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**Monday, April 03, 2000**

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**Iqaluit**

Speaker: The Hon. Kevin O'Brien, M.L.A.

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

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and Intergovernmental Affairs*

**Donald Havioyak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Hon. James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)  
*Minister of Education*

**Levi Barnabas**  
(Quttiktuq)

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Sustainable  
Development*

**Hon. Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Justice; Minister of  
Community Government and  
Transportation*

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

**Olayuk Akesuk**  
(South Baffin)

**Jobie Nutarak**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday April 3, 2000**

**Members Present**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Puqiqnak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker**: Good afternoon. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 95 - 1(3): Timoon Toonoo Appointed as Baffin Region Superintendent**

**Hon. Jack Anawak**: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise this afternoon to advise members of the legislative assembly that Timoon Toonoo has been appointed the new superintendent of Community Government and Transportation effective today. Mr. Toonoo, who will be based in his home town, will be supervising a staff of nineteen in Cape Dorset, five in Nanisivik and one in Resolute Bay. He will also manage the programs in the Baffin Region's fourteen communities.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Toonoo has the experience necessary to offer solid guidance as he embarks on the task of establishing the new regional office in Cape Dorset. He has spent most of his life there. He started out in the co-op system where he was a manager for 10 years. He was also the housing manager for 7 years and served as the director of municipal works and services between 1994 and 1996.

In January of 1996 he became the Senior Administrative officer and has served in that capacity until last Friday. Mr. Speaker Timoon has a good understanding of the needs of the communities in the Baffin Region. The Department of Community Government and Transportation will be supporting Timoon in his efforts to establish the office and deliver the departments programs. We welcome him to the department.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker**: Ms. Thompson

**Minister's Statement 96 - 1(3): Department Name Update**

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues and the public that effective April 1, 2000 the name of my department has been changed to "SANAJULIRIJIT", the Department of Public Works and Services.

In addition, of April 1, 2000 a stand-alone housing corporation was officially created and it is called "NUNAVUMMI IGLULIRIJIRJUAUT". In English it will translate to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Establishment of the Housing Corporation will allow us to focus more closely on the housing corporation and develop meaningful and sustainable solutions to the problems to the problems that currently exist in housing. Mr. Speaker the Department of Public Works and Services will continue its mandate to support other governments departments in the delivery in the programs and services. My staff and I look forward to continue working in co-operation with the other departments to service the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Minister's Statement 97 - 1(3): Joint Minister's of Energy and Environment Meeting**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members know, I participated in the joint ministers of Energy and the Environment in Vancouver. These meetings are normally rare events but of late one topic has created the need for energy and environment ministers to meet once a year. The topic is climate change. Climate change is not a unique problem to Canada and indeed only 2 percent of the world's gas emissions originate in Canada and Nunavut only emits 0.1 percent of these emissions.

However, while Canadians are only a small contributor to the problems, we are a huge recipient of its impact. Today these impacts are occurring more quickly and in greater concentration in Canada's north. For this reason Mr. Speaker, it is extremely important to bring the north's point of view to the table of the energy and environments ministers. As the environment minister for Nunavut, I feel it is extremely important to Nunavummiut to improve our knowledge on climate change. To that end Mr. Speaker, I urged my colleagues attending the JMM to adapt a more aggressive program of science on the impact of climate change.

I invited scientists from Environment Canada to Nunavut to provide members with detailed information on what is known and what is not known about climate change. I have also asked my department officials to begin work on a climate change plan for Nunavut to be presented to cabinet and this House at a later date. Mr. Speaker together with Canada's two other territories, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories; we have an



important voice at the national level on the climate change issue. A voice that did not go unnoticed at the meetings.

It is my intention to continue to work with Canada's minister of the environment, David Anderson and Natural Resource's minister Ralph Goodall with plans to increase the understanding of climate change in Canada's north. The measures that must be taken to protect our environment and the livelihoods of Nunavummiut for future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

### **Minister's Statement 98 - 1(3): FPT Ministers of Health Meeting**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I want to inform you of a meeting of federal, provincial and territorial health ministers, which I recently attended in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker this was a very important meeting for the preservation of our national health care system. As you know Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is not alone in this country in our struggle to maintain the quality of our health care systems for our people. The budgets for health are being stretched near the breaking point across Canada and although the needs in Nunavut are unique, our goals are the same as other jurisdictions. Mainly to preserve our ability to provide high quality, accessible health care to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker I have joined my provincial and territorial colleagues to demand the federal government increase their contribution to health care across Canada including Nunavut. Mr. Speaker we want the Canadian government to restore the Canadian Health and Social Transfer or CHST to 1994/95 levels adjusted to reflect current economic reality.

Mr. Speaker we want the federal government to reaffirm their fiscal commitment to the Canada Health Act. We also want the Federal government to become full partners as we strive to ensure the sustainability of our health care system in all the territories and provinces, and we require a long-term funding commitment from the Government of Canada to accomplish that.

Mr. Speaker, we feel that we have made progress in getting the support of the federal minister of health, the Honourable Allan Rock. We have also undertaken to brief all premiers and to continue to pursue these discussions. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to advise this house as the issue develops. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ministers' Statements. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 253 - 1(3): Homeowners Expenses

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring to the attention of this house a problem that is facing my constituency, in Quttiktuq. Mr. Speaker, in the past the government had established programs to help lower income residents to purchase their own home. A goal, I am sure that we all support. But Mr. Speaker, many of these people are experiencing difficulties in paying for fuel to heat these same homes.

Mr. Speaker, the increase in the price of fuel hurts everyone. It is hurting my constituencies. My communities are among the coldest of all of Nunavut and fuel prices the highest. The increase in the cost of fuel means simply these vulnerable families now have less money to pay for food, clothing and other necessities. Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to take action so that people are not faced with the prospect of staying warm or going hungry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

#### Member's Statement 254 - 1(3): Kitikmeot Information Technology

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce to my colleagues today that the Kitikmeot has a company that has been a leader and on the forefront of Internet activity for over 3 years. Through Kitikmeot Polar Net Technologies or Polar Net for short, has been providing and advancing Internet services in the Kitikmeot.

Kitikmeot had a vision in 1996 that information and technology would connect the Kitikmeot to the rest of Nunavut, Canada and the world. They believed that the Internet would provide a way for a small region with a small population to acquire and share knowledge and information and have a big voice.

Mr. Speaker, the benefits of the Internet are numerous. It can provide economic development opportunities such as selling carvings over the Internet or promoting tourism. I can provide educational opportunities in schools and home users. It can also provide communications among communities because it is much faster than faxing or telephone and costs less. Mr. Speaker I would like to receive unanimous consent to conclude his statements.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statements. Any nays. Proceed Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Internet offers training and employment opportunities to young people in the technology field. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that since they first established the Internet in 1997 with only one employee, Polar Net expanded into four other Kitikmeot communities, in 1998 and Polar Net has six employees. Further more Mr. Speaker, all of the polar net employees are Inuit youth who are fully trained to look after expensive high tech equipment, and to manage the business.

Mr. Speaker, Polar Net provides an affordable internet service that relies on a system of land based satellites linked to a server in Yellowknife, this allows customers to dial local numbers to access the internet and avoid huge long distance charges. Even more remarkably, Mr. Speaker through our system visitors to the Kitikmeot can access their e-mail locally without incurring expensive long distance charges.

It is very convenient and their system also works with Kitikmeot residents when they are travelling and trying to stay in touch with families and businesses. Lastly Mr. Speaker, Kitikmeot Corporation has made a significant capital investment in the high tech equipment and training their employees to establish Polar Net. They realise that this is an essential service in the Kitikmeot. So, I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Kitikmeot Corporation in the success of Polar Net, and to wish them continued success as they continue to grow their business in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

### **Member's Statement 255 - 1(3): Suicide Prevention Workshop**

**Hon. Donald Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On March 27 to 31, a workshop was held in Kugluktuk to deal with an issue that affects each one of us and each of our communities, Mr Speaker I am talking about suicides. This past weekend has marked the first anniversary of Nunavut's creation. Although we celebrate one year of our new territory and government, we cannot forget that our communities continue to lose people to the scourge of suicide at a terrifying rate.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we need to discuss this topic and talk amongst ourselves. It is a difficult situation to deal with in the communities but as we begin to discuss this with each other within our communities and families.

Kugluktuk is pushing to heal after the recent death of two members of the community. The community gathered to find the strength to heal itself. At a recent workshop in Kugluktuk the workshop demonstrates the value of dialogue. The workshop was facilitated by Caroline Anawak, an individual who we are all privileged to know. The people of Kugluktuk want to express their appreciation to Caroline and her support in helping communities like mine in facing this issue head on.

Many people from across the Kitikmeot were able to attend the workshop to represent from Gjoa Haven to Taloyoak, Pelly Bay and Cambridge Bay. Many people from Kugluktuk came to these workshops. I just want to ask consent to finish my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is asking consent to continue with his statement. Any nays. You may continue.

**Hon. Donald Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there is a growing awareness that this issue can no longer be put under the carpet. That we can not simply blame our leaders or the government or blame our institutions. Blame has never solved a single problem and it will not solve this one.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Inuit traditions and livelihoods, if we begin to discuss these more we as Inuit will begin to get stronger as we begin to discuss this further amongst ourselves. We must be aware that the Nunavut Government cannot find solutions right away but will assist to meet in different communities much like the meeting in Kugluktuk. This will become clearer within our communities, families, and here today in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements, Mr. Ng.

### **Member's Statement 256 - 1(3): Tribute to Helen Maksagak**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today of behalf of the hamlet council of Cambridge Bay and all my constituents who would like to recognize the contributions Mrs. Helen Maksagak has made in improving the lives of all northerners, during her term as Commissioner of Nunavut for one year, and over three years as the NWT's Commissioner. As well, for over two and one half years as Deputy Commissioner. Her community of Cambridge Bay is proud that she has represented us all so capably over the years. During good times and difficult times and showed us what is to be what it means to be a leader that all people can look up to. Mr. Speaker we commend her for dedicating herself with energy and tireless enthusiasm during the very hectic year since Nunavut was created April 1, 1999.

She was committed to making the transition from the government of the NWT to the government of Nunavut as seamless as possible. Mr. Speaker we wish her well as she leaves office and look forward to her returning home for her leadership, family and community values will be invaluable resources to Cambridge Bay in the years ahead. Mr. Speaker I ask all members to join me in wishing Mrs. Maksagak all the best as she returns home for a well deserved rest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng and thank you Helen for all your hard work and dedication over the years. Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

**Member's Statement 257 - 1(3): Cape Dorset Hockey Team**

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my constituents who went to Iqaluit for the hockey tournament - the midget hockey team was in Iqaluit. They arrived from Cape Dorset, they had a tournament playing against Iqaluit and I was in the stands with Mr. Picco. I was quite excited to be there with him. The Cape Dorset team had a lead of four goals after two periods.

They quickly caught up to us with three quick goals. So they had to go into over time for a further 10 minutes and nobody scored over the ten minutes. Mr. Picco and I were still standing in the stands.

We were both cheering our selected teams. After a second overtime period Cape Dorset residents scored the overtime goal. Peter Petaulassie was the hero of the team. The Kinngait team members are Coaches John Langford and James Parsons players Johnnybou Ashevak, Ottokie Jaw, Iola Toonoo, Mathew Jaw, Joanasie Jaw, Niviaqsie Adla, David Joanasie, Itidlui Audla, Mathewsie Ashevak and David Qimirpik.

Pootogook Akasuk took care of the refreshments and hockey sticks. I wanted to congratulate the Cape Dorset team for a job well done. Thank you Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 258 – 1(3): Congratulations to Timoon Toonoo**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to congratulate Mr. Timoon Toonoo. He was a one of the students at Ukkivik. I know that he was a very good student at the time. I would encourage him to keep up the good work with his new job. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Member's Statement 259 – 1(3): Visit to Repulse Bay with New Commissioner**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today although I have a hoarse voice today. I am standing to state that I will be leaving this afternoon to travel to my constituency of Repulse Bay.

I will be accompanying the new Commissioner and one of the ministers to visit my constituency. I just wanted to inform the House that I will be absent from the House for the next few days. If things go well I will be in Repulse Bay and spend a few days with my constituents. I just wanted to inform the House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 260 - 1(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Government**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to give congratulations. In the past I know that it was very challenging and very hard to survive. Our parents have seen many changes and we have been able to incorporate them into our lives. Therefore, I would like to recognize our ancestors, our grandfathers and our grandparents because they had a hard life to survive in a harsh environment.

As the Nunavut Government would like to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the system. I know it can be beneficial in the government system. Even though we were living on an Island where we were quite far from the mainland. We have survived using traditional methods of medical healing and all also we used driftwood for fire. Those were the only things we could use for fire.

So in spite of the Inuit people know their own identity and even though they had to go through hard time so therefore I rise today to recognize the hard work of our forefathers.

Therefore, I am very proud to be who I am for that reason we know the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be incorporated into Nunavut government because it can be beneficial to the system. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 261 - 1(3): Pangnirtung Hockey Teams**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We heard today that this weekend was full of Hockey Tournaments in the Baffin region. I too would like to congratulate all the athletes especially from Pangnirtung and the parents for coming to cheer for their children.

The Pee wee won the Gold medal and the Pee wee won the Silver. Also, the Midgets due to injuries that were experienced although they did not win any medal they were very happy running around the arena.

David Kilabuk and Roger Allivaqtak were the coaches. We would have won if we had used Joanne Evic who was the goalie for the Midget team because he can stop any kind of goal. My son really enjoyed the hockey game last night. We are proud of you. I thank that young man Juan.

I think there were 10 people staying over the weekend at my house. Therefore, the weekend was very busy for me especially at my house. It has only three bedrooms. We were lacking beds. People were sleeping on my floor and there were dishes piled up all over the place and the washroom was busy. I encourage all the people who stayed with me to come back again. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Member's Statement 262 - 1(3): Igloo Building Contest**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker Mr. Speaker I enjoyed the weekend. There was snow building contest, how I envied them building their snow houses.

I remember how I use to build my snow houses and how I use to sleep in my snow house and that brought back very good memories. Although I wanted to be a participant, I was just taking pictures of the people building their snow houses.

I should have participated and build an igloo myself. So, I went back to Jobie Nutarak's place to observe the snow building competition. I was rushing around wanting to join the igloo building contest. So I bumped my head and hit my head right there. Because I was rushing around and now I have this souvenir bruise from Toonik Tyme in Iqaluit. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 263 - 1(3): Full Time Mayor for Iqaluit**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate the hockey team from Cape Dorset on their win yesterday. Mr. Akasuk is just too loud of a fan, Mr. Speaker.

Uqaqti over the past two years Iqaluit has experienced unprecedented growth in population and new infrastructure. New office buildings, apartments and houses are very evident.

With this growth comes opportunity and concern; opportunity with a strong economic base which creates jobs, but concerns over the administrative and logistic details of the growth.

Uqaqti I read with great interest the Iqaluit Town Council's discussions on the creation of a part-time paid position for Mayor. I respectfully ask the position for Mayor be made full time with a salary package commensurate with the workload and the responsibilities.

I have had discussion with some of the councillors about this and recently wrote the Mayor and Council to suggest they formally look at such a proposal. Mr. Speaker Iqaluit is a diverse community with three major languages and cultures.

The role of a full time Mayor would be to work pro-actively with the Council as well with administration to help develop and prepare our community to face the 21st Century. Mr. Speaker let me make it perfectly clear that my comments are not to indicate dissatisfaction with our current Council or our Mayor; but to agree Mr. Speaker, to agree with the general direction that they have already began to discuss as an elected council.

The growth Iqaluit has experienced will on all accounts continue for the foreseeable future. The workload and the responsibilities on the Mayor of the largest community and the capital of Nunavut begs to be filled by a full time Mayor position.

Mr. Speaker a full time paid Mayor position is an idea whose time has come. I look forward to discussing this proposal and further detail with our council and hearing from Iqaluit residents about the idea. Nakurmi Uqaqti.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Louise Perchate. She is has been hired as a manager for library policy for Nunavut. She has been travelling to different communities throughout Nunavut and will be going to Baker Lake, the decentralized office of Nunavut on Friday. Qujannami.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I was a member of the Housing Task Force. Our secretary during our Task Force is here but I can not remember her name. Perhaps you can stand up. I do not necessarily have to say your name. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. For Mr. Iqaqrialu's benefit, I know her name. She is not our secretary, she is a hard worker. One of the top people in the Nunavut Housing Corporation, President Pam Hines.



**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the new President of the Housing Corporation. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Donald Havioyak.

**Mr. Donald Havioyak:** I wanted to recognize a person from Yellowknife Dan Hayward could you stand up.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker Today I would like to recognize, even though Gjoa Haven is far from here. My daughter Arnapaq she is one of the pages. Please stand up. Her name is Arnapaq, my daughter. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Moving to Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 360 - 1(3): Status of Patient Escorts

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I would like to thank the minister for coming back to the House and I would like to ask him a question.

We have been asking repeated questions over the last week on some of the concerns we had in regards to the elders who do not have their escorts when they are on their way to medical centres.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health on what the status is on escorting patients who are going to medical facilities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Picco, Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Barnabas for welcoming me back into the House. This is a very important question and topic. It came up in Rankin Inlet last month when we were sitting there.

At that time, I confirmed to the House that a review is under way with the Department of Health and Social Services to look at the policy that we have for medical travel. That review is almost complete. I am hoping to have an opportunity to read it sometime this week or next week.

Basically Mr. Speaker, we have three types of medical travel. We have travel for emergency medical evacuation, also travel for physician and other health providers to get around to communities. Then we also have the escort travel. Which I think the member is talking about.

Specifically Mr. Speaker, now in the three regions of Nunavut each has the standard policy that was grandfathered over from the Government of the Northwest Territories and it is applied a little differently in each of the regions. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 361 - 1(3): Shortage of Nurses**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I asked the Minister of Health some questions and I will be asking for an update. There is a shortage of nurses in both the small and the large communities and we feel it especially when there is a flu epidemic. In the two communities that I represent there is a shortage in both of them but especially in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Therefore, I would like to ask if there is work being done in filling the nurses positions in those communities. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months as we have explained in this House, there has been a shortage of nurses, not just in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I was just coming from the meeting last week in Ontario and every jurisdiction in Canada seems to have a problem with nurses and medical professionals.

What this government specifically has done Mr. Speaker, is we have started a program in co-operation and conjunction with the Department of Education, our own Nunavut Nursing Program, where we will hopefully in a couple of years have graduates who will be able to move into the field. We have increased the wages to the nurses, based on the collective agreement for the market rate, and that's in a case where we have a shortage, can prove there is a shortage of nurses or any type of medical professional in this case.

Mr. Speaker we have also moved aggressively to recruit, and we have Mr. Speaker, within the Department of Health & Social Services a recruitment and retention committee with representatives of nursing, senior management from all three regions in Nunavut to address the problem and concern with recruitment and retention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the answer he gave but he just gave me a bunch of new questions I would like to ask. Did I understand that you have now a search committee or group of people to search for nurses. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is correct we have a recruitment and retention committee comprised of nursing professionals and management from the Department of Health & Social Services and indeed, regional representation from the three regions. They meet on a regular basis to address recruitment and retention issues for our nursing staff in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the answer. We have eliminated the Health Boards that would have been doing this work of recruitment. Will the elimination of the Health Boards effect the recruitment of nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, partly the member is correct, the responsibility for recruitment and retention did rest before April 1, with the three regional health boards. But the recruitment and retention internal working group was set up under me as the Minister of Health & Social Services based on the requests that we got from the members here with concerns over the nursing shortage and I guess, the identity of a nursing shortage in Nunavut.

So basically Mr. Speaker, that is where the program has come from. The working title is the Nayatt Working Group within the Department of Health & Social Services. Mr. Speaker, we are moving aggressively as the members know in this House, we actually recruited several nurses from Australia for example. We are continuing with recruiting in the south, Mr. Speaker, and again, there is no easy solution to the concern that we have with the shortage of nursing staff.

But now Mr. Speaker, we are doing quite well. I believe the rate in the Baffin is around 80 percent and similar numbers, Mr. Speaker, in the other two regions right now for our staff. So that is good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This sounds like interesting information. We as members need to know as much as possible so perhaps outside this House we could meet with the minister on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to speak to Mr. Iqaqrialu or any of the members inside the House or outside the House about the concerns we have with the nursing and indeed, issues surrounding Health & Social Services, as well as for Mr. Iqaqrialu, the Nunavut Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 362 - 1(3): Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Capital Projects**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I would like to ask the minister, last week the Minister of Finance indicated that any proposals that have been put forward regarding capital projects related to his department would have been evaluated under the criteria of his department. I am just wondering if the minister could provide that criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to share it with members. I don't have it right with me right now physically but I am sure we could provide it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, last spring...

**Speaker:** I am sorry Mr. Tootoo that is a new question for a new minister. We will have to move to someone else first and you can come back to it later. Mr. Akesuk.

### **Question 363 - 1(3): Placement of Foster Children**

**Mr. Akesuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Health & Social Services on the difficult issue of orphans, young children that have lost their parents. What is the policy or procedures of placing these types of children with family members or for adoptions. Is there a specialist that deals with this or are they just given to social workers. That is my question.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each individual circumstance for foster care, I think that is what the member is asking about, is unique and different. Basically Mr. Speaker, what happens in most cases is that a social worker would be involved and there would be a decision about whether they would need to be placed in

foster care. At that time Mr. Speaker, there is usually a list of available families where the child can be placed in that care. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I think it is safe to assume that the parents are involved in that decision in most cases.

Now there may be extenuating circumstances, Mr. Speaker, where a child is taken from a family and put into foster care. There may be legal charges, there may be a sudden death and other circumstances. But in general, Mr. Speaker, that is how the process works. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister answered only part of my question. In these types of cases are extended family members consulted on where a child will be placed. That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will try to be a little bit clearer. Indeed Mr. Speaker, what the department and social workers do, depending on the circumstances each case is different; for example, if both parents died in an accident and there were no immediate family members and the child was to be put into foster care, Mr. Speaker, or if charges were laid for abuse or whatever, Mr. Speaker, then there are cases where those children have to be taken from the parents and put into foster care.

So it depends on the circumstances. In general Mr. Speaker, in most cases that I have been aware of Mr. Speaker, indeed, the parents are consulted and indeed, the family members are consulted. Social Services just doesn't go in and take a child from a family and then put them somewhere. There is consultation and Mr. Speaker, before that person or child is actually taken away from a family there is an investigation, a lengthy investigation and it's done in the right circumstances.

If the member is aware of a specific incidence of one of his constituents, or his riding that he would like to bring forward to me as minister, and he's afraid to do that, I wouldn't want to discuss it Mr. Speaker, in this House on a specific case, in a public forum. That would be better handled by a letter to me by the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 364 - 1(3): Status of Gjoa Haven Water Situation**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Community Government. On February 18, in Rankin Inlet I asked the minister if he had directed his staff to deal with an urgent issue in Gjoa Haven, regarding the Gjoa Haven water contamination. The residents are still waiting for government staff, to meet with the government.

They want to talk to them about ordering parts for the reservoir system. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to Gjoa Haven on Friday to the SAO of the Hamlet, I wanted an update on what was being done about the Gjoa Haven water contamination. Apparently the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven has not been informed as to where this situation is. The SAO does not know.

So my question to the minister is, can he tell me and the people of Gjoa Haven today, what his department is doing about the water contamination. Can you give me an update about the Gjoa Haven water situation.

**Speaker:** Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The equipment for the water reservoir was brought in and set up, however there was a leak and the employee there is working on it. I am informed that employee is capable of doing the work in the community. Besides that there is some more specialized work that needs to be done.

Once the budget is approved, we will be spending that portion for this project. We will also do an estimate on how much it will cost for a new reservoir. Once we find out how much it costs we will decide during this fiscal year what to do on a long-term basis. We know this current reservoir is over twenty years old and we know that there have been many repairs done during its life. These repairs have been becoming more numerous as it gets older. Our intention is to build a new reservoir in the near future.

We are working on this problem and I will provide information that is more detailed to the MLA and the Hamlet by letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the minister for providing that information and the promise to give more details to the community and myself. However he talked about funding but did not tell us how much money they were going to spend on this problem. I am concerned that although he said there would be money there is no real commitment on how much or where it will come from.

Where in the main estimates is this project. I cannot find it in the main estimates, that is my concern. Could the Minister give us an indication of how much he is willing to set aside out of this fiscal year for our water reservoir in Gjoa Haven and when, how long would it take to find a permanent solution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our employee, Kojo Kumi, is the engineer for Community Government & Transportation and he has asked the regional Kitikmeot department to find the financing. After he has talked to appropriate people and because this is an urgent matter because all communities need adequate and safe drinking water, we could treat this on an urgent basis so we can find money for the

water reservoir. Once we find the price tag we will inform the member, all the members and the people of Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 365 - 1(3): Criteria for Capital**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Mr. Anawak, Minister of Community Government & Transportation. What are the criteria for capital projects used by his department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, at this point in time we have not completed this. However, we are using the criteria that GNWT had used previously. We will try to find solutions to the problems but we do not have permanent criteria to follow up on now regarding capital projects. At this point in time we don't have a permanent criteria that we can follow up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we have been using the GNWT criteria for Nunavut projects, I do not quite understand the position the government has especially when it comes to arenas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we would like to see what Nunavummiut want when making up criteria's for Nunavut Government and I also want input from the Members as well as their constituencies. There are only three communities in Nunavut that do not have an arena yet.

However, the Member's, one of the communities of the Members constituency has an arena but it is not up to standard so we will have to look into that. In the coming years we will be reviewing all the communities that have arenas including the constituencies, two constituencies of the Member. In the Baffin region three communities do not have an arena yet. So, for the communities that do not have an arena yet we will have to come up with a solution so we can provide them with a facility such as arenas in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Question 366- 1(3): Home Ownership Programs**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation. During our last session in Rankin Inlet I had raised a question and also made a Member's statement regarding Home Ownership

Programs and people that have their own homes are having difficulty keeping up with their mortgage payments as well as their utilities.

I can recall the Minister making a response to me that they had set up a task force to review these concerns. Only last week here in Iqaluit she also stated that she was still waiting for the report from the task committee and after reviewing the report, she said she would be in a better position to make a response. I was waiting for recommendations from the report so I am just wondering if the Minister has the report in place yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can recall the question that was posed by the Member. I have received that report of the task force on housing, but I do not have it right here with me, it is with my department. I have not reviewed the whole report as of yet.

However, they were going to give me the final report by March 31, however, we have not reviewed the report as a whole yet and I will be looking at the recommendations. So, I regret to say that I have not completely read the report as of yet, however, I understand where his concerns are coming from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Kattuk, supplementary.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the Minister be able to present us with the report of the task force. How soon will she be able to get back to me on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, I have to review all the recommendations that are in the report. They sent the report to us through e-mail so I will be tabling the report so it will be available to all the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 367 - 1(3): Technical Division for the Housing Corporation**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to officially hear today in her Minister's statement that there will be stand alone Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker some Member's will know that this is something that I have been pushing for and the Member's I know within the housing area have been pushing for right from



pre-division. I am glad it has finally come about in my mind it is too bad it has taken so long to do so.

Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that there is going to be a stand alone Housing Corporation; the tender that I had inquired about last week to the Minister, after reviewing the response in the Hansard, Mr. Speaker, she indicated that it was the Deputy Minister of Public Works that made the arrangements with the NWT Housing Corporation for the contracting of those services.

As far as I am aware Mr. Speaker, technical division or section of the Housing Corporation was moved over to Public Works. With this stand alone Corporation, Mr. Speaker, are there plans to move the technical division back into the Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Manikot Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

**Speaker:** Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Another thing that I am very grateful to hear, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate as the timeline or timeframe when that's going to happen and has that information been passed down to the departmental district and local staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manikot Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have just worked on the stand alone Housing Corporation, we are starting to review other things that have been on going in our division, and we will be informing the district at a later date. However, we wanted to be prepared for some changes within Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Again I am overjoyed to hear of some of these changes. What I'd like to ask the Minister is, in the business plan there is no structure within her department, does the Minister plan on bringing forward that information when the department comes forward in committee of the whole so we can see what the organization looks like and if we have any concerns then. Because today Mr. Speaker, we are still going based on old structures that has the technical division in Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manikot Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I keep calling you Mr. Chairman, my apologies. We are dealing with this matter now. However we are

almost finalising a structure of Housing Corporation and when we are dealing with Housing Corporation in committee of the whole I will welcome all the questions that will be posed to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Just before we continue I would like to recognize Timoon Toonoo just recently appointed as the Baffin Regional Superintendent for Community Government & Transportation.

>> *Applause*

Continuing with oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 368 - 1(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in dealing with Foster Children**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to my fellow colleague Minister of Health and Social Services. Further to my question previously, in the response that you made regarding foster children and the fact they are dealt with by social workers in the communities. They do not have any traditional knowledge in collaboration with social services act. I just want to ask the Minister if he will integrate traditional knowledge to their criteria. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the exciting things that we have in the business plan for health and it comes up over the next week and a half, is money allocated for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and integration within the Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, that includes the total Department of Health and Social Services.

We will be doing that type of review and bringing in expertise from Elders and Inuit in Nunavut. We would hope Mr. Speaker, after that process to be able to follow up on what Mr. Iqaqrialu has asked and that is to have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit involved in the total department and in the total delivery of the services by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Supplementary.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I can re-phrase my question. Who will set up the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee? If we are going to be using their traditional knowledge, who in the department will set up such a committee. Will it be the Department of Health or Department of Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a good question. As the Member knows the Department of Health is integrated with Social Services, so we are the Department of Health and Social Services. What we would be doing Mr. Speaker is using the allocated resources within the health budget which we will have a chance to discuss when we get to the budget; using those monies to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the Department of Health and Social Services and that will include social workers Mr. Speaker.

Many of our social workers are Inuit and use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in their daily jobs Mr. Speaker. Right now it is not per se in the job description but that may be one of the recommendations that comes out of the working group and the initiatives that we are bringing forward within the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 369 - 1(3): Staff Housing Policy**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. Last spring Mr. Speaker and again in February in Rankin I inquired as to the staff housing policy. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible if she in fact has that policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That policy is almost in place this time but I have to double check with my Deputy Minister and we have to present through the House but it is almost at its finishing point right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is a concern that I raised last spring as to how staff units were being allocated. If they don't have a completed policy now Mr. Speaker I would like to ask what the department is using in allocating staff housing units right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are using the policy that was in place before the current policy that we are working on. And that is the policy that will have minor changes and many people are looking forward to that new policy because we did a review on staff housing allocations and we tried to get input from the staff members.

We wanted to see if they preferred to have housing rents deducted from their allowances or we had to look at which best they wanted to pay their rent and so that is how we were

trying to set up the policy. There was always a policy dependent on the number of children and the number of people in the household. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker if I may ask the Minister how long has the staff been working on developing the new policy and can we get a firm date as to when that will be completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is finished with but I have to discuss it with my Cabinet Members. That is the only step that we have to go through I have to discuss at our next cabinet meeting and I believe it will be an agenda item very shortly. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker also I asked the Minister how long the staff has been working on it. But I'm just wondering Mr. Speaker does she plan on bringing to before Cabinet is that the policy that she committed to in Rankin on February 22 to table. Or was she planning to table the old policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our Rankin Inlet meeting, I said we wanted to use the old policy and if he wishes to see a copy of the older policy I can make that available. As for the new policy, once I meet with the Cabinet Members then I will be able to issue that policy.

He was asking me how long my staff members have been working on the policy. I have numerous staff members and I do not keep track of exactly how many hours a day they are working on specific items and when they are finished their reports. So I do not keep day to day tabs because we have numerous staff working for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Alakannuark.

### **Question 370 - 1(3): Petroleum Products in Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): I have a question regarding Petroleum Products in Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay. I understood the response she made but I am wondering what time and when they plan to build the gas tanks in Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay. That question is directed to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Probably the men understand the jargon that I am using when I refer to the 45 gallon barrels. I think that is what the member is referring to. We had those flown into the communities as far as I understand it to Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay.

I know for sure they sent them on an urgent basis to Repulse Bay for use by airplanes. I have not heard any urgent issues from the airplanes for filling up. But if he is referring to the big tanks, we do not have those available but they were going to try to provide an alternate source of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister Thompson. Supplementary, Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question and the response but I was concerned about this in particular. Over in the Keewatin region we do not get airplanes that often and I was wondering if it was because there was a shortage of airplane fuel. Is that why we do not get airplanes in the Keewatin and Repulse Bay or is this dependent on our airline schedules.

I have been asked by people when we will be able to get airplanes going into Repulse Bay, and that was my question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question but although they have gas, the plane does not go there very often because there are not enough passengers. That could also be part of the problem. So for the time being we have provided 45 gallon barrels of gas on an interim basis. I know that people like to travel from Repulse Bay to Pelly Bay and other communities but I don't know if planes will be travelling more frequently dependent on the big gas tanks.

As long as there are not enough passengers that are willing to travel, it can be part of the reason, even if there are gas supplies readily available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand very clearly and I am grateful. However, I was thinking in the future because of the number of people increasing all the time and because they travel through Hall Beach and Igloolik, if they have some gasoline available in Pelly Bay they should be going to that community according to the wishes of the people. So that is why I keep bringing this question up, my people keep asking if there could be a new airplane route in the region.

So I understand very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** I don't hear a question there but Ms. Thompson, if you would care to respond.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too understand what the member is trying to say in that he is hoping to see a new airline schedule between those three communities.

I am sure it could make everything easier but I am just the person in charge of Petroleum Products and I am not in charge of airplanes. I have spoken as a minister with other departments that are in charge of re-routing airline schedules, but as the minister responsible for Petroleum Products, I can say that we have made gas and oil and these things available for airplane usage in those areas. That is what I can say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Question 371 - 1(3): Support for Businesses**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Money towards economic development initiatives for the year 2000/2001 seems to have been decreased. For the small businesses that want to start up in their business endeavours, how much assistance can they receive today by way of financial assistance for economic initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Irgittuq. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not understand the question, I am sorry. Can he repeat it.

**Speaker:** Mr. Irgittuq.

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to make it very clear. If I was interested in starting up my own small business, I am aware that there is funding available from the government for my start up costs. What do I have to do in order to obtain some funding. Do I have to have a small start up amount already before I can apply to obtain funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year approximately a year now we have been working on this and we said in the House that we would make it like a one-stop shop so we can provide start up funding for small businesses. That is almost done completely where people can go and get information at one place. It is called the Noble House here in Iqaluit.

We have staff available there now but for those that are interested in different things, they can apply through our department. You have to be aware that a person who is interested in applying for funding assistance can find out whether he is going to be eligible or whether he has to have his own start up money. It varies, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The criteria that is being developed has not been tabled yet. Is that right Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are having a bit of a misunderstanding. I thought he was talking about the program initiatives that people can access by way of funding. We are trying to keep them all in one division. That division is almost ready to start but I think I misled him when I said the wrong thing in my response. So I hope this makes it clearer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wondering, what my question was first of all, if I want to seek funding assistance or if I am seeking a grant, what kind of eligibility must I conform to according to the old criteria. If I want to get some money do I have to follow certain criteria from somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in that division where we are trying to set down the criteria, we are doing them in Inuktitut and English. We wanted all the application forms and the necessary documents in both languages. Many people have asked the same questions because they do not know what the application process is.

At this time our staff members are co-ordinating all the application processes because if a person wants to start up a business he can be eligible for different programs with different criteria. Whether it is for smaller businesses, they can all come to the one office and get assistance for those applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Final supplementary, Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response. Lastly, for those people that want to start up their own small businesses, how much funding assistance can they be eligible for from the government department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, a person who is interested in starting their own small businesses certainly will have to meet some criteria. For start up programs for smaller businesses you can borrow money, but if you aren't eligible to borrow you can be given 5 thousand dollars for financial assistance as long as the eligibility criteria is met. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister Kilabuk. Oral Question. Mr. Barnabas.

**Question 372 - 1(3): Access Roads**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. I will start with a preamble about the streets or roads. When we were part of the Government of the Northwest Territories there was a problem where most of the money was being used for highways. So we started using that for access roads in the smaller communities. Today I find that the present government is proposing to build a road from Manitoba to Nunavut. I would like an update as to what is happening with the highway that is going to be built and what is happening with the access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. I believe there are two questions there. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the Manitoba highway, we are going to try and have it paid for by the Federal Government because of course in the whole of Canada the highways, or superhighways are paid for by the Federal Government. We are going to be asking for some funds from the Federal Government to pay for that Manitoba-Nunavut road.

Looking at access roads, we are looking at made for Nunavut transportation roads and access roads. That is the only way that I can answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was in regards to access roads. Would that money be used then. I do know that you are making a proposal to the Federal Government, but if there were not enough money from the Federal Government, would we start using our own funds to pay for the access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can only say that our minister is going to be making a proposal and I am sure that the appropriate minister will be able to respond to your question once he gets back. Thank you.



**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 373 - 1(3): Construction Training**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. I will just go ahead with my question then. This is supplementary to a question that was brought up in regards to access housing or the HAP program. There was no training involved with the people who have built those houses.

Some people cannot keep up with the cost of living. The program helped them in one way but it did not on the other hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be talking about this next month. Like I said, we are going to be having a Nunavut-wide conference to find out the needs of the people of Nunavut. That will be next month and it will be the Minister's Forum on the Economy. There will be training identified as to what is needed by the people out there and we hope to get some kind of address on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** That is the end of Question Period. We will take a fifteen minute break and when we return we will have Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair.

*>>House recessed at 3.17 p.m. and resumed at 3.40 p.m.*

**Deputy Speaker** (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Please rise, we will start the meeting. Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Orders of the Day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

**Return to WQ 7 – 1(3): Justice Funding Programs**

**Return to WQ 8 – 1(3): CG&T Funding Programs**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that returns to written questions 7 – 1(3) and 8 – 1(3) have been filed by the Honourable Jack Anawak. Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Replies to Budget Address. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11, Petitions. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13, Reports of

Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 57– 1(3): Estimated Departmental Expenditure Variances**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as requested by the Members of the Assembly, I am pleased to table the estimated departmental expenditure variances for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000. Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

#### **Tabled Document 58 – 1(3): Cape Dorset Priority List**

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is from the Hamlet of my community of Cape Dorset. It is a five year priority list from my community of Cape Dorset.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo, Iqaluit Centre.

#### **Tabled Document 59 – 1(3): Letters from Nunavut Employees' Union Members**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to table 15 letters signed by 19 Nunavut Employees' Union members in regards to the tone and direction that the negotiations are taking. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add that for the most part they are form letters, but one nurse, Mr. Speaker, hand wrote something in here that I would like to read. It says, "I will not stay if I don't get travel warrants with children the costs are too high." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Item 15, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 16, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills Item number 17, motions. Item number 18, first reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the honourable member from Iqaluit East, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 16 has been read for the first time. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Chaired by Mr. Iqaqrialu. Sergeant-At-Arms.

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you members. Let us get back to order. On Friday we were dealing with the Department of Education and their business plan. We also heard the minister's opening remarks on Friday. If he has any witnesses with him he will make an introduction. Can the minister indicate whether he wants to make his opening remarks again or have his witnesses with him in the witness stand. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): I'm sorry, I already made my opening remarks on Friday if there are no questions being posed and nobody wants to make any comments then that is the way we can go about it. If they start asking me questions then I will want my witnesses at the witness stand with me. But before they ask me any questions I will stay in my seat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk, Minister for Education. Are there any questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I welcome the opportunity to give introductory remarks as we begin debate of the Main Estimates for Education as Chairman of the standing committee on Culture, Education and Health. Our members have taken great interest in matters of education and very much support the Bathurst Mandate which listed Education and Housing as two priorities for the government.

The Standing Committee has met with the Minister on a number of occasions over the last year and has issued two reports with recommendations. I would like to thank the Minister for acting on our recommendations to extend the consultation period on the draft Education Bill to ensure that more Nunavummiut have an opportunity to provide input on such an important matter.

Members have supported the dissolution of the District Education Councils and look forward to the local District Education Authorities having a stronger role in education. Members have also supported the decentralization plans and look forward to the day when the education positions are established in their new home communities in Nunavut.

In terms of the Main Estimates once again, we have requested and support the Government plans for a much more comprehensive budget process so that members will have materials well in advance to properly review them. While the Standing Committee had the opportunity to review the draft business plans and capital plans in February and March of this year during our fairly extensive discussions with the minister and his officials, we are disappointed that there are no changes to either document to reflect the concerns raised by members during those meetings.

In particular members shared concerns about a number of community schools which need renovation or additional space and to deal with problems of overcrowding and lack of adequate facilities such as gyms and deteriorating heating plant and other health and safety issues which sometimes require school closures. We also questioned the addition of larger gyms and heritage facilities in other projects when these pressing needs are not able to be met. Committee members were also disappointed that the capital plans were not adjusted in this regard.

Over the last few years, members have expressed many concerns about funding for Early Childhood Education, special needs students, the pupil teacher ratio, Inuktitut language education, trades and apprenticeship programs, libraries and other matters that will be raised during the debates over the next few weeks.

Members are also concerned about income support programs which many people in our communities depend on for their basic needs. Our Standing Committee notes that the department has re-organized its delivery of income support in an effort to train local workers and have more community involvement. As well, the department has initiated an income support review and members look forward to the results of this consultation with Nunavummiut.

Committee members look forward to a spirited discussion over the next few weeks and I would like to note that the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health will prepare and table a report with recommendations before the final vote on the appropriations Bill. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health. These opening remarks came from his committee so if the Minister of Education is prepared to answer questions, he and his witnesses can go to the witness stand and the members of the House will raise questions. Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Yes, I want my witnesses Deputy Minister Bob Moody and Assistant Deputy Minister Naullaq Arnaqu to join me. I would like to ask a question if you let me Mr. Chairman. There are 6 officials from my department they are Ian Rose, Nancy Hyland, Murray Horn, David Claude, Arctic College, Sandy Teiman, income support programs. I am wondering if they can stand here to be prepared to answer some questions, more detailed questions. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister of Education, yes your officials can stand by. The minister indicated that he wanted to have his officials stand by and answer some tough questions. Thank you Mr. Minister and staff. According to the minister's request to have his officials seated nearby, usually the staff members do not sit at the witness stand, but since we are in Nunavut and we are a new government I was prepared to let him take his staff there with him. However, this is not our standard so we are learning our rules so

if the minister is prepared now he can make his introduction of the members so we can record them. Thank you Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On my right is my Deputy Minister Bob Moody and on my left Assistant Deputy Minister Naullaq Arnaquq. Furthest from my left, Connie Brown our finance officer; Ian Rose is right beside her the Director of Policy and Planning; seated next to him is Sandy Teiman Income Support Programs Director; and Murray Horn Director of Corporate Services. David Claude is also in the House, he is with Arctic College with the finance department and beside him is Nancy Hyland who is with Arctic College, Director of Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you minister for your introduction. At this time we are open for comments or questions to the Department of Education. If there are any questions at this time you can now start. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask some questions about the information that has been provided. Maybe I will speak in English. Why don't they use a simple term for parent teacher ratios. I think there should be simpler terms when they start distributing funds to the communities. I just want to ask the minister why they are still using old terminology.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can answer the question. Yes we took over some of the GNWT's Department of Education criteria when it came to parent teacher ratios. We have adopted some of the terms that were handed down to us from the GNWT's Department of Education. We are reviewing all the aspects of education's mandates to try to use some simpler terms for the public, because we received some input when it came to education.

There were many communities that asked to see if the principal would also be a part of the teachers to take on classes in the school to relieve some of the overcrowding. Therefore, we stated maybe after July 1 we would contact the local education councils for their input in this important matter. So, we will be involving all the communities and the local education authorities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Any more questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the Minister of Finance's budget address it highlighted quite an area on education. In there he talked about what I believe was 400 thousand dollars for the development of the Inuktitut curriculum and 1.2 million dollars for increasing teachers and another 1.5 somewhere else. Anyway, I remember it totalled up to 3.1 million dollars of new initiatives for the department.

As I indicated earlier in the session, the O&M dollars have only gone up 534 thousand dollars. Maybe you can ask the minister to inform us as to where the dollars are coming from for these new initiatives. What programs are being cut as a result of that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister or whoever wants to answer that question you are free to do so.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The question the member is asking about 1.2 million dollars, is on the new teaching positions. The 400 thousand dollars is for Inuktitut curriculum development, which we talked about earlier in the session. In that 400 thousand dollars, in the Phase 1 part we will be doing design and development, research with elders in Arviat for 67 thousand dollars.

We will have two focus meetings with Inuit educators. That will be another 4 thousand dollars and design work for 86 thousand dollars. Theme development for 120 thousand and the editing, which is another 3 thousand and material production, theme units, tapes, etc., etc., will be about 30 thousand dollars.

This initiative will reflect in about 2.8 million dollars in a general increase for the O&M in the Department of Education and the balance of that the member is talking about is from very small reductions from all over part of the education programs. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. So then any place that we see a reduction in there like for example 31 thousand dollars for day care subsidies funding is coming out to go into that particular project or is it the 400 thousand or the total 3.1 coming out of all those projects.

You went into detail on one project only and not the total 3.1 million dollars. So is the total 3.1 million dollars coming from other programs within the department entirely. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, and income support. Okay, let's take day-care for example. There was approximately a 30 thousand dollar reduction in the budget. That is because there was a rollover from last year. Using the old formula contribution or distribution of the funds to the day care centres across Nunavut, under the previous GNWT formula system, there was unspent money. That was why last year I wrote a letter to all the day care centres inviting them to write me a one page proposal, and offering immediate help for 5 – 10 thousand dollars.

We also initiated a quick study on the financing or funding requirements for the day care centres, and I would like to get this interim report by April 30. Maybe a final report by

the end of May so that we will create a funding system for day care systems that is more relevant to Nunavut. The old method of contributions to day care centres is still from the GNWT and there were some funding rules under that.

The other reductions were from income support and I stated in my opening remarks yesterday that because we have changed the community based income support system, the payments, like in Iqaluit, to the department with other initiatives and looking at other alternatives for income support, we were able to reduce the expenditure in that area. So that was one reduction and there were some other small reductions all over because we didn't have really any other section of the department's budget especially in the area of salaries and forced growth, and the students enrolments in the communities.

So where we found the amounts to get this total is in very small amounts in many places, and I do not know exactly where all of them are. Most of them are very small, to make up that total amount. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will get back to the rollover of funds for day cares later. Also, on the 1.2 million dollars for new teachers and new teaching positions I believe is that is what that is for. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Yes Mr. Chairman. That is for the new teachers, 1.2 is for the new teachers for the extraordinary growth and the demand to skip...*audio unavailable*...

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I remember last year having the same questions. Is the 1.2 to be put to new additional teachers above and beyond the ones that we have right now in the schools in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Yes Mr. Chairman. This is an increase enrolment in school. It requires additional funding to maintain current people teacher ratio. Funding provided is for salary dollars for new teachers, resource materials for students. Additional student supplies for schools. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman maybe I can ask minister or his staff. If they know exactly the number of teachers we have in Nunavut right now.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman I am not exactly sure. I think we have around 725 teachers. We could get that exact number if you needed. If you want.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman maybe I will ask this last question. I will take a break for a little while and let some of the members ask questions. When the minister is getting the number of teachers, could I ask could it also show the specifically for Iqaluit. In there the number of teachers that are actually in the schools right now based on the formula and everything in here, is that 1.2 million on top of all the teachers we have right now as he has indicated. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** We can ask the Divisional Board of Education for Baffin region to give us that number. I can not guarantee that but we will ask for that information. When we get it yes, we will supply that Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. You indicated that was your final question. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. From 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 fiscal year under the income support program according to last year's figures there was 2.6 million allocated for that division.

Now I see it is now 2 million for this new fiscal year. I see a reduction and we have many people that are depended on this. Does this reflect the number that depend on these programs have declined.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I said briefly that what we are doing now is reviewing the income support programs. Some people often are not actually dependent, they can apply for unemployment or use other options but because those people that are dependent on income support assistance. I know he wants an answer but I think I will defer the question to my assistant. As to whether that is the actual case, I will defer my question to my official.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. The Minister has deferred his question for his official to respond on his behalf. I believe his name is Mr. Moody.

**Mr. Moody:** The member is referring on page 9-1-3. These numbers actually do not relate at all to payments to clients. These numbers relate to monies in support of the



Headquarters. This does not affect the monies that are available for clients. It is headquarter money. For example, the staff that run the policy shop here in Iqaluit.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Moody. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am asking that question because I was wondering if I would be able to get a response for people who are on income support. In the fiscal year 2000-2001 do the amounts remain the same. Has it decreased, has it increased. Can I get a response to that question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Minister of Education. I recognized you.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was getting a quick briefing. I am told we do not have very much space right now. We have a lot of paper that we have to work with. But anyway, I understand that the number of people that are dependant on the income support programs remain the same.

For example although the population numbers have increased, the people dependent on assistance have not increased. There has been a slight increase under this program. What we are trying to say is this; people who are already employed have increased in number. They are less dependent on social assistance.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Chairman. Further to my question. This is concern I have had for a while in the House under the housing assistance program. People are having a hard time keeping up with their mortgage payments.

I have talked about the different expenses that keep getting inflated. I wonder if a person who has trouble paying for his utilities would be able to receive temporary income support. Because I know of instances where people have not been able to come up with their utility payments then what they have to do is ask their relatives or their family members to supplement their income.

Are they able to come to your department for assistance temporarily. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. For those people who have homeownership if they put in an application for higher learning or for upgrading or for carving training whatever what might help to assist in their income. They would be eligible to receive income support from us if they are willing to take on jobs or training. We expect that the social assistance programs, which I mentioned about two weeks ago, will be reviewed.

We will be looking forward to finding out the recommendations and we plan to table a report based on the income support review and how best we can implement the recommendations we receive from the review. There has to be a comprehensive review done. If a person wants social assistance, you have to find out if he is willing to look for work in the interim and that changes his eligibility. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The example that I cited earlier that person is actually employed and has a good job but his salary is not adequate for him to keep up with the necessary payments for his basic needs. When you total his living expenses they over extend his incoming salary.

And a lot of the time his pay cheque is gone before he can finish his payments and this happens to many people who are employed. I think we know that sometimes they need temporary assistance, which is why I brought that up as an example. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): I do not hear a question. But I know exactly where the member is coming from and I believe we all know that when you start working when you have a permanent job you usually owe for mortgages and so on.

I do not know giving support working people but anyone could approach Social Services. The social worker would do an assessment on the person. I am sure the reply would be according to the policies that are followed by social services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think that this would be my last comment and question. Usually when you live in a community, you know who received income support and who they are working for. Of course, they usually follow the policies when they give income support to families.

Has there been a decrease in the monthly allowances that are given out to the people and what is the ceiling of the salaries where they would be considered the eligible for income support. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We follow the same policy so we have to do an assessment or review to see whether the levels and the educational financial support given to them are still adequate in today's cycle. When the

review is probably done in fall they will come up with recommendations which will be given to my department.

All I can say today is that we are still following the GNWT policies on income support. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Before we go onto another item, we will take a five minute break.

>>*Committee recessed for 5 minutes*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are there any questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as I indicated earlier. The total of operations & maintenance for Education is gone up 540 thousand dollars. After listening to the Minister of Finance's budget address, I believe it was also at the minister's opening remarks indicated as savings of 500 thousand dollars for this year as a result of the dissolution of the divisional boards.

Mr. Chairman, do your math that is 34 thousand new dollars put into the Department of Education on operations & maintenance. I myself am pretty disappointed to see that that is all there is Mr. Chairman in light of the fact that the again in the Bathurst Mandate, and every member, said this is our number 1 priority. One of the top 2 priorities of this government is Education.

I do not see that personally as an expense, it is an investment. You know if we can develop an Education system that can foster and develop young children into young adults and to people that can be productive members of our Territory that is going to save us money in the long run.

May be Mr. Chairman if I just asked is the Minister if the department had did they put forward more than in a preliminary stages asking for more funding from what they have or I just wondering if they did that or not. Thank you Mr. Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are just one part of the membership of the cabinet and the government. We know that there is so much that can go around through different departments. I think we can be very positive in the department of education that the budget is up 2.8 million and 8.5 million dollars in capital. You know that's double from previous year. I believe this is a good budget for the education and for the government. Although the member is right, we all wanted more for our own department. Especially the education but there is only so much to go around.

I am optimistic that with our 1.2 million provided for additional teachers and 400 thousand for Inuktitut curriculum it will help us in the long run. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the minister indicated 2.8 million dollar increase in the total overall budget of the department. Mr. Chairman, I understand through some questions that I had asked earlier during the session the school in Cambridge Bay is about 8 million of that capital budget that the department is putting forward. Out of that the majority, I was not given an exact number but the majority of those funds are going to result through an insurance claim.

So if you take that project out Mr. Chairman. I mean if you take that project out that is being covered by insurance, you have a decrease in capital of well over 2 million dollars from the previous year. Again, I just wanted to state for the record that I am not very happy with the numbers coming forward like that.

You can paint numbers however you like and to make it look good. But you know the fact of the matter is 34 thousand new dollars and a reduction in capital taken out of a new major project that is covered by insurance. To me I am very disappointed in that and you know I just do not how that can comply with what we all said is our top priority.

I guess it is somewhat late to do anything about that now. But I sure hope that everyone in here and the rest of his colleagues, I understand that he is one member of cabinet but that this priority every single one of us has said was a priority.

Also the Minister of Finance indicated earlier to me that last week I believe that there had been indeed a concerted effort to ensure additional resources into the two priorities areas. You know looking at the budget this one and the other ones. It looks to me a lot like status quo budget from previous years. Which again is disappointing. But getting back to this 1.2 million dollars the minister had indicated. How many new teachers is that going to put in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will not comment on the general comments because that is the member's comments. That 1.2 million will bring about 14 new teachers. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Tootoo any further comments.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate those comments were not mainly for the minister but for everyone to hear. Twelve to fourteen teachers have those been allocated. Have there been any allocations for where the teaching positions are going to be.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Moody to answer that question.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Moody.

**Mr. Moody:** That process has begun. The allocation we have requested of our three divisional education councils to provide us with the latest information available on extraordinary enrolments and together with the education councils and our own staff, we are going to reach agreements in the next couple of weeks on how to allocate those dollars. Our plan is Mr. Chairman that the boards will know where those positions will go before the end of April.

That has not been done to my knowledge this early ever before. But it will do much benefit to get that information out now rather than wait until October or November. So assuming we can get all the information we have been asking for. It is our plan to let the divisional education's know where the position will be allocated before the end of April. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I did some looking in through my files during the break and I found the information that I was looking for regarding the teachers here in Iqaluit.

In Iqaluit right now we have 63 teachers. Many our classrooms are overcrowded. There is some to high 20's for people teacher ratios right now. The minister indicated earlier that these new teachers will be on top of the teachers that we have on the actual teachers we have of right now. How are you going to base the distribution of these teachers to ensure that Iqaluit is going to be looking at again at least 63 teachers next year, and more if the numbers are warranted based on extraordinary funding. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson (interpretation):** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I like to make two comments. We like to find out first where the real needs are in all of Nunavut. We will get that from divisional councils of those three regions. I can not just comment on one community like Iqaluit whether they have the greatest need right now in comparison to other communities. We will get that from the divisional boards.

Secondly, I agree with everything Mr. Tootoo has said about his comment about there will be deficiencies in the funding for the department of education. But with the same breath I will assure him that this was our first year after we inherited the budget process from the GNWT and the programs like formulas and needs and strengths of our programs. We were not being at full capacity in the last 6 months for example. We are

becoming to a full capacity to do the work. I think the member would also appreciate this is the year of change.

The year of reviewing everything so what we do is in fact good for Nunavut. I share similar comments that the member was making. That we have to look at what the real needs are. How do we make our Bathurst Mandate more into reality. As far as education is concerned but I am happy that the government has indicated in fact twice that the savings for the divisional boards.

For example, minor capitals that we were able to announce yesterday, setting up a library in the middle school, you know, these kind of things. We have to wait until we get the auditor's report to know exactly what the surplus may be or what the savings are.

That is why I am very reluctant to include estimated surpluses, because they are only estimates in this budget. Therefore our budget is real in a sense that this is what has been approved for this year not counting any potential surpluses that we possibly hope there will be from those two areas; the divisional boards, dissolution of divisional boards and the surplus of any of those boards after July 1. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Maybe for clarification all the members, and I use the Iqaluit number because that's the number I have in front of me, I guess to re-phrase it I should say that, can all the Members in this House including the Member from Cambridge Bay, be comfortable in knowing that they will not lose teachers they have in their communities right now and I don't know, I can't guess the number in any of the communities, but I know here there are 63 teachers.

The classes are booming and we've had closures because teachers can't make it and there are no subs. The classes are overcrowded and just to feel comfortable, to make the teachers and the parents and all of us members comfortable; the numbers that we have right now aren't going to decrease and this 12-14 teachers are going to be on top of those numbers based on whatever numbers are warranted by your review not only for here but for all the communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have to find the numbers, we have to find the numbers first, because some communities the numbers may go down. Because is a lot of people moving to Iqaluit for example and some other decentralized communities, so, I'd like to, you know, get the report first at least indication of where the numbers have gone up and where the numbers are going up, where they maybe going down.

I assure you this government, the Cabinet, when I have been meeting with them is absolutely sincere about wanting to do the right thing in the area of education for

children. Therefore, I am confident they will not let any of us parents or students down. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under Business Plans of Education, there were some decreases in some funding areas and when the Minister of Finance, when I was asking him why they didn't put enough money for cultural programs and here we see here under 9-11 and there is also another decrease in funding. The contribution. (interpretation ends) it decreased from 1.142 million to 1.398 million. Sorry. (interpretation) Why is there a decrease here again. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister of Education. Whenever you are ready Mr. Minister, you can make your response. If you are going to have a briefing there perhaps we can take a short break. Whenever you are ready to respond Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, perhaps going back to cultural programs grants and contributions is, we have put in 400 thousand dollars there. There are also some breakdowns on these two.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under page 9-16 (interpretation ends) it says that on behalf of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties including the work for on 3<sup>rd</sup> parties there's human resources development strategies with DIAND about 610 thousand (Interpretation) I just want to know what this will be used for. I just want to know what the funding will be used for. I am just wondering what the money that has been allocated will be used for in the future years.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Just a reminder when we get to our page numbers if you would like to ask your questions I would prefer if you would refer to documents that are in front of you and state which page you are at. However, I will let the Minister of Education respond to your question. So, it is open for response. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This funding is expected from the Federal government. Maybe I can get Mr. Moody to explain more.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Moody.

**Mr. Moody**: Mr. Chairman. The items on this page, two of the four lines here are likely to change during the year. It's money coming in from outside the Government of Nunavut. There's one for Human Resource Strategy, we are in the process of working with the Government of Canada, that figure is not a firm figure but we hope to have that or more and it will be dedicated to training for people coming to the public service.

What we hope that would be for but that's not firm. Similarly just to illustrate the first line on that page the labour market development agreement is also money coming in from the Government of Canada, in fact we expect the number to increase significantly, waiting for a formal opportunity to do so. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Moody. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Alakannuark not Alakannuk. My question is regarding the number of students in the communities after they complete the elementary schools programs the graduates that would like to go onto universities and colleges for higher learning.

However, some of them are not used to going out of the communities and leaving their families. Some people who go to colleges and universities do get homesick, I'm just wondering if the department has looked to this serious concern, has the department have any plans for future university type facilities in the future in Nunavut.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the Member knows that in previous years they did have post secondary programs in place, however, this was also a concern for some parents in the communities for that reason they decided to put up grade 12 extensions in the communities.

After having extended grades in the communities the Department of Education has also decided to review some of the post -secondary programs to see if they could also be used in the schools. We all know we cannot have such programs in all the schools but we are thinking about setting up some type of regional post-secondary education facilities. There are two schools or two universities, Nova Scotia universities that the Government of Nunavut has made an agreement with to see if we would be able to send students to. We were talking with them to see if we could have a two-way orientation program and an introduction to colleges.

There's also one in Ottawa, there are some students that are taking university courses in the Human Resources department and there's quite a few students that came from Nunavut attending the universities in the south. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know we reviewed these documents and we did approve them obviously, but I am not entirely satisfied. The documents that were tabled are a priority and I have been asking what the surplus numbers are.



Today the Department of Education indicates they have a surplus of 9.1 million dollars, if the information is accurate. At the same time there seemed to be insufficient funds last year because I have been asking the government about a capital project. They should be friendly in their responses but they have not agreed to do this capital project in my riding and yet they have apparently a surplus of 9.1 million dollars

I am not entirely satisfied with that information. The other thing is here in these main estimates in the documents we were provided in this binder I know that we have already reviewed the documents but I have to make my own comments. I understand that they were to build a school in Cambridge Bay that would cost 14.2 million dollars.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I'm sorry, that paper you were referring to, I don't believe that paper has been table in the House and you have to keep notice of that, if it has not been tabled formally in the House, you cannot refer to it. That's for your information, I apologize, but that is in the rules. If you have other questions we are more than welcome to accommodate you.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Okay Mr. Chairman, my apologies. This document was placed before me. In the school that burnt down in Cambridge Bay, I think that the insurance coverage of 9 million dollars plus and now I understand that figure has risen to 14 million dollars being allocated for the building of that school. Why is it so expensive. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Minister. If you wish to respond.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First, perhaps this school, when it burned down, the initial insurance was at a set amount. But every year as houses or buildings get older they depreciate. Should they be sold, also called amortisation, and because that figure keeps changing the amount for insurance purposes also decreases. If there is an accident like a fire, then you can use the coverage to make a new building and at the same time make a bigger building because that school was too small as it was.

Wherever there are schools that burn down if we try to build the exact same thing you have to factor in that the building was getting older the insurance is always based on the condition, the date, and the age of the building. For example if you buy a brand new vehicle, let's just say it cost 40 thousand your insurance would be a certain amount, if you buy a vehicle say for 2 thousand then the insurance would be a lot smaller. Insurance is always comparable to the buying price.

You would have difficulty getting a brand new vehicle if anything happened to your old vehicle and if we want to build a new school we have to use the figures for 99/2000. But if we want to make it usable to 2005 we would be wiser to build for the future, for the future requirements and so the insurance would change.

So there is 231 thousand dollars for it's design was in excess of 682 thousand dollars and then for the design 1.2495 million dollars and we explained the insurance coverage and there was also an agreement that the Hamlet and the community along with the Education Council if they want to get a bigger gymnasium it was agreed the Hamlet would pay in part of the costs for the re-building of the gymnasium. I believe we would pay the 75% ratio of that and so we made an agreement to that effect. So, these figures that were set aside for the designing of the building and all the other aspects of the building is about 14 million dollars in total. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will save my general comments for later. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Concerning lack of teachers. I understood the response and the explanation provided concerning the Iqaluit teachers saying there is a certain number of teachers will be provided for Iqaluit and they talked about the student teacher ratio. I understand there is a continuing increase of students enrolled for classes every year and because of this increase, we need to have an equal proportion of teachers in response to the needs of the students enrolling.

There was a question as to how many teacher positions would be created after the 1 million dollar allocation I understood the response to be 12-14 teacher positions. That was the question and the question was also where would those positions be but the indication is we can't get that information until April and so my question is this that the number of students enrolling in schools are ever increasing, I wonder what happens then.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): As the student enrolment numbers increase we have to have a direct proportion of teachers and we do not cut teacher positions while the increases occur.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Just to point out Mr. Minister, perhaps you should try to keep your microphone closer, because sometimes we do not get all the information you are saying. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I knew that he would respond in that the teachers' positions aren't eliminated but he said that there is X number of positions in Iqaluit and I represent the community of Pond Inlet and I understand that they want to eliminate one and a half teacher positions. This means a full time teacher and a part time teacher. Those positions are in the plan to be eliminated. Now what does that mean, Mr. Minister, you said the teacher positions are not eliminated and I was told in previous responses that

these one and ½ positions would be eliminated. Does he know about that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If that is the case, that is a good question. The Baffin Divisional Board of Education can give us that information and we can probably give him that information tomorrow while we are still in these discussions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Although we try to ask questions during question period we never seem to have enough time. We have numerous questions so I thought this would be the best forum to get responses. I am hoping that as soon as he receives his information I would like a response as soon as possible to see if they plan to eliminate that 1 ½ positions because I am getting mixed messages. The ratio of students enrolling are increasing, teacher positions seem to be eliminated, so much so that there is overcrowding and we have to have grade 3 students in three different classes.

I know he understands my reference to the 1.5 positions. He has to take a good look at these figures because it is a big concern. I thought that by using this forum I would be getting responses and I would appreciate if he would respond to me during a forum like this in Committee of the Whole. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Arvaluk indicated that he will get information from the Baffin Divisional Board of Education and he will respond to you formally in the House.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I am sorry Mr. Chairman, I said two things. He can do it in this forum through committee of the whole, or through a written form but I requested that he respond to me in committee of the whole.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We understand your request Mr. Nutarak. Does the Minister of Education wish to respond further.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I agree with his request.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My question is concerning the elders and youth division. I know that the Department of Education should be working with that division. What kinds of learning programs do you plan to promote within those two departments.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, for the students that are either graduated or not graduated. Which one is he referring to.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): I am talking about grade 12 graduates. I would think that it would be easier for them to access post-secondary programs because we do not have very many students entering University type levels.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Minister if you understand the question.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Yes, I keep moving away from my microphone. Mr. Chairman we are going to try and do something about that and we want to do our review under the income support programs as I have mentioned. We will also be looking at the student financial assistance programs. Those will be undertaken as we are reviewing them to see where we can make improvements, because whoever is interested in higher learning must be considered seriously by the Government Departments and we are doing a review to find out how we can make improvements.

We are going to promote the universities, such as Dalhousie or Carleton. There are a number of universities that we are starting to work together with and we will be sending some more people down to the universities. We helped them out in, particularly St. Mary's University, we will be taking grade 11 and grade 12 students for orientation at the universities. We will inform all the communities that they will have an opportunity to come and see the universities for a two-week visit to see how well they might be able to adjust to university learning.

We want to encourage their preparedness before their graduation. The reason being when you deal with complex subjects certain academic levels are required. For those that are interested in attending college, then their subjects are usually more general but you need specific credits for specific subjects that you wish to learn in universities. So what we want to do is encourage high school students to start considering well in advance where they want to go for post-secondary programs, so they can prepare whether they want to go through general programs or through academic programs.

For subjects such as languages, or math levels, you need certain credits if you want to pursue being a lawyer or a doctor you need certain credits that will be recognized or accepted at university levels. We want to get this information out to students, give them information as to what credits they will need in order to go to university and college.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I am sure all this will cost money too. I am wondering just how much you plan on using for this review. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I missed the first part of his question. If he could repeat it.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sure that there will be funding required to undergo this review. How much does he estimate he will need to do the review. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I thought he was referring to income support programs. Is he referring to the review of the income support programs.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): He was just talking about doing a review as to which schools will be reviewed. That is my questions.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is just going to be a promotional thing. We want to get information out to the communities. We want students to know if you are interested in going to university this is what you have to do to prepare to go. You have to decide what kind of career you want to work toward and we have an agreement with St. Mary's University where we can do a two week preliminary introduction to that university with the students.

However, we use our staff to work this out. We only pay for the student's per diems and living arrangements. So that is what we provide but as for the promotion, our current staff does that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My question is in 9 – 14 in your binders. My question is in regards to the different programs that are provided through field operations for example, career counselling, student financial assistance support, occupational program support, day-care support, early childhood education support, adult basic education, literacy support, labour market development program and community library support.

For the year 2000 under the revised estimates there is 365, compensation and benefits. I apologize. It is on page 9 – 14 in your binders. My question is why there is a three

million dollar increase and in grants and contributions there is a decrease from 90 thousand to 75 thousand and other expenses have been increased from 24 million to 25 million.

These are three questions that I have under field operations. It is in regards to the major increases and decreases.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Your questions are in the Main Estimates. I appreciate your questions but they are right in the Main Estimates. We will be dealing with these items by item when the time comes. Right now we are under general questions and general comments. We will get into the Main Estimates at the appropriate time. If you would like to respond to the member's questions. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Yes, I would like to respond. There is a three million dollar increase in here. Why is that. I do know that we will get into the Main Estimates at the appropriate time but I do have this question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the increase by 3.3 million dollars was on another page last year. We moved it from that to another department and I could ask one of our staff to answer that question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. He could probably give us a detailed report when we get into the Main Estimates. It's okay we do not have to get into it right now but I will bring that up again at the Main Estimates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. We will be getting into the Main Estimates. Mr. Haviyok.

**Mr. Haviyok** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman.... *technical difficulties*...

Our elders need to be used in our educational system. In Kugluktuk, they have requested this, maybe not only in Kugluktuk but also in other communities, to use elders in the school system so that they can pass on their traditional knowledge and that will be a great asset to our young people.

There will be more people looking for employment, how will these young people, once they begin to find employment, how will programs be directed to them towards their enhancement.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This question is for personnel. It is in regards to personnel. His question is about using elders in the education system. Yes, if they are teachers and if they are certified.

I do not believe that is the direction of his question. I believe his question is more about casual employment of the elders and for instructors in cultural programs. They are not here but we could use the elders using the Enter program. We did that in Arviat, I believe we used four elders who we enrolled into the Enter program. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Haviyak.

**Mr. Haviyak**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The reason I was asking is that you are saying the department may be targeting at least 85 percent Inuit in the future. Some of that 85 percent we would like to see as elders in permanent positions instead of having to hire them on a casual basis. It is something that we need to do in schools. Like I said earlier on, my communities are saying at least, having elders teaching at the schools, teaching our youth the traditional way of life and also getting their identity back from the elders, it is working towards community wellness.

I am just saying that I would like to see some of the elders involved in this. You mentioned casual work but we have to put them in the future more into permanent positions. Again, I would just like to see that. Are there some plans for that. Koanna.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyak. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I totally agree with you. We do not want to stop any elders who want to become certified teachers. But we do not have any plans on any programs specifically geared for unilingual people.

(interpretation ends) I am sorry I had forgotten that the member had switched from Inuinnaqtun. I totally agree with him that we would like to see elders in the NTEP programs. In the regular NTEP programs but we don't have developed sophistication for specialists other than the language specialists that we have trained and now we have hired, two in permanent and two in casual in Arviat headquarters for curriculum development programs.

We do not disagree, but we also have to think about the students who will be receiving the instruction from the elders. Not all people are instructors. I think when we have a little bit more authority over the DEAs then they will have to recommend to us what is the best community for them in their schools. At the moment we are going through the divisional boards, as to how the staffing, especially the local staffing, is being done.

But after July 1, then we will be in a position to negotiate directly with the DEAs and the Department of Education especially the regional office, as to what can be recommended for that particular community. They may be a specialist in some areas, but somebody else

may have to be a specialist in another area of their expertise and train from there. I have no objection to that at all.

But the stakes that we have to recognize is the students. That's the bottom line is the students. How do we get the best quality of education for our students. If we can get that from one or two elders, for the majority of the speciality programs, cultural programs and everything else, that would be great. But that does not happen in most of the cases, because anybody is only a specialist in their own field. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** So it is going to be interesting who certifies these elders. They are already certified in their own culture. It is going to be interesting. I just wanted to make that comment. Koanna.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Minister of Education, did you have further comments.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the member will appreciate that some people are very good at going up the river and going fishing in the inland or caribou hunting in the inland. Some are specialists in walrus hunting on the floe ice. I guess what I am getting at is that students must have all the exposures that they deserve in the cultural programs.

You cannot just teach them only what that particular elder knows. If that particular elder knows some of these things and another elder knows other things better than the other one.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Education. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify or help to bring some clarity to some of the information that Mr. Irgittuq referred to earlier. I'd just like to ask the minister if he would be willing to or if he could table the information he provided to the Standing Committee in regards to the Cambridge Bay replacement high school. That included, I believe, a letter to the chairperson along with the capital substantiation form from the Department of Finance and a project budget report that showed it from the conception year one, right through to the warranty year. If he'd be willing to table that for us. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We already have given that to the Standing Committee and the information was given to us from Public Works. If Public Works wants to make it available we have no objection to that because we already gave it to the standing committee. Thank you.



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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to, there was some confusion as to what we can ask questions on and what we can't. So if all the information has to be tabled in order for questions to be asked on it, and all that information came from you to the standing committee, I don't know if you still have a copy of the package or if the standing committee will table it, we can sort all that out.

Just to make sure we have all the information that was there so that there's no confusion on what we can and can't ask questions about. I have a number of other questions Mr. Chairman but recognizing the clock and the smile from the Minister of Education I'd like to ask that we report progress at this time and resume tomorrow. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The motion is in order and is not debatable. So, I will ask the Speaker to come back to the House. I am sorry all those in favour. Motion is carried. Okay, our Speaker will coming back into the House. Thank you Mr. Minister for being at the witness stand with your officials and we will continue with our debate tomorrow. Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Item 22: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13 and tabled document 41-1(3) and 51-1(3) and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. To the motion, who is the seconder of the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 22, Third reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23, Orders of the day for tomorrow. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for Tuesday, April 4.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 16
  
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 13
  - Tabled document 41 - 1(3)
  - Tabled document 51 - 1(3)
  
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

**Deputy Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. The House now adjourns and will resume at 1:30 in the afternoon on April 4. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5:55 p.m.*

