Nunavut. This contract expires on October 15, 2001, with a renewal option for a further 2 years. The transportation costs will remain fixed for the duration of the contract. Product purchases are based on the Imperial Oil Ltd./ Esso's posting as published in Bloomberg's Oil Buyers Guide for Canadian rate pricing, basing Edmonton as the point of delivery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Returns to oral questions. Minister Arvaluk.

Return to OQ 248 - 1(3) Income Support Program

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to reply to the question that was asked by Mr. Iqaqrialu, the MLA for Clyde River, on February 28, 2000. Regarding to the Income Support Program, the Income Support Program operates on the principals that we need to provide financial support to those individuals in need. Also, we need to encourage as many people as possible to maintain and enhance their independence.

The main way that income support clients maintain and enhance their independence is through productive choices. There are three types of productive choices for income support clients where safety and worker injuries could be involved. Those three types are where the client is enrolled in secondary or post secondary training program including work experience. The client is engaged in hunting, fishing or trapping as their major source of income.

Also, the third one is if the client is doing volunteer work for an agency or institution in the community. In the specific interest of volunteer work we understand each agency or institution the volunteer works with is responsible for applying to the Worker's Compensation Board to cover this type of unpaid worker. An information bulletin in English and Inuktitut has been sent to our regional offices for distribution to income support workers.

We have already distributed to the income support workers and the workers have been advised to verify whether the volunteer agencies have applied for coverage to the Worker's Compensation Board. As income support clients are not employees of the program. I believe the other aspects of the question can be better dealt with the minister responsible for the Worker's Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Returns to oral questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, first of all I would like to welcome to the gallery an old family friend and adult educator, Ms. Maureen Doherty and the lady sitting beside her that is up here conducting workshops for Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, during the earlier break when we had those technical difficulties we had a very honoured guest in the gallery and I would like to put the recognition on the record. It was Noel Noric is the president of the Northern Social Workers Association, which includes Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. This is the first time she has come to Nunavut and I had an opportunity to talk with her.

Also, over here is Mr. Jerry Ell who I usually try to recognize when he is in the gallery. This is the guy I need to beat during Toonik Tyme at the ptarmigan and rabbit contest. I

can't beat him at the seal hunting contest but I think I will beat him at the others this year. Next to Jerry is Gilbert Normandeau the Chairperson of the Arctic Winter Games 2002.

I also cannot forget Mr. Robert Stanbury. Mr. Stanbury is a long serving public servant and a lawyer that served with me for five years on the Nunavut Arbitration Board. Another role he has been performing is a former federal cabinet minister and a good friend Mr. Robert Stanbury. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you and welcome to the legislative assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize some individuals that were in Whitehorse at the Arctic Winter Games with me, Mr. Jerry Ell, Mr. Gilbert Normandeau. Thank you Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize my constituency worker George. I would like to welcome him to the house. I don't mind having many staff because I would like to create many job opportunities for Nunavummiut. So I'm very proud of the fact that he arrived here to attend this session, and I would like to welcome him and also be proud of him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Item number 5 in our orders of the day. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a person from my home community. Last year he started taking on the healing program and this winter he did a healing program for 2 weeks and he is now visiting the communities of Nunavut to talk about suicide prevention. He is supposed to be going home but he has been asked to go to another community in the Kitikmeot. Also I would like to recognize another person from Pond Inlet. He is the chairperson of the Divisional Education Council David Kunuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Mr. McLean: I rise today to recognize a respected elder of Baker Lake, Lucy Tuupik Iyago and her son formerly a resident of Baker Lake and now of Iqaluit Steven Iyago and former resident of Rankin Inlet Emily Illniq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean welcome. Recognition of visitors to the assembly. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manik Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although that person was already recognized I would like to recognize her again. She was the chairperson of the Education Council in Rankin Inlet before she moved to Iqaluit. She is a hard worker and I'm very proud of her. Her name is Emily Illniq and I would like her to be recognized again.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome again. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this person has already been recognized I worked with him for quite a number of years and although he came from a different community we took workshops and training courses together. At the same time he was a constituent worker for Mr. Iqaqrialu, George.

Speaker (interpretation): welcome again the legislative assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going back to the orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 257 - 1(3): Office Space for Decentralization

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, I'm not sure if it should be directed to the Premier or the Minister for Education. About three weeks ago I posed some questions to the Premier I believe in reference to the decentralization of Arctic College jobs to my community of Arviat. There was concern that there wasn't enough office space available to accommodate these thirteen positions and that it may take somewhat longer to provide that office space.

Mr. Speaker the following day the mayor and hamlet council forwarded a letter to the premier and the minister of education indicating that they did indeed find eighteen office spaces that could be available to accommodate these decentralised jobs. I would like to ask the minister or the Premier about this letter they received about three weeks ago and if there is any progress in this area.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: As the member knows the department is committed to decentralization of all activities. Cabinet has decided that Nunavut Arctic College would change location from Rankin to Arviat in support of the cabinet restructured decentralisation plan. The exact details on the Nunavut Arctic College move to Arviat is still with cabinet and the department cannot and should not comment until cabinet releases this information publicly.

Over 50% of all Education headquarters positions are to be located outside of Iqaluit. Yes, the Government of Nunavut is planning to decentralize employees this year. Until the budgets are approved no final decision as to numbers and destination is practical.

We have committed to some but other places we are still working on. I am not opposed to a letter from the Mayor, it is just that I will need cabinet approval for a final decision as to when and to what type of accommodation or office space is available. As soon as those are available I am confident that the government will be making a decision soon.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am certainly not questioning the commitment on behalf of the government. I think we have all heard in this House both the Premier and the Minister of Education make very firm commitments to decentralising positions to my home community.

I am sure the Ministers can understand that there is some interest as to when these jobs will be decentralized. There was commitment by the Premier in the House this past February that if there was office space available then there would be no difficulty in reassigning these jobs, or transferring these jobs to Arviat. So I would ask the Minister if he could confirm when, a timetable when the people might expect an answer as to your decision on the timing of these decentralized jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, I just told the member already that we are working on this. We have stated that it will be in 2001 for mainly two reasons. One, because the office space was designed for work stations, when the Department of Education's 30 positions that were to accommodate the floor of that office, required a resource centre, that took away quite a bit of space for work stations for 11 – 13 PY's. That has to be confirmed by Arctic College. It has been committed to Arviat, it is just that we have not yet determined what kind of office space or workstations will be available in Arviat.

The letter from the Mayor in support of the member is one of the considerations that this government will be looking at. We are looking at different options as to what is the best and cheapest way possible that we will be able to transfer the Arctic College to Arviat.

Secondly, we also have to consider that the employees effected are the people of the community of Iqaluit and they have their families here, they have property here, all these specifics have to be dealt with before the government can say exactly when the decentralization will take place. But I can assure the members that we have already committed within the year 2001 and this is our timetable. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Arvaluk. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seem to be getting some conflicting responses to my question. I raised this issue in the House in February in reference to the timing of the transferring of these positions. I raised the issue many, many months ago and had the Minister of Education confirm in this House that these 13 positions would be in place in Arviat by July 1st, 2000.

I since then heard that there were some difficulties in securing office space and it was not available. I posed the question in February to the Premier and the Premier indicated to me that if office space were available it shouldn't be a problem in relocating these positions to Arviat. Now the Minister is indicating that it will be in the year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, I am trying to get a clear-cut answer to this question that I am posing here. The issue is very important to the people of Arviat. It was committed in this House in February by the Premier on behalf of the Department of Education that if office space were indeed to be found that there shouldn't be any difficulty in moving these positions.

So I ask the minister once again, the fact that the office space is available, can be available, will the minister move quickly when this office space is refurbished or made to accommodate these staff, would he then put these positions in Arviat as was committed by both himself and the Premier and this government. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a plan for July 2000, the member is correct. I indicated earlier, because of the office space situation we realized that we would not have a space in the designated office that was built for workstations because there was a resource centre requirement for the Department of Education.

It becomes a problem in trying to move in July 2000. I asked the government if I could have a little bit more time until I work with Public Works, Decentralization Secretariat and the Department of Education to determine what would be the best space available. The government responded and instructed me not to go beyond December 2001.

If we can move earlier that will be great, I am not telling the member that our plan is now 2001 but the plan is up to this time. I hope I will need less than that but any kind of consideration for alternate office space to accommodate Arctic College will be considered by this government seriously.

Of course, because this building would be owned by the government, then evaluations have to be done by the government before we can make the decision as to when and where we can move the Arctic College. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't hesitate for a minute to say to the minister that I do understand and I believe that the commitment is there. I think that

was made very clear by the minister and the Premier. But on the other hand there was a commitment made to myself by the minister and his office, also in this House and also by the Premier that the problem was office space. That's the issue here.

We have now provided an option for office space, so to me I think it is very simple. That was the issue, you have confirmed that was the issue in February in the House in Rankin Inlet. We have now come forward with an option that is viable. So I suggest to the Minister that there shouldn't be any difficulty or roadblocks in transferring these positions.

I am not sure how many are coming from this area, how many are moving from the east, I don't think all the positions are transfers from other areas. So I would ask the minister once again is he going to honour his commitment that he has made to me and also that the Premier made in the House, that if the office space were found, that the jobs would be transferred as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been in discussion with Public Works. I have not yet been advised about the recommendations that have been made about the accommodations that we will be moving in to. That is being analyzed by the people over there.

As soon as we receive the letter from Arviat, I will ultimately have to discuss it with Cabinet when the recommendation has been given to me by the department. So I would advise the member to give me more time to give the recommendation to Public Works and the Department of Education and I will have a paper prepared to go to the Cabinet and I will advise the member.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Orders of the Day. Member for Baker Lake. Oral question.

Question 258 - 1(3): Decentralization Plans to Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the office building in Baker Lake is going to be completed on April 4th with the grand opening and it is eagerly awaited. My question today is to the Minister of Education in regards to the Education decentralization plans for Baker Lake.

Could the minister inform me when they expect to hire the Manager of Library Policy for Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have advertised this and we had the interviews and the person changed their mind and we will be proceeding with that again,

hopefully we'll get it done soon. I don't know what is taking place right now but I have instructed my staff to do this again and hopefully that will happen and we will interview another person for hiring to that position.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Eventually, Mr. Speaker, we will find somebody that will wish to relocate. My supplementary question to the minister is, does the minister have any kind of training program planned for the remaining four positions for the Nunavut Library and if he has, when is he going to implement this training program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot really answer the question until the budget address has been made. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Orders of the Day. Oral questions. Member for Pond Inlet, Mr. Nutarak.

Question 259 - 1(3): Decentralization to Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. I read in the Nunatsiaq Newspaper that in Pond Inlet if we were to move some positions to communities it would be too costly. I took it that this particular person didn't want to move to Pond Inlet. Somebody will have to relocate to my community.

I am just wondering if we could get some kind of training program in place for those people in my community. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, we have made a commitment to decentralization and the internal operations as to who will move and who will not move has not been finalized, except for the Divisional Board. If the member is talking about the Divisional Board that has been finalized but for the other positions respecting about the money matter that will also have to wait until the budget is read. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Pond Inlet, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it was last fall when I questioned the Minister of Public Works to see if they were going to have teacher training programs in Pond Inlet and she indicated that there would be a training program set up in Pond Inlet.

However I want to ask the Minister of Education if he would commit to setting up a training program, whether we have the funding as yet. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I apologize, I was being questioned in English earlier and I responded in English again. However, I want to indicate that all the positions that will be relocated to communities will be given great consideration, however I cannot represent the Minister for Public Works in saying whether there is going to be space for training in communities such as the one we are talking about.

The Human Resources Department also has taken a part in this relocation of positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Mr. Iqittuq, Member for Amittuq.

Question 260 - 1(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Training

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we have to be really looking at our time here. During our last session in Rankin Inlet, I asked the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth whether they are planning to do a training program on the traditional way of life and survivors skills. According to my understanding the planning is going to take a lot of time, according to his answer he said they would strike a subcommittee working with NTI.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, have they already planned and started the committees for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and Status of Women.

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I cannot respond to his question. As you have heard before there was going to be a Task Force, I won't really answer this right now but I am going to be dealing with this issue when we are talking about the budget. Also we are going to be talking about Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and it is linked to this issue, so we will be talking about these things during the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding we are talking about will be discussed during the budget session but he also indicated that the funding is in the planning stages at this time. I would like to ask the minister when the Task Force will be

given the funding and when we would be able to complete this planning stage. When will the Task Force actually start their duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded to him that we would be discussing that in the budget. When the budget is tabled we will give you a definite answer to your question. The question you asked I will try to answer more clearly in the budget session. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 261- 1(3): Overall Cost Increase of Transporting Fuel

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. I would like to thank the minister for providing a cost breakdown per community for fuel and the transportation costs for last year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if she could give us a total number of what it cost, if it cost us 50 thousand or 100 thousand, if she has a figure as to what the overall costs were to us for the increase in transportation costs for the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications, Technical Services & Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if he could clarify his question. There are 26 communities in Nunavut that actually get their fuel transported so I would like for him to clarify his question. In my response to his question it states that the diesel went up by 1 cent and gasoline the price went up by 1 cent and there was no change for Jet A1.

I would like to get further clarification on his question because we transport fuel to 26 communities in Nunavut. Is that your question for the whole 26 communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister Thompson. Could you clarify your question please.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question on February 17th, Oral Question 152 – 1(3) where I asked how much more we had to pay for transportation costs for this year over last year with fuel. The minister gave us a breakdown as to how much

more the cost was per litre for diesel and per litre for gasoline and indicated that Jet A1 was no change.

Mr. Speaker, I was asking the minister if she could provide a number on how much it costs all together, total costs, how much more it cost for the transportation of fuel this year over last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that is cleared up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is self-explanatory in my reply. Mr. Speaker, it is already stated in here that the cost for fuel products went up by 1 cent and the only one that didn't change was Jet A1 fuel. All these numbers and figures, we would have to add up all the totals from the previous years to compare to this current year and I don't have that documentation right here in front of me.

So I don't have that document in front of me, but I have replied to your question on the transportation costs for fuel products and how much the increase was. It is stated in my response. As every one of the members are aware, we don't have all the detailed information right in front of us, so I won't be able to respond to your question right away so I will take it as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. I understand you have taken the question as notice. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Oral questions. Member for Uqqumiut, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 262- 1(3): Social Worker for Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. As we both received a letter from my home community that we don't have a social worker in my community, I would like to know if this position is going to be filled soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did receive a letter just recently over the past two weeks from the Mayor of Clyde River indicating his concern that the social worker position in Clyde River has been vacant for quite a while. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, when I was in Clyde the member raised the concern at that time.

My understanding, Mr. Speaker, from the information provided to me is that the position has been vacant for quite a while and that no qualified applicant has come forward. It has been advertised and after receiving the letter from the Mayor, Mr. Speaker, we have gone

back down to the Department of Health and Social Services to see if we could re-advertise to find a qualified person to fill the social worker position.

But, Mr. Speaker, I should let you know that we have been having some difficulty over the past several months filling social worker positions here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Member for Uqqumiut, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I truly believe your response that it is a fact. However, as residents of Nunavut usually we have to be qualified and certified people in order to get a job. The Nunavut Government has already stated that we don't want to see too many certifications. In my community I have spoken to a person who applied for a job and that person was complaining about why did we hire a person from outside of our community. This was his concern.

If we are not going to be hiring local people just because they are not certified then we are not going to be learning anything. As the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services I think you have to start being more sensitive to the local people. Even though they are not certified they can be very capable workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member. Earlier I had mentioned that the head of the social workers association for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and the Yukon was here. Mr. Speaker, just recently a person who has worked for 30 years in the social work field, with no formal training, was just honoured for her work.

So I agree with what the member is saying, is that it is not all about academics. After saying that Mr. Speaker, we want to make sure the person that we put into the community is qualified and able to apply the Child Welfare Act and other Acts that a social worker has to understand to be able to get the job.

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to train local people for the jobs. I think there are 3 people right now who are almost completed their diploma in social work in Igloolik and some other people who are finishing off their program in Cambridge Bay. Hopefully some of these people we may be able to look at opportunities to place them in some of our vacant communities. Those people are all from the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Member for Uqqumiut riding, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I truly believe in his response, but today we say that as Members of the Legislative Assembly for Nunavut,

that we would like to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in our system. In regards to the Child Welfare Act, are we also going to be utilizing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit when we do our training program for Child Welfare, because I am sure it is going to be very beneficial. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member knows there are some of these issues coming forward concerning Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the budget in regards to the Department of Health and Social Services. I don't want to get into the details right now as Mr. Ng will table that budget tomorrow and we are going to have the opportunity to debate that in the House.

But what I want to say to the member, and to the members of this House, is that our Department of Health and Social Services believe in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we are trying to put in a regime so that we will be able to encompass Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the daily aspects of our employment.

Not only at the hospital, but with nurses, doctors and social workers and so on. That is a large task and the member had asked about the position of social worker. Mr. Speaker, I will move as quickly as possible to try and fill that position in Clyde River as we are trying to fill some of the other positions, in Kimmirut for example, I am sure the other member will be asking about that this afternoon.

So Mr. Speaker, we are trying to act and Mr. Speaker, we are trying to put in place Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and there are some good additions coming forward in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Oral questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 263- 1(3): Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to Programs

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I just wondered when you are going to incorporate the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to the elders programs and services.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I did not quite hear your entire question. Perhaps you could rephrase please.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Havioyak. Member for Akulliq.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is that when we finished with the Main Estimates, the development of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was going to be implemented. When will the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit be developed into the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question now. Thank you for your question. I answered earlier to another member that we can't give a definite answer right now until the budget has been tabled. That's when I can give you a definite answer when we are dealing with the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My particular question is in regards to elders and youth programs. They would like to be able to communicate with one and other and because we have such a big generation gap between the two, we want to be able to move them closer together so that they can work together as youth and elders.

The youth today will have to be encouraged by elders to be able to survive in today's world. I am not really questioning the minister about the funding part but when will he put the programs out for elders and youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make it as simple as possible that the programs that we are working on right now in regards to Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, as I stated in Rankin in our last sitting that when elders and youth had their conference in Baffin and Kivalliq regions, I would like to see that we have a good working program for elders and youth so that they can work together.

If we get a proper policy and program in front of them and something that they can work with. Nowadays not every elder can read and write and some can't even write in Inuinnaqtun and so we are going to have to work on this program very carefully. That is why we have these elders and youth conferences so that they can work together on some sort of a policy. This policy is just about completed and I will be tabling this once the policy is completed as to how it is going to work in the future.

We all know that when people cannot read and write in English we have to try and help them. Also the youth don't have an idea what to do in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit so we have to try and make this policy very carefully. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 264- 1(3): Elders and Youth Funding

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the same minister, of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I hear your response to the questions from the member, but today it has been very evident that the youth and the elders cannot communicate as effectively as they should.

I just wondered what is being done to get the youth and the elders closer. Is there any funding to make sure that the elders and the youth are communicating effectively together. That is my question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand your question that the elders and youth have problems communicating nowadays. I just want to say this once again, I am going to use this for an example. And that is why we are trying hard to develop this policy. That way we can get proper programmes for the elders and youth and they can use to learn one another. So the youth will also be helping elders in return. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the Minister. And I would like to ask another question. How are going to set up a program whereby the elders and the youth can teach each other. Do you have a particular place for them to meet.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Speaker. I take your question very seriously. There are different communities in Nunavut. My department's responsibility is for that. Once again I'm going say we still don't have the program put together right now.

I'm sending out letters to each community. We need help from the Hamlets to find out what kind of information they can help us with. That is why we are trying to get this program going.

That is why we are asking help from the Hamlets. I still don't have a lot of responses from the Hamlets but as soon as I gather all the information from the Hamlets, I'll be able to answer your question properly. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Oral questions. The member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 265 - 1(3): Terms of Fuel Contract

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. Again, I would like to thank the Minister for providing a return to my oral question on the process used for the purchase of fuels.

I would like to ask the minister, in her reply she talks about a 3 year contract expiring October 15th 2001. I'd like to ask the Minister when that contract came into place and for what season.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for appreciating my response. If you look at the written response that I gave it said up to 3 years but I don't have the information as to when it came in to place.

Perhaps it is to 2001 from 1999. I think perhaps it's my mistake that it was in 1998 but if you count from that year to October 15th, 2001 it seems like it is very elementary to figure it out. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then I just want to confirm that the minister has stated the contract was in place for the 98-99 season. Is that a correct understanding of her answer. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is the contract will expire October 31st, 2001. Everybody knows that the contract was issued 1998-99.

This contract was issued just before the Nunavut Government but I don't know which date it was because we got our Nunavut Government in 1999 when the contract was already issued. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make sure it was in place for the 1998-1999 shipping season. On her first reply, it showed a 1-cent increase for gasoline.

In the minister's second reply, it also states that the cold transportation rate will be fixed over the duration of the contract. If that's the case, I would like to know why there is an increase. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I apologize, during the last session in Rankin Inlet, we had a 3 day session on petroleum products and there were a lot of questions being raised. I know we haven't answered all the questions that were raised then. What we understand right now is that the contract for this will be a 3-year contract.

However, we will probably have to get more information on this item because we all know that we don't have all the answers in front of us. I think all the members know this as well. However, this is quite self-explanatory because there have hardly been any increases. Or if there were any they were very minimal.

When I responded to that question that was raised there was just a 1-cent increase in gasoline so I don't anticipate any increases in the future. However, I'll look into this again and if the member wants all the statistics I can provide them for him. But, however I would like to talk to him before this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I continue on with my questions I would like to move to extend question period. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays. There are no nays, so we extend question period for one hour. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I just wanted to get this clarified. My question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works. It appears in two oral replies there is conflicting information.

I would just like to ask if she can clarify that and provide us with the information. I believe she took this as notice. I just wanted to confirm that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, if the returns to oral questions are conflicting then I'll get back to the member.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. The minister is saying she'll look into this and get back to the member. Taken as notice. Oral questions. Member for Tunnunig.

Question 266 - 1(3): Future Plans for Training Office

Mr. Nutarak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am directing my question to the Minister of Education. In Pond Inlet, there are people in the teacher training program and they'll be completing their studies this spring. I would like to know what plans there are for the office they are training in.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't own the building. Perhaps the Minister of Public Works can answer the question more appropriately.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I apologize my mind is still on petroleum products. I didn't quite get the question from the member. Can the member for Tunnunig clarify the question. I apologize for not paying attention to the question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak can you clarify the question please.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. There are some students in Pond Inlet taking a teacher training program and they're utilizing a portable school there. I just wanted to know what kind of plans they have for after they are finished with this building because the students will be finished this spring.

What plans do they have for this building in the future. I would like to get an answer from the Minister of Public Works if she can provide a response. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr Speaker. Yes, I understand the question. The building that is being used at the time, perhaps, I would like to find out who in their community would be interested in using this building or purchasing the building. Perhaps the member could indicate who might be interested in utilizing the facility. Then I can answer his question properly. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for South Baffin, Mr. Akasuk.

Question 267 - 1(3): Renovation Assistance for Homeowners

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): My question is directed to the Minister of Housing. The buildings that Inuit have owned, like the HAP housing, are getting very old. I know

people that own these private houses, which are ageing, and they want to renovate but are not working.

They can't afford to build extensions. The Inuit started owning these HAP houses many years ago. So I was wondering what plans the Minister of Housing has in regards to that.

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

Hon Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr Speaker. I think we all understand in here that the budget speech has not been delivered yet this session. So, I'm not comfortable in discussing what kind of plans we have until we see the budget. I think we all know today that we cannot respond in detail until we see the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The way I understand it is they were not prepared last year. Is that the case. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. He was asking the question if there will be any funding for HAP housing programmes and now he is asking if there were any plans from last year's budget for improvements for HAP housing. But we cannot appropriately answer at this time.

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

Mr Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was asking if the Minister or her department was prepared or preparing a plan to help the homeowners of the old HAP houses to improve their housing.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Some of the homeowners require funding but they have to put in a request for funding to go to the communities, particularly for HAP housing programs.

I don't have the statistics right now for which communities received funding for improvements, but that was usually the case before. I think this is something that the local housing associations and our department will do together because we are lacking funding for each and every one of the communities that need improvements.

Perhaps there are some people who cannot afford to own homes in the communities and there are people who are not interested in purchasing homes because they cannot afford them.

But, we are trying to go forward with this program. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Thompson. Back to Orders of the day. Oral questions. Member for Hudson Bay. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 268 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Fuel Capacity

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): During the October session I asked this question previously and I will be asking the same question to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. In my community spring is in the air and I hear it is plus 2 today. So, spring is definitely in the air.

Last fall, our fuel tanks were not filled to capacity. Therefore I would like to ask the Minister for Petroleum Products if the fuel that was shipped last year will be enough for this season.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My colleagues would also like to be asked questions. In regards to the member's question, the fuel tank has to be improved that's why they did not fill it to capacity.

When it is filled to capacity we cannot make improvements to the tanks or maintain them. So, I would like to assure the community that they should not be concerned if the fuel supply does not seem to be adequate enough for spring hunting.

We can ship and transport this spring if the fuel supply is not adequate. But we have kept tabs on whether the fuel supply is going to be adequate or not. At this point in time we are not too concerned until such a time arises that the fuel supply is inadequate and then we will do another order. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to orders of the day. Oral questions. Member for Arviat. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 269 - 1(3): Tabling of MOU

Mr. O'Brien: >> *Audio Unavailable*

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I have no problem with tabling a document but I would like to have it translated and then I will table the document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I guess I will have to accept that the fact that it has not been translated. I find it somewhat strange that we have entered into an agreement and signed an MOU but it hasn't been translated upon the signing. I would hope that before the week was out we could have a copy of that MOU in both languages or even three languages. My question then is, can the Premier tell the House what efforts are taking place to move forward on the contents of this MOU. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, the contents of the MOU as you know are broad ranging and it will take time and each of the departments are working at implementing the Memorandum of Understanding and I would be glad to share the MOU with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker I believe the Premier is the lead man on this particular agreement and having said that, can the minister tell us if there are many structures put in place on the transportation side of the MOU. More particularly, the road link between Nunavut and Manitoba. Are there any structures put in place as far as getting a committee to study this important initiative. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister for transportation made a statement when we were in Rankin Inlet that there is going to be a strategy undertaken for all Nunavut for transportation. So the initiatives are in place for transportation and my minister responsible for the Power Corporation undertook the issue of transmission of power. So, we are doing work and once the studies are done we will be reporting to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to firm up what the Premier said in reference to the Power Corporation and the possibility of the power grid. I think that it is also in the MOU which we hope to see this week tabled in the House. Can the Premier tell the House if the project or the proposal, in reference to the option for the power grid, if that particular project or initiative had any further study or has a committee been struck to follow this up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: My minister answered that question quite clearly in the last session. The focus has been to set up our own power corporation and we are making a lot of progress on that. The minister undertook to review and assess the pre-feasibility study that was done on the power grid. My minister for transportation is also involved in this process in regards to the road construction.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I will try to make my question a little clearer. I'm asking the Premier in reference to the power grid, but since we are including the road link, has there been committee work initiated. There was a promise to review it but has the actual work begun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Ikuma Group that had worked on developing our own power corporation is starting the work on pre-feasibility study that was done by Manitoba and that will be ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Going back to the orders of the day. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 270 - 1(3): Decentralization to Igloolik

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to decentralisation, since the Nunavut Government has planned to decentralise programs; my question is to the Premier or the Minister for Finance. I'm not too sure as to which one I should be asking. Perhaps to the Premier. A program was going to be decentralized to Igloolik but due to problems that they have been experiencing they did not go ahead with moving staff members into the community as the office space is inadequate. How could we speed up this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we cannot force anybody to move to a different community. We are now dealing with people who do not want to move to other communities. I know that we are going to be dealing with decentralization but we can't get into detail before the budget speech. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Premier stating that if the staff don't want to move to the communities you will do what ever they say because they are your bosses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): We have stated that these positions will be moving to a different community and if the staff don't want to move we will be able to find other potential workers who will replace them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 271 - 1(3): Use of Capital Dollars for Maintenance

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. I would like to ask the minister if she was planning to use any capital dollars for M&I or retrofits in the supplementary appropriation, because I believe it is only O&M dollars provided in the formula financing to the local housing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works and Technical Services.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): As I already said the budget has not been opened yet and I was surprised to hear that the member is already talking about programs that are probably in the budget. This is unacceptable and I just want to say that my budget has not been opened yet and I have not made my presentation. I can't answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo, another question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry that the minister did not understand my question. I wasn't asking about next year's budget. I was asking about the supplementary appropriation that is going to be coming forward using this year's funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. At this point in time I would like to confirm that Mr. Tootoo doesn't mind not receiving a response. We will get back to the other orders of the day. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe it would be more appropriate to rephrase my question. I would ask if the minister has any plans of putting forth a proposal in some sort of supplementary appropriation regarding surplus of this year's funds for housing. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to say to the member that we cannot talk about the budget because we don't have the papers in front of us, or the supplementaries. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you minister. Mr. Tootoo, further questions.

Mr. Tootoo: My question has nothing to do with next years budget at all. It deals with any supplementary appropriations in regards to housing.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, I think the members of the Legislative Assembly agree with me, that the housing budget is very important and one of the priorities. If there was to be any type of extra money in the Housing budget then we will definitely be using this for housing.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. The member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 272 - 1(3): Size of Budget Surplus

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. My question doesn't pertain to the budget but it pertains to the surplus that the minister has openly provided to the media on 2 occasions. At one point we were looking at a 10 million dollar surplus. We are now looking at a thirty to forty million dollar surplus. Could the minister confirm for me today that we might be looking at a sixty million dollar surplus. Would the minister confirm to me today that this is correct or not. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister for finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that tomorrow that I will give a fiscal update on the Government of Nunavut's fiscal position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the minister would throw us a little bone, or a little scrap, or a little hint as to whether or not I'm even close to my sixty million dollar surplus projection. I would even accept if he said we were close to the fifty-five million dollar number.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I will indicate tomorrow the figures will be firmed up to the best of our abilities and I hope that all members will be pleased with the figures Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 273 - 1(3): Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I understand that the Premier had a launching of the new Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti, which replaces the old Business Incentive Policy. I would like to ask the Premier if that is the same document that was tabled in the House when we were sitting in Rankin or have there been any changes to that policy.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: As I said in my opening comments before the committee of the whole, I said that it was a draft policy and that it would involve further discussions with NTI and we would prefer comments from members. After waiting some time, further discussions with NTI led to a few minor amendments made to the draft that we tabled in Rankin Inlet.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier if he is willing to table that new policy in the House so we can deal with it in the committee of the whole. So that it is the policy we will be talking about and not the draft policy.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker, it should not be a problem to deal with that document now, I would just like to double check to see that it has been translated fully. I will make it available to members as soon as I can confirm this. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Getting back to our orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 274 - 1(3): Worker's Compensation

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a letter to me that is a response but it doesn't have a date on it. Will we be just asking you questions and you won't be providing us with documents in regards to social services because I just want to get some answers. I don't want to say there are going to be people having problems in this regard. I just want to find out. My question is to Minister Arvaluk.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I didn't understand what his question is.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu would you clarify your question please.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a letter responding to me which I will read. I believe that the question is in regards to injured workers. Are injured workers paid if they get injured on the job. It just states that if there is an injury on the job that it would be up to the compensation people to provide them with compensation. Can you clarify the statement you made in the letter.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the letter is saying is that students or people being trained on the job or the hunters or fisherman or trappers, whatever they were doing, either training or hunting or trapping, they would be covered by WCB. The last sentence states that if you want to get some more information in this regard you can get some information from the Workers' Compensation Board or you can ask the question of the Minister responsible for WCB. That's what it's saying. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very grateful for the response that you have given me. The other question that I have is that I think there is a committee in regards to social services and there is also legislation amending WCB, not from the Nunavut Government. Will the Nunavut Government be providing amendments to WCB policies or legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): I cannot answer for the Minister responsible for WCB but the legislation is amended or done by the Government and whatever the rules or whenever the rules are changed it has to be effected.

There will also be a committee for Social Services or Income Support and the money that is being made available for students that are attending educational institutions. So those committees are set up to look into those things that I am talking about but I cannot answer on behalf of WCB because I am not responsible for WCB.

This question, I'm saying that in regards to Income Support program, as long as they are doing hunting or educational purposes then that they will be covered by Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his quick response to my questions, however I have another question in regards to that. There are some people that go to Universities and Colleges and they can only get in if they have a high school diploma.

There are a lot of people in my community that have high school diplomas and there are some people who speak only Inuktitut, who know a lot of their traditions and culture and I know they are very smart people and very wise. So I am just asking the Minister if these people can be put into training programs to better themselves. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I think that is another question that you are asking. We will be going back to oral questions and we will get a response to your question after our fifteen minute break.

>>House recessed for fifteen minutes

Speaker (interpretation): We have a question and it's in regards to student financial assistance for those students who would like to further their education in colleges or universities. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): My question was that I know for sure there used to be some students that were allowed to enter colleges and universities without actually having a high school diploma and there are a lot of people who would like to go into such a training program to further their education who don't speak English. So I would like to ask the Minister if he could consider those people that are interested in attending colleges, if they can get assistance Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I don't know if I can understand the question, however I'll try and answer. I was trying to say we will be looking into this next week. However, I was trying to see if there would be any possibilities for those students who don't have high school diplomas to enter colleges to further their education.

We were trying to consider full time hunters and trappers to see if they would be willing to go to universities and when they go to colleges they are always assured of funding and they have to have student financial assistance to attend colleges.

We will be looking into this situation more closely to see how we can encourage the public to seek or get further education. Actually I was talking about trying to see if we can fund some students who are going to Arctic College to give them more income support and we will try and see if we can provide more funding for such programs. We will also seek to see if they can have moral support from social workers or something. I

was just using that universities or colleges as an example to see if there were any kinds of possibilities to enter them. Thank you.

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

Question 275 - 1(3): Priorities of the Government

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, as stated in the Bathurst Mandate, housing and education were the top two priorities of this government. I would like to ask him if they are still the top two priorities of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: All the issues discussed in the Bathurst Mandate are evaluated on the basis of the Bathurst Mandate before any submission is made to Cabinet. They are viewed and assessed on the basis of the Bathurst Mandate and the priorities are still housing and education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 276 - 1(3): Museums in Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the creation of Nunavut there are a lot of communities with a lack of certain facilities. One of the things that seems to keep popping up, and it really hasn't been looked at very seriously, is the establishment of museums in communities in Nunavut. My question today is to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Is he working on a policy to establish museums in every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Culture, Languages, Elders and Youth and Status of Women. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you very much. In response to your question, we recognise that museums are things that we need to put in place in terms of our tradition and culture and we have to put them in to policy through our department. Once we have done working on it, we will table it for you to see so that we can implement that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member for Baker Lake, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I got most of it. When can we expect to see this policy regarding the establishing of museums in Nunavut.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the policy, I will wait, we are working on that as of today, so that we can table that and then you will have a chance to see it. I will let you know though that we will table that but we are still working on it. I will let you know very soon.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate the Minister's answer. By the sounds of this he is really taking this as a priority and is working on it and is going to advise us later. Can the Minister confirm to me that every community in Nunavut is going to be treated fairly and equally when it comes to the locations of museums in Nunavut and it won't just be the larger regions or the capital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. The Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognise that there are a lot of communities in Nunavut who would want and like museums put in place in the communities so that our younger generation will be able to see and preserve our culture. This is something that we are working on very hard so we may be able to see it in the very near future but at the present moment it is an ongoing process.

In some communities there are some museums already in place but then there are other communities who are still requesting museums. But as we know, things don't happen over night, so we are still working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Any more questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Question 277 - 1(3): Medical Travel

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and the Power Corporation, and it relates to medical travel. Can the Minister tell the House if there is much of a variance I guess, in the cost of travel, whether it is in the Keewatin or the Baffin. Furthermore how the costs of the travel arrangements are tendered out. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Health and Social Services and Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a broad ranging question. In the session in Rankin Inlet, I had mentioned in questions and oral questions about a review that we're undertaking right now to review all medical travel in Nunavut. Approximately twenty million dollars or about twenty percent, Mr. Speaker, about twenty percent of the total budget of the Department of Health and Social Services is in travel, medical travel, and there are different reasons for travel.

There are emergency medical evacuations, for example Mr. Speaker. There's travel for people to go from their communities to scheduled appointments within Nunavut and outside of Nunavut and there is also travel for example to send physicians, eye teams, and so on around the communities. So there's all kinds of different components to travel. If the Member is specifically asking about a contract or tender, maybe he could tell me which contract he is speaking about, because within the Government of Nunavut and indeed within the Department of Health and Social Services, we do have advertisements in place for medical travel for example, medivacs and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I might add that you're doing an excellent job today on your first day on the job. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't requesting detailed or confidential information in reference to this, but it is my understanding, the travel, the cost of travel, medical travel whichever it is, whichever type it is, varies greatly from the Keewatin, for example, to the Baffin. It is my understanding that the cost in the Keewatin is actually much higher than what it is in the Baffin, though the Baffin has a larger population base. I wonder if the Minister can confirm whether this is the case and if it is, why is it so. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the issues surrounding the cost of medical travel, as the member knows, for example, here in the Baffin region, we have a hospital right in the region itself. So when we medivac someone from Pond Inlet, instead of sending them, for example, to Ottawa, for health services, they go right directly to Iqaluit. When we medivac someone from Arviat, from Whale Cove, from Repulse Bay, those people would be sent from their community directly either to Churchill or Winnipeg, and therefore the cost would be more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Perhaps you can ask one question at a time. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think you'd have to be a rocket scientist to understand that if you're travelling further, of course it's going to be a greater cost. But if you look at the cost per air mile and to break it down even finer, if for example, it's costing six dollars per air mile in the Keewatin and the same air mile travelled in the Baffin is four dollars, it seems to me that would be a problem there and I guess that's what I'm asking the Minister.

If you look at it from air mile to air miles in each of the regions, and it's my understanding, and I guess maybe I can start by asking the minister, is there a variance, a significant difference in the cost of travel, per air mile, in the Keewatin or the Kitikmeot, as opposed to the Baffin. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. I wish to apologise to the member. What I was trying to say was that you had already asked two questions. I suppose you can have a supplementary question. It's your final supplementary. As I stated earlier, you had raised two questions, and I apologize to the member. The Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his question. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier in this House, we are undergoing right now a comprehensive review of the travel policy that is in place and the monies that we're spending on medical travel and part of that review is to make sure that we have equity and fairness across the system in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the actual cost variations on a regional breakdown, if the cost were a dollar more in the Kivalliq region as opposed to the Kitikmeot region, or for example if there is a higher cost in the Baffin region.

But you can't mix your apples and oranges. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to answer the member's question, as it is a serious question, I believe it is. I am saying that I don't have the dollar values per travel mile as asked by the member. I am trying to explain that we do have a working group right now within the Department of Health and Social Services reviewing the medical travel and reviewing the total costs. Mr. Speaker, I will bring that policy forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. I want to remind the members that I have to recognize you first before you raise any questions. Thank you. You have had your final supplementary question Mr. O'Brien, so therefore you can't ask any further questions. Thank you.

First we had two questions in one. That's the reason why I can't give you a final supplementary question. Back to the orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Point of Order

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your comments about the questions that were asked. My point of order was that I wanted to ask whether or not the minister was taking my question as notice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Health and Social Services are you going to respond.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the member's point of order, I think I did answer the question in that I said I did not have that information right now and that I would provide that information to the member and to the House over the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Written questions. Let's go back to the orders of the day. Item 7, Written Questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 5 - 1(3): Summer Jobs at Nanisivik & Polaris Mines

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to written question 5 – 1(3) asked by Mr. Irqittuq and provided by the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Hon. Mr. Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Replies to opening address. Item 10, Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Report 12 – 1(3): Ajauqtiit: Report on the Appointment of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting the report on the hiring of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut. The Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit prepared this report after we conducted a thorough selection process to identify the most appropriate candidate for this important public office.

Later today I will bring forward a notice of motion and seek unanimous consent to bring a motion to the floor of the House today to recommend that Mr. Robert Stanbury be appointed as the new Conflict of Interest Commissioner for Nunavut, pursuant to section 79(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

I would now like to read the report with the assistance of other members of the Standing Committee, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the report on the appointment of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit.

Terms of Reference

The mandate of the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit is to:

- Consider issues related to the Government of Nunavut's obligations with respect to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA), including the activities of the Government of Nunavut in relation to the operations of the Boards, Commissions and other bodies established by the provisions of the NLCA;

- Review the budget of the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- Recommend the appointment of positions that, by statutory authority, are made by the Legislative Assembly; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

Mr. Speaker, during the summer and early fall of 1999, Members of the Standing Committee of *Ajauqtiit* were involved in the appointments process for three positions that, by statutory authority, are made by the Legislative Assembly:

- Languages Commissioner of Nunavut
- Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut
- Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut

During Full Caucus deliberations in June of 1999, it was agreed that the Standing Committee of *Ajauqtiit* would bring forward recommendations for these three positions for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut at the next Session, or as soon as possible thereafter, as per the terms of reference of the Committee. This report details the process and the recommendation for the position of Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner has the primary mandate to advise Members of the Legislative Assembly regarding conflict of interest and conduct reviews of allegations of conflict of interest by Members of the Legislative Assembly, as outlined in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Mr. Speaker, I would like at this time to turn the floor over to Mr. Kattuk to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Kattuk, member for Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Acknowledgements

The Committee received 26 applications for the position of Conflict of Interest Commissioner from individuals from across Canada, with a variety of professional experiences. The Committee was pleased with the high calibre of the applicants, and would like to thank everyone who expressed an interest in the position and submitted an application.

The Committee would also like to express its appreciation to the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly for the administrative, research and procedural support it provided. The Committee also thanks Members for their support in encouraging qualified constituents to apply for the position.

The Standing Committee also wishes to note that all written materials reviewed by the Members, including résumés, questions, procedural documents and drafts of reports were translated and reviewed by Members in both English and Inuktitut. In addition, all meetings of the Committee had the assistance of simultaneous interpretation. We thank the Interpreter/Translator of the Legislative Assembly for her superior service, and we also acknowledge the dedication and the staff of Nunavut Tusaavut Inc.

I will ask Mr. Iqaqrialu to continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will just continue on with the report.

Process

In keeping with the Government of Nunavut's commitment to consultation and to open and transparent selection processes, the Standing Committee decided to approach it in a manner similar to that used by the Department of Human Resources in the hiring of senior public service positions.

In this regard, at the end of August, advertisements in English and Inuktitut, for the position of Conflict of Interest Commissioner were placed in the northern newspapers, *Nunatsiaq News* and *News North*; and in the *Globe and Mail* in English. An application deadline was set for September 17, 1999. All MLAs also received two letters from the Chair of the Standing Committee encouraging them to bring the position to the attention of interested and qualified constituents. Some additional outreach was also done by the Chair and Assembly staff to encourage people in Nunavut to apply for the position.

As the Standing Committee was involved in the selection process for three separate Commissioners, it was agreed that they would use three subcommittees to conduct the interviews and preliminary selection process for the candidates. The following Members conducted all of the interviews for the position of Conflict of Interest Commissioner and made the preliminary recommendation to the Committee: Hunter Tootoo, Chair; Ovide Alakannuark, Co-chair; and Olayuk Akesuk, Member.

It was agreed that applicants would be pre-screened for interviews according to criteria set by the Committee. The pre-screening identified 11 applicants who had northern experience at some point in their careers, 7 of whom had more experience in administrative law or conflict of interest matters. Of these candidates, one was a current resident of Nunavut. In addition, there were two southern candidates who had no northern experience, but extensive experience in a broad range of financial and conflict of interest matters. After reviewing these 13 candidates, the Members of the Subcommittee selected three for face-to-face interviews.

A list of 32 oral questions was developed by the Committee, to be asked of all candidates in a two-hour interview. In addition, seven written questions were given to candidates following the interviews and candidates were given 48 hours to return their written answers to the Committee. The Committee developed a point system to be used to evaluate the quality of the answers and other information provided by the candidates. MLAs on the subcommittee assigned points to each answer and other materials of the candidates. The candidates were then ranked in their overall results and the subcommittee discussed the final results of this process.

The Committee tried to select for two strengths - legal expertise, particularly with respect to conflict of interest provisions; and business expertise, particularly with respect to advising people on matters such as blind trusts, etc. The Committee sought advice from Full Caucus as to where the Members felt the emphasis should be placed.

Reference checks were performed and reviewed by the Members. The recommendation was brought forward to the whole Standing Committee for discussion and a motion, as well as a draft report for their review. As the Legislative Assembly was not in session, the report and recommendation were subsequently brought to the Management and Services Board for discussion. The Management and Services Board agreed to appoint an Acting Conflict of Interest Commissioner under their authority described in Section 79.01 (4) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, with the expectation that the Full Caucus would review the final selection at the first opportunity and the appointment would be formally made during the next Session of the Assembly.

The Standing Committee wishes to emphasize that all of the candidates interviewed were very committed and qualified for the position. The decision of the Members was difficult and the Members approached it in an unbiased manner and in the spirit of collegiality. It is the hope of the Members that all candidates will continue to make contributions to public life in Nunavut.

I will now pass on some of the report to Mr. Akesuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Committee Meetings Conducted

The Committee and subcommittee met in Iqaluit or by conference call on the following dates, for the purposes described below:

August 17, 1999 - Conference call to discuss process and review draft advertisements.

September 9, 1999 - Review of hiring process; Presentation by Human Resources on hiring procedures.

- September 14, 1999- Review of draft pre-screening criteria and draft list of oral questions.
- September 24, 1999 - Review of names of 26 applications received by this date; Selection of candidates to interview.
- September 29, 1999 - Review of Interim Report to Full Caucus
- October 16, 1999 - Interview
- October 18, 1999 - Interview
- October 18, 1999 - Interview
- October 25/26/27, 1999 - Review of answers to written questions, analysis of results of oral interview, written questions, résumé review for all three candidates interviewed.
- (interpretation ends)
- October 29, 1999 - Discussion of presentation to Full Caucus
- November 2, 1999- Discussion with Full Caucus regarding priority expertise of Conflict of Interest Commissioner
- November 1999 - Discussion of reference check; Discussion of Draft Report to Full Caucus and to Management and Services Board and Motion
- December 14, 1999 - Presentation to Management and Services Board
- February 2, 2000 - (interpretation) Final discussion at Full Caucus.

That is the end of my portion of the report and I will ask Mr. Alakannuark to read the next part.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Position of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner

The position of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner and their duties are laid out in the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. On March 31, 1999, as per the *Nunavut Act*, and except as otherwise amended, all legislation currently in effect in the NWT became the law in effect for Nunavut on April 1, 1999.

The legislation in the NWT has undergone a number of changes over the years. For example, the amendments of 1994 made it possible for a member to seek the advice of the Commissioner and to receive, under s.79.2, a binding opinion as to the conflicts issues raised by a proposed action or economic activity. The amendments in 1996 switched to a single Commissioner system, instead of a five-member panel. Ms. Anne Crawford, a lawyer in private practice in Iqaluit, was appointed as the Conflict of Interest Commissioner in February 1997. Other substantive amendments in 1996 moved from a two-tiered process to a more flexible inquiry by the Commissioner intended to respond to the variable nature of conflict complaints. The 1996-97 Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner also recommended further changes to the legislation.

However, the most recent changes to the NWT legislation were made by the Legislative Assembly of the NWT in the summer of 1999, following an inquiry in the NWT. These amendments give the Conflict of Interest Commissioner a greater role in providing preventative advice to Members and it is thereby hoped that the need for an expensive inquiry in the future will be minimised. As well, a separate adjudicator would be appointed in the event an inquiry was needed. As these amendments were made following division, they are not included in the legislation which was duplicated for Nunavut. Nevertheless, it will be instructive for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut to review them and decide if any would be appropriate for Nunavut.

Prior to division, the Office of the Interim Commissioner established an Ethics and Accountability Panel to which John Amagoalik and Roger Tassé were appointed. The Panel assisted candidates in the first Nunavut election and the elected Members prior to April 1, 1999. Following division, the Management and Services Board arranged for Robert Clark to be appointed as the Acting Conflict of Interest Commissioner, if a matter arose, until the Legislative Assembly conducted its own selection process. Mr. Clark has a full-time position performing the duties of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Alberta.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly. On the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Commissioner of Nunavut appoints a person who has been recommended for the position. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner is accountable to the Legislative Assembly and must report annually to the Assembly on the work of the office and any complaints that have been received by the Commissioner.

The annual report is required by statute to include a number of categories of information, such as:

- Filing of Disclosure Statements by Members
- Late Filing of Disclosure Statements by Name of Member
- Failure to File Disclosure Statements by Name of Member
- Extensions Granted to Members to File their Disclosure Statements
- Contract approvals to any Members who are given authorization to accept a contract under s. 75.1 (3) of the Act

- Contracts entered into by the Government and a corporation which is a Member's controlled corporation or a controlled subsidiary.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner also provides opinions and advice to Members and comments on the operation of the Act. For example, in the 1997-98 Annual Report, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the NWT issued two general guidelines on "Budget Voting" and on "Question Period"; three opinions on "Participation in NWTHC Home Ownership Programs"; "Legal Expense Funds"; and "Ownership of Shares in Publicly Traded Companies"; and included a discussion paper on the issue of "Blind and Management Trusts".

The budget for the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has been allocated to the Legislative Assembly budget based on the experience of the NWT. It has not been a full-time position, but rather is part-time, on an as-needed basis. This budget will need further review in Nunavut, once the position is in place.

I will now hand the report over to be read by my honourable colleague.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Observations

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner plays a key role in ensuring the successful application of the conflict provisions of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, an Act that we inherited from the NWT.

As noted in the Annual Report for 1997-98 of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of the NWT:

"The Commissioner is in a position to advise and instruct as to the appropriate arrangements which will meet the Conflicts requirements. The legislation does not set out the methods or means which the Commissioner is entitled to use or recommend. The discretion and judgement of the Commissioner are the primary factors in making these decisions. The solutions crafted for each Member will reflect the Commissioner's understanding of public concern and acceptance in this jurisdiction, and the likelihood and extent of risk of conflict."

As noted above, the Commissioner also attached a number of guidelines, opinions and a discussion paper in the 1997-98 Annual Report. While these are not binding on the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, they are nonetheless instructive of the kinds of issues on which the Conflict of Interest Commissioner must provide advice to Members and it is vital that the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut has the skills and credibility to do so. These skills will also be necessary for the Commissioner to assist in the review of the legislation to ensure it is appropriate for Nunavut.

There are many challenges ahead. The lack of adequate funding for providing all important services across Nunavut and the competition for government finances to meet many other important needs in Nunavut means that vigilance and preventative advice will be needed in ensuring Members live up to the highest standards of integrity and are not in conflict. We cannot afford costly legal proceedings. At the same time, Nunavut is a small jurisdiction, with a relatively small private sector. We want to encourage Members in private business to run for office, without undue penalty to their entrepreneurial initiative or family's livelihood. A balance must be struck. And, as with other legislation inherited from the NWT, we need to review the whole Act to ensure it is appropriate for and meets the needs of Nunavummiut.

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner must recognize and be able to meet these challenges. The Commissioner must be a strong, committed voice for an open government, which makes unbiased decisions that do not personally benefit the Members or their families. The Commissioner must have diplomacy and grace to mediate solutions, sensitivity to the needs of government decision processes, ability to assist different language groups within Nunavut, and the integrity and administrative competence to deal with complaints in a fair and timely manner. And although this Commissioner is resident elsewhere in Canada, as with all public offices in Nunavut, they must be a leader in the Inuit tradition, able to hold the respect and confidence of all Inuit, Elders and youth, as well as French- and English-speaking residents of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee of *Ajauqtiit* has taken its responsibilities in this selection process very seriously. The selection process was fair and thorough, and the Committee is confident that it has selected an outstanding candidate for the position.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee of *Ajauqtiit* unanimously recommends to the Legislative Assembly that Robert Stanbury be appointed Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut, pursuant to Section 79 (1) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker at the appropriate time I will give notice of motion to appoint the Conflict of Interest Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you members of the committee for the report. Item 11 on the Orders of the Day, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 40 - 1(3): Collective Bargaining

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document that I received from one of my constituents, Mary Kablutsiak, concerned about the tone and

direction of the negotiations between the Government of Nunavut and the collective bargaining unit. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, March 24th, the year 2000, I will move the following motion.

Now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable member from Hudson Bay that pursuant to section 79 (1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, that this Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of Nunavut, that Mr. Robert Stanbury be appointed as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for a term of four years.

And further, that the appointment shall be effective on March 22, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion under item 16, motions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of motions. Item 15, Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 13 - Appropriations Act, 2000/2001 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two notices of motions for First Reading of Bills.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 24th, 2000, I shall move that Bill 13 – Appropriation Act, 2000/2001 be read for the first time.

Bill 14 – Interim Appropriations Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 - Notice

Further, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 24th, 2000, I shall move that Bill 14 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Under item 15, notices of motions for the first reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The member seeks unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed with your motion, Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 14 - 1(3): Appointment of Conflict of Interest Commissioner

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the motion is for the appointment of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Whereas the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act contain provisions defining what are conflicts of interest, placing a number of obligations on members with respect to arranging their personal affairs in such a manner so as to resolve conflicts in the public interest and requiring members to make a public disclosure of their assets and liabilities; and

Whereas the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner to advise members of their obligations under the Act and to investigate complaints alleging a breach of the Act, to conduct inquiries and make recommendations to the Legislature and to report to the Legislature on an annual basis on the activities of the Commissioner during the preceding year; and

Whereas it is desirable that a permanent appointment be recommended by the MSB as Conflict of Interest Commissioner for a term of 4 years and further the appointment should be effective March 22, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate Mr. Stanbury's who is sitting in the gallery over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We also congratulate Mr. Stanbury. Congratulations. Now back to our orders. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as long as there are no more items that are on there I would like to propose that we adjourn for the day.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting. It is not debatable. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion Carried. Orders of the day for tomorrow. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting tonight at 6:00 the full caucus. Meeting tomorrow at 8:30 am, regular caucus. Meeting tomorrow at 9 o'clock for the Standing Committee of Culture, Health and Education. Orders of the day for Thursday, March 23, 2000.

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 50-1(3)
 - Tabled document 27-1(3)
22. Report of the Committee of the Whole
23. Third Reading of Bills,
24. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. The House stands recessed to Thursday March 23, 2000. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5:45 pm*

