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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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday April 12, 2000**

**Members Present**

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, 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 Manito 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, moving on with the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 108 - 1(3): Integration of Regional Health Boards**

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I rise to acknowledge a major event for Nunavut Health and Social Services. On April first, all three health boards were officially integrated within the Department of Health and Social Services for all of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all employees of the boards who have been the backbone of our health system for a number of years in our communities. I have absolutely no doubt that they will continue to demonstrate their dedication and service to the citizens of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker we are excited about the new arrangement and the possibilities it affords us to serve Nunavummiut better in an integrated fashion. Change is never easy and I am proud of the employees in the regions and here in Iqaluit at headquarters who are dedicated to provide and improve the delivery of health care here in Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 109 - 1(3): Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi Network**

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you Mr. Speaker and thank you for the encore. Mr. Speaker I am very pleased to inform the members of this assembly that two Memoranda of

Understanding on tele-health, one with the province of Newfoundland/Labrador and the other Mr. Speaker with Queensland Tele-Medicine Network in Australia. Mr. Speaker these MOUs will allow us to freely share experiences with, and exchange information about, this promising community based health, social and educational tool.

Mr. Speaker, our neighbours in Newfoundland and the people of Australia have benefited from the use of telehealth in the remote communities, which have extreme environments much like our own. I am looking forward to working with the people from Newfoundland and Queensland telemedicine network in Australia on this exciting initiative. Mr. Speaker this promises to be an important year for the IIU Network here in Nunavut. In our proposed budget we have allocated funds to expand the IIU network within Nunavut. As you know Mr. Speaker, the IIU network has been running in Pond Inlet and Cape Dorset as a pilot project for some time.

Mr. Speaker we are already implementing a Prenatal Visitation Program using the telehealth technology. Using this program allows expectant mothers, who have left their communities and speak to their families every week. Pond Inlet in February and Cape Dorset will begin in April. This is an exciting development that will ease the sometimes lengthy separation between mothers and their family.

Mr. Speaker, in the next fiscal year we will be expanding the speciality services that are available to connected communities through telehealth. Patients will receive consultations without leaving their communities. These services include dermatology, internal medicine, orthopaedics and cardiology. Mr. Speaker we plan to expand the counselling and psychiatry services and increase the mental health training for our practitioners on communities connected to the network.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to expanding the network to Cambridge Bay and Gjoa Haven this coming June. Discussions are also under way with the GNWT's Department of Health and Social Services, and we hope the sites will be fully operational by September of 2000. We are also installing three additional sites in the Baffin region, namely Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay/Nanisivik, Igloolik and Pangnirtung by October 2000.

The Kivalliq is slated for implementation in the fiscal year 2001/2002. Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are all committed to the health of our people, and making the best possible use of the resources available to us. Mr. Speaker I believe that telehealth is just one of the tools that we can use to make health care and social services more accessible and more effective for all the people of Nunavut. I will keep this house apprised of all the developments as this program develops. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Moving on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 305 - 1(3): Income Support Policy Review Committee

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear from the Minister responsible for education that the income support policy committee will also be travelling to the communities of Arctic Bay and Arviat during its review process.

This is a major concern to the smaller communities where the cost of transporting goods has a major impact on the cost of living. The initiatives in the area of income support are promising and they promote the spirit of self-reliance, but we must not forget that there are many people on social assistance. Elders, people with disabilities and people suffering from addiction or abuse who have often have few alternatives.

In the smaller communities there are even less alternatives than in the larger communities. There are fewer jobs and higher costs of living and in many cases limited opportunities for continuing with training or education. I look forward to seeing the results of the income support policy review. I hope following the review and the consultation process these issues will get the consideration they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

#### Member's Statement 306 - 1(3): Election to Ministerial Position

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I rise to make my comments following the process this morning in the house for our leadership forum. I am humbled and thankful for having been selected as a member of cabinet.

For the person who nominated me, I extend my gratitude to Mr. Alakannuark, and to those who voted for me to the position and even to those who did not vote for me.

I know that the responsibilities I have taken on are for all of the communities. I want the people of Nunavut to understand my commitment to all my fellow MLAs. I will remain a friend to those I have been close to, I will not change. I stand today to commit to work hard and make the government more reflective of the people's needs during my tenure as a minister of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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



**Member's Statement 307 - 1(3): Best Wishes to Margaret Gardner**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a long time Iqaluit and Nunavut resident a very speedy recovery. A very good friend of ours Margaret Gardner, the wife of well-known retired reverend Mike Gardner, is recovering from a fall. On behalf of the people of Iqaluit, this House and I am sure her many Nunavut friends we wish her a very speedy recovery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the gallery today a man who is retired but seems to be working harder now more than ever. A great story teller, a well-known voice, a raconteur of some repute, a well-known and famous man, Mr. Jonah Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we welcomed the pages from Coral Harbour and today I want to welcome their chaperone, by the way the individual is my aunt, Annie Eetuk. I would also like to recognize a person who is also a teacher, Alexina Kublu from Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Item 6: Oral Questions****Question 430 - 1(2): Gymnasiums Standards and Criteria**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Education. The schools in Nunavut have no gymnasiums and I just wondered how many students there have to be in order for the school to have a gymnasium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there are different criteria that we have. For instance, the criteria for smaller schools are not the same as the larger high schools. If the school has grade 6 or grade 9 when there are not

enough students they do not qualify for a gymnasium. They usually have a place where they could go and do their exercises although it is not called a gym, it is an exercise room.

When they reach a certain number of students in a school, I don't have the numbers with me, that is when they finally get a gymnasium. But for the high school students when they get up to about 100 students that is when they get a gymnasium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary, Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I understand that for the elementary schools if there are not a lot of students then they don't have a gymnasium. I just wanted to find out how many schools have less than that number where they do not need a gymnasium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister for Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure about that at this time, Mr. Speaker. At this time the standards and the criteria is used and I do not have that with me and I will take that as notice.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 431 - 1(2): Baffin Regional Hospital**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to direct my question to the Minister of Health. I have been asking questions regarding the proposed Regional Hospital for the Baffin region. Mr. Speaker, is it true, from my understanding there are also two proposals for hospital-like facilities that will be built in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

My question is directed to the Minister of Health. Are those proposals slowing our progress on the hospital in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have responsibility in respect to the P3 process, the financing of some possibly facilities and infrastructure that our government is trying to provide. But it is each department that is responsible for the terms and the parameters surrounding the services within those facilities, so this is not a financial problem it is more of a...sorry. It's not a financial question so much as a programming one, and I think it is better addressed to the Minister of Health. I think the honourable member noted that. So I will defer to my honourable colleague, Mr. Picco. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco. If you would care to respond.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the honourable Minister of Finance for that succinct explanation of the financing end of the P3 projects. Mr. Speaker, the question on the functional program review and the functional program for the facilities has to be taken in a multi-step fashion.

In this case Mr. Speaker, we have to take a look at the facility, what we need in that facility for example. Do you need operating rooms, do you need extra beds for chronic care and so on. So if the member could be more specific on the program functional review then I could maybe give some more details on the functional review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think you remember when we were planning the building of the hospital at the very beginning of our tenure. They already had this funding for the hospital to be built in the Baffin region, it was already planned. When the other two hospitals were planned, one in Cambridge Bay and one in Rankin Inlet, I think there was 11 million dollars that was taken out of the Baffin region.

During this P3 process, has there been a problem that you have encountered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Barnabas which minister are you directing your question to.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the Minister of Finance since he is dealing with P3 projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Finance it looks like you're the man today.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has asked in respect to financing in his first question, because he is actually asking two different questions here, not that I would interpret on your behalf Mr. Speaker.

But in respect to the honourable member's question there was never any designated funding targeted to the health facilities. There was a financial agreement between the then Government of the NWT and the Federal Department of Health in respect to the Health Transfer Agreement that took place between the two jurisdictions in 1988. Part of that agreement was that there would be federal contributions to the Government of the NWT towards a replacement facility for Inuvik and a renovation to the facility in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past as a regular member and as a social programs member, I understand there was funding. There were also two new programs for hospital like nursing stations. (interpretation) I wonder what came up (interpretation ends) during negotiations when we are dealing with the Baffin Regional Hospital. I understand those two programs were supposed to be located in Rankin and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng would you care to address that question.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Mr. Speaker, as you know when the Government of Nunavut came into existence on April 1, we assumed many responsibilities from the Government of the Northwest Territories. At that time the new cabinet, under the leadership of the Premier undertook a retreat to look at some current issues that were outstanding.

One of those issues, Mr. Speaker, was the Public-Private-Partnership themselves, whether or not the Government of Nunavut would adopt that possibility for looking at financing some of their infrastructure. It was agreed in principle provided that there was a caveat that any public-private-partnership had to conform to Federal Auditor General requirements as a project. That was what we followed along.

In conjunction with that Mr. Speaker, as we know there were four P3 projects in different stages of development, five I apologize Mr. Speaker, I forgot the Arviat Health Facility because that one is a signed off deal now. There were five at the time at April 1, 1999 that came forward from the Government of the Northwest Territories to the Government of Nunavut. Four of those were health facilities. One being the Arviat health centre which we have resolved and the other three regional health facilities. The member is correct, the Baffin hospital replacement here was one, a regional health facility in the Keewatin based in Rankin and a regional health facility for the Kitikmeot based in Cambridge Bay were the other three health facilities at that time.

There was also an Arctic College residence as a project that had been developed for the Kitikmeot campus in Cambridge Bay. So those were the five projects that came out over to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the new members can the minister provide the details on the process of the P3 process that was happening with the Baffin Regional Hospital and the other projects that are happening in other areas. Could he provide them to the regular members so that we will have an idea what I am talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to Mr. Speaker. As I indicated the Arviat Health Centre as we know, an agreement was signed off for a build-lease with the Arviat Development Corporation. So that one is currently under way in respect to the construction. The three health facilities there has been as the members know, an agreement made with the birthright development corporations as the principal owners in the three regions. They are undertaking some work now to move the progress of those projects along and trying to clarify some of those needs to allow it to get to the stage where we could possibly look at a lease agreement to allow them to proceed with construction.

On the final one the Arctic College residence for Cambridge Bay, there is a proposal right now to go back out for a public proposal call, with the possibility of a public-private partnership as one of the options for financing versus a regular build-lease. So that is basically the status of those five projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral Question. Mr. Puqiqnak.

#### **Question 432 - 1(2): Gjoa Haven Soapstone Quarry**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Although I have raised this issue previously in Uqsuqtuq where they do the soapstone quarrying, I wrote a letter about that and also I have sent a copy to the Kitikmeot head office but still to date I have not received any response. Since this is very important to my constituency, both of my communities, the other one is a little bit larger than the other one, but they are medium sized communities.

There are no job opportunities and they are very dependent on the carving income. This is very important to them. For that reason the soapstone is about 87 miles from the community and the soapstone in the past we could access them but since then the soapstone is not accessibly any more because we have been mining it quite a bit.

I was wondering where the Department of Sustainable Development's position is in regards to the Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay soapstone mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes in regards to his question as to where our position is in our department. It has already been sent to the Kitikmeot headquarters. I cannot tell you the status with the Kitikmeot headquarters, but what I could tell my colleagues today, when they give us their applications we are given a certain number of days to reply. However, if we have gone over the term or if there is any problem he could notify us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is not new. It has been three months or more, or four months since I have last asked it. I do not have the date written down. We have given you ample time to respond to this issue. We were in Cambridge Bay last January when the regular members went for an orientation workshop and at that time the Kitikmeot representative for the Department of Sustainable Development I think he wanted to speak to this issue because I have written a letter about this last January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear a question, it was more like a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Please clarify Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): I think it was during the summer time that we received assistance from the Government once. So they collected the soapstone so that they could pick it up during the wintertime. There is no more soapstone available, it has been two years or three years since we last went to pick up the soapstone. We have been requesting that from the Department of Sustainable Development for Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. We have been requesting funding and we expect to get that funding from Sustainable Development. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes Mr. Speaker. I will take your question as notice. I will find out where the application is at now. I also want to clarify that the funding that is given as contributions or grants none of them has been identified which pot of money could be used for soapstone quarrying. But if the community can apply and if there is no more soapstone, I am sure that it will be slower to get in the money. So I will take your question as notice. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Question taken as notice. Before we go to the next member I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Terry Fox class and teacher Nick Newberry on behalf of the Assembly and Mr. Picco. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Question 433 - 1(3): Workers' Compensation Board Jurisdiction**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. My favourite. Uqaqti it distresses me when I pick up the newspaper and find out that some Safety Officer in another part of the Territory or a different Territory sees something happening in Nunavut and then moves forward to

enforce the rules. I sit back and reflect on how it must be nice to live in another Territory and enforce the rules in our Territory. Sitting back and reflecting on that I say to myself you know we pay for the Workers' Compensation Board through employers' portions and what do we get back.

My question today to the Minister responsible of the Workers' Compensation Board, how many employees do we have in Nunavut and are we getting our fair share of them. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is my understanding that the Workers' Compensation Board has ten employees based in Nunavut. Five based in Iqaluit and five based in Rankin Inlet. There are Safety Officers in both those offices of the Workers Compensation Board.

In respect to the second question Mr. Speaker, whether we are getting our fair share, I mean that is a very subjective question. I think given that it is not a government department as the member recognises, and is an independent board and operates on behalf of employers and employees. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti we have ten employees and I know for a fact Uqaqti, there are probably a hundred employees working in the office in Yellowknife. Give or take ten. I know the employers pay the salaries of these employees and we are a new territory. Could the minister to commit to have talks with his fellow counterparts in the Western Territory and see if we can move more jobs to Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can commit to try to address the issue through our Board representation on the Board of Directors for the Workers' Compensation Board. I think it is important to recognise the Honourable Member has a valid concern and this issue has been raised in the past, as I have indicated in the past to try and develop some kind of consultative process to hear from the public at large and particularly from the new employers and the employees that are impacted by Workers' Compensation Board operations in Nunavut.

They are the ones that will have the most impact in any kind of change in the structure and the delivery of the Workers' Compensation Board services. It is important to recognise and take those views into consideration as we try to make any types of changes in the delivery of these programs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you minister. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Question 434 - 1(3): Government Suicide Prevention Programs**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had a question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and although he responded, he did not give me a concrete response concerning suicides. I wonder if this government through the Department of Health and Social Services deal with suicide attempts on a daily basis. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday the Department of Health and Social Services here in Iqaluit, the headquarters as well Mr. Speaker, the member knows and other members know that across Nunavut everyday experiences are different with social and health issues. Indeed Mr. Speaker, the most dramatic and traumatic is the area around suicide. As I tried to explain to the member yesterday, the Government of Nunavut in this health budget is bringing forward a major proposal for Mental Health and suicide. After saying that Mr. Speaker, each community we have asked them to set up a health committee at the community level to deal with the problem, with the issue of suicide.

Mr. Speaker as I said yesterday, the Government of Nunavut has no magic solution to suicide and the problem we are dealing with here in Nunavut is not unique. We are seeing the same thing develop in other jurisdiction including Labrador, Northwest Territories and indeed in Northern Quebec Mr. Speaker. So there are concrete proposals within the budget. The department is doing concrete things now. Our CHRs and social workers, our nurses are all dealing with the issues surrounding suicide every day. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just for an example in Clyde River the school is very old now and throughout the natural changes of things if something gets old or does not work properly then what you have to do is intervene and make changes. So it is the same way with human lives. When problems start occurring then there should be immediate intervention. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco, I do not hear a question but if you want to respond.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Clyde River for example we ran the suicide training workshop there in the first week in March. It was well attended. I know what the member is saying instead of waiting for someone to commit suicide, we should do intervention before hand. Mr. Speaker, that is happening. In this House a few weeks ago the Crisis Line that we set up with volunteers, operating for the 7th or 8th year, 47 people man the lines on a regular basis. Our own Mr. Anawak is one of those



volunteers. That is in place. That is one of the intervention issues we have in place Mr. Speaker.

But there is no magic solution. Everyone who commits suicide Mr. Speaker, does not do it for one reason. There is a multitude of reasons. What I have tried to say in this House Mr. Speaker, and what the Nunavut Government is trying to do Mr. Speaker, is what the professionals in the field and the social workers who are coming from our communities and leaders and mayors have been telling us. We have to work together co-operatively and make sure that we deal with suicides proactively. There is a lot of work going on Mr. Speaker, in intervention. Many times we do not hear about the cases Mr. Speaker, like the crisis line they intervene if someone does not have a successful suicide. There are many cases of those Mr. Speaker.

I think Mr. Speaker as we get the chance to get into the budget hopefully we will do that today. The Health Department budget. The members will have a chance to help me Mr. Speaker, and help the Government of Nunavut. To be able to deal in a proactive way with the issue of suicide. It is not an easy subject to deal with. I think Mr. Speaker, some of the things we are doing here in Nunavut other jurisdictions are looking at. Some of the success we have had here. We know for example in Kugluktuk the success we had a couple of weeks ago the workshop there I think that is a good model.

The proactive work that the community of Sanikiluaq has done Mr. Speaker, Coral Harbour, many of our communities Mr. Speaker, have worked as communities at the ground level to deal with suicide. There is probably no family in this House today here in Nunavut has not been touched at a very personal way by the issue of suicide. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut and myself as Minister of Health and Social Services take the issue very seriously. I need the members' help. I need the help of this House. I need the help of the people of Nunavut to make sure that we work together to deal with this and bring solutions forward. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 435 - 1(3): Schools Without Gymnasiums**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Education. Just to obtain further clarification on my prior question about the number of communities that do not have gymnasiums. How many schools are there without gymnasiums. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice.

**Speaker:** Taken as notice. So if the member wishes to put forth another question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 436 - 1(3): Gymnasiums for Smaller Communities**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to the schools in Nunavut. There was a discussion whereby there is a requirement for certain classroom enrolment numbers in order to justify gymnasiums in the schools. I know he took this as notice but I just wanted to find out from him whether the smaller communities that have no gyms are being overridden because of their classroom numbers being different from bigger communities. I was just wondering if he based his decision on the numbers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not think the member understood that there are gyms in all the schools but some of them are not called actual gyms. You have space about the size of this building here and the smaller communities use those. For example, I cannot pinpoint the community but we have seen buildings in the communities where they have like recreation rooms. You cannot play basketball but you can still do your exercise programs within those buildings. There are more provided for physical education and they do not include basketballs and other equipment. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Question 437 - 1(3): New School for Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education as well. In Pond Inlet last winter part of the school was closed down and immediately there was a classroom shortage. Anyway part of the school closed down temporarily and we needed classroom space right away. We were told at the time it would be better to have a new school there.

The gym we included for the older kids they were told that they could extend the gym side in 1999. Then the elementary school was supposed to be in the planning stages as well for the fiscal year 2000. So why is it that these capital project budgets have been already set aside and this is not considered an urgent matter considering that the school was closed. Why is this not included in the capital projects. Was it decided other wise. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Education Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. No we did not give up on that but the school was closed in Pond Inlet because of the health standards and it has asbestos in the insulation. This was a health hazard and there was also some dangerous liquid that was underneath the building. So they are to be cleaned up this summer but at this time we are trying to find out through the Health and Labour Standards which way

we can clean up in the safest manner. We have to demolish it because the asbestos must not been blown around anywhere near human habitations. I think he understands as a member of this Legislature that there are poisons and toxins that are invisible especially with asbestos materials and so this is very dangerous. We do not know exactly what kind of asbestos this is. We want to review the contents and we want to look at the best way we can demolish the building first. So that would be the best first step for our plan. In our planning stages. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary, Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister of Education why the school had been closed and he would have answered me properly but we had no other class spaces. Why did they not prepare for this under the capital budget. That was my question too. I hope that he can respond properly this time. Last winter I asked him three questions regarding the Pond Inlet school. I asked the three questions to the Minister of Education. I asked him about his review process. Is it better if we do things like this. What do you want to do. These were the things discussed concerning the closing of the school and he was given information. On November 30, 1999, he was given information concerning those schools. Why are they not included in the capital projects under the budget. Hopefully he will understand me this time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my first response I thought he would understand it right away. The money set aside for ordering supplies and for getting the supplies for the closure of the school, is he saying why are they not in the books. Maybe I should just tell him straightforward that the school was closed. That school has to be demolished and it has to be rendered not useful.

It is right next door to the elementary school and if we want to build a school we will have to use that lot and that is what I was trying to say. First we have to demolish the building. Once it has been demolished then we have to find adequate space and lots. Talk with architectural designers and other experts.

They will have to do their study as to the whereabouts or the location of the school. Why are these not under the capital projects. Actually, they are in the capital projects, but they are only allocated funding for just the planning stages for this year. There will be a review, there will be a demolition. The base will be built and construction can not all resume in one fiscal year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My last question. On November 30, I gave him a question. The committee said to us in a letter dated November 30 these were the plans for older kids. The gym was built too small and it was recommended that it be extended or enlarged and then when the school was closed there was not enough

space. So it was also recommended that they make an extension to the elementary school. There was a letter to that effect. Mr. Minister did not respond to the school question. So I was trying to find out what the specific plans are for the school. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Once we get to the budget we can discuss this during committee of the whole. If I can have their approval, we can open the books for the capital projects to see if they will approve those plans for 1.5 million that is allocated for that. If they do not approve then so be it. That will be the case. Thank you.

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

### **Question 438 - 1(3): Status of Polaris Mine**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I represent two mines and the lifetime on the other mine, the Polaris mine, was due to end on 2000-2001 due to the ore is in the direction of the proposed boundary the Federal Government put on the proposed park. Can the Minister of Sustainable Development update me on the status of the Polaris mine. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In regards to the question of the Polaris mine. Perhaps it would probably run for another three years perhaps maybe four at the most. However, as for the other question he asked I do not have the answer in front of me. So I would have to take that as notice. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 439 - 1(3): Commercial Licence for Clam Divers**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not sure which minister I should direct this question to. Perhaps the Minister responsible for Human Resources. It is in regards to the clam divers. I am very concerned about those workers and I would like to assist them as much as I can because they have to have a commercial licence. Are we going to have another government dictate what our people are supposed to be doing. I am not sure exactly which Minister is going to respond. Maybe perhaps the Premier could respond to my question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I did not quite catch the question. Maybe if I can ask the Honourable Member to repeat it for me. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Are we going to have people outside our Nunavut Government, say for instance from Yellowknife I think, are we going to have some people come to our community to Qikiqtarjuaq telling our people that they cannot do any clam diving. Are we going to have some people from outside of Nunavut come to tell us what we are suppose to do Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Workers' Compensation Board staff would have been staff based either in Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet in the situation of the Qikiqtarjuaq clam divers. Therefore, the jurisdiction that they have is within our territory. The Territory of Nunavut. So that would not have necessarily been outside of Nunavut in respect to the issuing of stop work orders Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Ever since we started our Nunavut Government, we have not dealt with the law concerning the clam divers. I wonder if the Nunavut Government started legislation whereby it takes care of our workers, it takes care of the people that are doing some commercial clam diving. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that commercial diving in Nunavut is covered right now under our Nunavut Safety Act. If there were to be changes they would have to be of course with some consultations and always keeping in mind the workers' safety aspect of any profession or anybody that works within our jurisdiction. Because we would have an obligation to make sure the laws apply. That they would follow generally accepted health and safety standards for any profession. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand the minister's response but I do not think we are going to keep following the legislation that is not made in Nunavut. As a Nunavut Government I think it is up to the government to start up legislation to care for our own people.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions Mr. Akesuk.

**Question 440 - 1(3): Empowerment Review**

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is an issue I have brought up before and it is an issue for all Nunavut mayors. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Community Government about Empowerment through a legislative document that was dealt with in 1999.

The minister had said that he would be reviewing this matter again. All the mayors have gone through this exercise already so my question is will the mayors be consulted along with their staff when this re-review occurs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I had stated at that time that this work was done before Nunavut went out on its own. Perhaps that there are sections of it that we don't agree with, as you know our Nunavut MLA's were a minority in the NWT and had to concede to some of the NWT's needs. Now that we have Nunavut we are changing things to suit our needs.

We are meeting the mayors and staff through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities in May and we will consult with them then.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. These recommendations have not been implemented yet and if we made some minor amendments, would you start implementing them then.

**Speaker:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, if communities want to take on more responsibility from the Nunavut Government and if it is clear that they are capable of taking on these responsibilities as the Nunavut Government we are just waiting for that. Our Department of Community Government & Transportation is willing to start negotiations with the communities. We are not going to push the communities to take on the responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 441 - 1(3): Igloolik Language Specialist**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to direct my question to the Premier. In regards to the Igloolik Language Specialist that have now been moved to Igloolik and the headquarters is in Cambridge Bay. Why do we have the headquarters in Cambridge Bay when the staff is situated in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the language specialists, when we were dealing with the details of decentralization we held meetings and decided that the language specialists would go to Cambridge Bay and the headquarters would be in Kugluktuk. We had tried to keep everything together so that they would not be segregated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Oh I didn't realize that it was in Kugluktuk as I thought it was in Cambridge Bay. When the headquarters is in Kugluktuk doesn't that create a problem with the staff in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's going to be okay that the positions have been identified moving to Igloolik as they will be more geared to Heritage Centre in Igloolik and the language part of it will be in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

#### **Question 442 - 1(3): Soapstone Quarries**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development regarding soapstone. I agree with my colleague across the House here from Gjoa Haven that our economy in a lot of communities depends on soapstone and how easy it is to access it directly benefits traditional economy which is very important in my community also. Is the Minister responsible working on a policy or formula to help those communities that have a problem obtaining a good supply of soapstone. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact yes and we are also working very closely with the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, which receives some funding from our department. This Association is capable of attracting more money from outside sources which the government itself is not capable of and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association is another source that can be approached for community initiatives which at this time where funds may not be available directly from our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. That was a good answer. Can the Minister tell me when he expects to see the policy or group or this organization come forward so our community who has a severe shortage of soapstone at this point can start working towards being more self-sufficient in the retrieval of soapstone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later next month we have set aside dates where we will be following up on the forum on the economy. This is where mayors will be assisting us in directing funds or money to priorities and I'm very confident that with the concerns and issues that have been brought to our department the arts and crafts sector will be getting some recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Mr. Speaker, again it's a good answer. The mayors are involved and we all know we as MLA's work very closely with them. Where does the Minister figure that he is going to identify or where are these or this organization going to identify where they can seek extra funding. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could I have the member repeat his question please.

**Speaker:** Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ah yes, I'll make it brief. Where does the Minister suspect that this organization is going to retrieve outside funding other than the Nunavut Government to help with our soapstone programs. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association much like Nunavut Tourism who we also assist with funding has been able to track new supporters and they have been able to more than double the amount of money that we contribute to the association. So, I'm very confident that this association will also be able to obtain federal, provincial and territorial funds or support from other groups that the government does not have access now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. That's reassuring again. Can the minister reassure me as an MLA that comes from a community that relies heavily on the carving industry, that money once it's retrieved and once it's accessed that most of it will go where the need is.



That's in the community and not to be spent on organizations, meetings, and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will remind the Member that our efforts with the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association the money that they will direct is up to the association and the amount of dollars that they will be directing is beyond my control at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ministers. Minister rather. We note that the time for Question Period is up. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 14 - 1(3): Ministerial Portfolio Responsibilities**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Premier. As we all know since we elected a Member for the Cabinet this morning and I am sure that the Premier will be giving him a portfolio.

As regular Members of the Legislative Assembly sometimes we don't know who to direct our question to. So I would like to ask the Premier if they will put into one portfolio the income support program. Also, during oral questions I tried to ask about the two ministers taking care of one responsibility like the P3 program that should be taken care of by one minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. The page will pick up that document from you. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 73 - 1(3): Grade 12 Graduates by Year 1987-1999**

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document titled "Grade 12 Graduates by Year 1987-1999" requested by Mr. Akasuk in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Tabled Document 74 - 1(3): Inuit Teachers-Current Staff**

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table this document titled "Inuit Teachers, Current Staff" requested by Mr. Akesuk during the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Nutarak.

**Tabled Document 75 - 1(3): Education Capital Projects for Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table documents further to my question to the Minister of Education. These were given to me just before I got into the House and they are directed to the Minister of Education concerning capital projects that I had mentioned under the departments. He will understand the contents once he reads them and I presume he would respond in a timely manner. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 13. Tabled Document 41-1(3), Tabled Document 51-1(3), Tabled Document 60-1(3), Tabled Document 61-1(3), Tabled Document 68-1(3). According to the authority vested in me by Motion 3-1(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in Session until it reports itself out with Mr. Iqaqrialu as chairperson. We will now take a 20 minute break before the commencement of the Committee of the Whole. Sergeant-At-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 2:53 p.m. and resumed at 3:28 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): The committee will now come to order. Mr. Arvaluk do you want to start in your seat or do you want to go to the witness table.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman when we met in the committee of the whole last week and discussed capital I was asked if the conceptual drawings for the replacement high school in Cambridge Bay could be made available. I committed to relaying that request to the Department of Public Works. I am now informed that these drawings are now available for viewing at the Department of Public Works.

In fact earlier, members had the opportunity first hand to discuss the project first hand and discuss the project in detail. Mr. Chairman, last week a series of 5 motions concerning the Department of Education's capital budget were tabled and passed in this committee. I would like to offer general responses to these motions.

Motion 33-1(3), which reads in part, "that this committee wants the department to prioritise those capital projects for schools which have health and safety or maintenance needs which have resulted in school closures, overcrowding and the lack of basic facilities like gymnasiums and libraries".

To this motion, I respond that I agree. This is exactly what we will be doing as we develop our twenty-year capital plan. Our capital planner has been hired and will be joining our staff in the late summer. I am pleased to report that I am in full agreement with this motion. Regarding the following four motions, motion numbers 34-1(3), 35-1(3), 36-1(3), and 37-1(3). I want to assure the members that I am considering these motions carefully as I wish to take into account the wishes of the members where that is possible. It is my suggestion that we take into account priorities of all our communities in Nunavut and we also move into partnering when the community is willing to contribute.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I think you will have to go back to the reading and you will have to reread everything because we could not get the interpretation. I apologise Mr. Minister.

**Mr. Akasuk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman (interpretation) Motion 34 is where we lost the interpretation, regarding motion 34-1(3).

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Regarding the following four motions, motion number 34-1(3), 35-1(3), 36-1(3), and 37-1(3). I want to assure the members that I am considering these motions carefully as I wish to take into account the wishes of the members where that is possible. It is my suggestion that we take into account priorities of all our communities in Nunavut and we move into partnering when the community is willing to contribute.

It is my wish in this area that we as a government remain flexible so we can deal with individual circumstances that may differ from community to community. I believe that we all wish to take into account community based priorities, community consultation and opportunities to partner with our Hamlets and other organizations within Nunavut. I wish to thank the members for tabling these motions and I continue to give them serious consideration. On the matter of the cost sharing formula for these extra facilities, Mr. Moody made the correct statement in that committee meeting and I ask that you recommend Mr. Moody for the witness table. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister for Education. Under item number 9-15 we were under field operations and that is where we left off. This is where we left off. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): I thank the Minister of Education. I am happy he can sit with us. I would like the Minister of Education and his witnesses and officials to come to the witness table.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you for taking your seats. Committee members on your behalf we welcome the minister and we open the floor to questions and comments. We have been dealing with this department for a number of days now under the education department and hopefully our work concerning this department will come to some sort of resolution. So keep that in mind. At this time we have Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Concerning the motions and the responses the minister just made. He says he will give them serious consideration, but there was reference to a twenty-year plan once again and I am wondering because of the motions if this could be handled in a more urgent manner. So is he deferring this as his response and referring it to just the twenty year capital plan without commitment. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. When you were sitting, I am afraid we did not recognize your officials. Mr. Minister please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On my right is Robert Moody the Deputy Minister of Education, and to my left is Connie Brown, manager of finances for the department.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. There was a question posed to you by Mr. Irqittuq. Do you wish to respond Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This means all the communities at this time do not have capital projects yet. Before we make any drawings we want to find out what kind of designs they want to see for their schools. How they have to be planned.

Do we need to do some planning. We want to look at this in the twenty-year plan. In that way we cannot overlook the communities. We cannot go in and build a school for the community without having spoken to the communities first. This just reiterates that thought. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I believe that the drawings are almost completed for the schools in the communities and I see them as tabled documents. In fact I do not think we require huge amounts of funding for capital projects because this has been raised as an issue numerous times.

In reference to his response it seems to me that he is just using the motions to not commit to the motions that we had approved in the House during committee of the whole, and for

the past winter it seems to me that we were already agreed to implement those plans. To me the response seems to be non-inclusive of the schedule that we were hoping for. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Although it was not quite a question, do you wish to respond Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): I believe the Minister of Finance is in a better position to respond to that question but as I understood the motion, it contained recommendations. It was strongly urging from you to me to consider those options and I agreed to consider them, and if there were any new funds on top of the planning wherever it might come from we would have to come to terms.

If there can be extra funding set aside we would have to find out where from and because of these factors I can't commit without the proper plans in place. But as I understand it, to consider the recommendations and that is what I am doing. I cannot act upon them. I cannot commit to them and set aside the funding immediately without other factors that I have to include during my tenure as minister with the FMBS.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. You ask when that is going to happen then it becomes obvious that our wishes as regular members will be ignored and this meeting will lead nowhere. It is obvious again. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will break the law if I try to approve them or if I disapprove. The estimated budget and all the funding that has been planned, the 610 million dollars, each minister cannot approve them by themselves. They have to be approved by the cabinet as a whole. They have to find out where the funds are coming from.

We have to make sure we are not breaking one of our rules or laws. For this reason I would like my colleague to be aware that we have to abide by our rules. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister for Education. We are on 9-15 of the field operations, grants and contributions. In spite of that you may ask your questions and I will allow you to ask questions. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not agree with his response. So therefore, I would like to deal with this again. Mr. Chairman, the recommendations that were passed, perhaps the rest of the cabinet members did not see them. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): They have heard and they have seen them if you would like to defer for clarification. Your question does not seem to be in line with education. Perhaps you could ask the Premier about the procedure, or the Minister of Finance, Kelvin Ng, could direct his question to the cabinet members. But I want you to know these were recommendations. We will have to balance the budget out because we have limited dollars. We have to budget everything and we might have to re-profile. So we have to agree to the recommendations which items would be profiled.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As he stated, he cannot make a decision by himself. We made the resolutions so he can consider the resolutions because we were urgently, at the cabinet level; they did not consider our recommendations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): We will not be able to consider them until they get the proposal from the department of education. If we do not make the recommendations to the cabinet and I know that we have to consider some aspects of it as to how we can deal with the request. I want my colleague to know that if we do not we have to apply to the cabinet level and we have to abide by the rules.

We cannot just agree or make changes instantly to the Main Estimates. We have to abide by our rules and our standards and criteria. The Department of Finance and the Department of Justice have to review them. The Office of the Premier has to review all these aspects. So that is why we cannot make any decisions as I had stated before. We will review them and consider them. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. GNWT's standards and criteria, are we still using those for the capital estimates. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We did not use the 5-year capital plan. We are still using the same criteria for capital plans. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I ask this question just because usually when the designs are completed and the foundations completed some of these programs are not in the capital estimates, and you state you do not want to break your

rules or contradict your rules. Why did you remove the design for Cape Dorset's school. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understood that looking at those and reviewing those in the 5-year capital plan, we reviewed the design but they were never given any funding from the GNWT. So it just means that they were wrong. They were never given any funding or contracted out any companies to start the construction of the designs. Especially the two areas completed by the GNWT and that is why we did not break any of our rules. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes they use huge amounts of money reviewing it, doing the blue prints, and designing it and all that. They use huge amounts of money and they expend large sums of money. So, if they do a different design they will have to redraw it with large sums of money and some of these are already existing in our community. This does not make sense to leave the ones that have already been dealt with.

That is why we made these recommendations in the motions because in some communities, designs of the schools have been completed and they have been approved by the GNWT and they spent the money on the designs. I just wanted to point this out because there have already been other schools that have been blue printed. The designs are already completed and are we going to set a precedent here and delete these items. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): No we will not do that. We have a twenty-year plan for capital items. We will continue with the projects that have been designed within the twenty years as long as we have the design of the building we will continue to build it within the twenty year span.

The GNWT never paid for the design we could ask the communities whether they like that design. So there are other options that we could take or we could ask them if we should just construct it like that and whether they have built the foundations. What I'm trying to say is that in the 2000/2001 fiscal year there is no funding allotted in the education capital estimates, that is included in there and that is why you made the recommendations in the motion, because there is no funding allotted for that purpose. Now I cannot say that I will put lots of funds into that now. I want to review the motions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The plan for the school has been designed for the school already. Does it mean that the designs are done in some of the communities. Does that mean that they do not have to do the project right away, even though the design is finished. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The ones that are not approved in the motion cannot go ahead. These motions were just recommendations to us. So that is why we are saying we will consider the recommendations. When we discuss Bill 13 and when we come to the recommendations made by the committee of the whole then we will consider them. If we have to take for instance, the government leader could explain a little bit better than I could, if we get a recommendation we cannot do anything about it right away. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We ask questions of the minister and ordinary members that the 5-year plan is going to go ahead. The minister told us a while ago that they are not using the 5-year capital plan that came from the GNWT government, and I wanted to know why they are not using those capital plans. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. For that question I already mentioned that and I guess the member has forgotten that I already mentioned that. When we became the Government of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, there were many programs that had to do with construction. There were not any plans put forward by the government. They had deferred them so many times. Now that we are the Nunavut Government there are many things that we have to do.

Not just in the way of building schools but many projects that were not allotted any money by the GNWT. I know that we had to deal with emergency items last year and I know that at the same time we would also like to use the 5-year capital plan from the GNWT. However, the only thing is we do not have enough funding to do all those projects that the members are talking about. So we are saying right now, even up to today what we are trying to do is do the things that have to be done right away.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If we could take a twenty minute break for the regular members to have a meeting.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. We can do that. So we can get some more information on this topic. Twenty minute break for the regular members to have a meeting and then we will come back.

>>*Committee recessed at 3:56 and resumed at 4:38 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): At this time under item 9-15. Are there comments or questions to page 9-15. The floor is open. Concerning adult basic education we were in grants and contributions do you have that in front of you. Any further comments. Those in favour. Are we agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Going back to page 9-14, branch summary, total operations and maintenance, 29 million 442 thousand dollars. Comments or questions. Those in favour.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Further down total expenditures, 29 million 442 thousand dollars. Comments. To the following page of 9-16, Department of Education detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Questions or comments. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under page 9-16 concerning Bank of Montreal scholarship program. Is it 10 thousand dollars or 10 million dollars.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** This figure of 10 thousand dollars Mr. Chairman is a figure from the Bank of Montreal geared towards scholarship programs for the youth in Nunavut.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Is that simply a contribution from the bank or is this...

**Chairperson** (interpretation): If you are grateful to me perhaps the answers will be evident and you have to indicate to me that you thank me so that I'll recognize your question is completed. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): At the time of the creation of the government they wanted to continue scholarship programs for five-year terms. So the Nunavut Government through the Department of Education will be handing out scholarships for 1 thousand dollars per student who are interested in higher learning for tuition and materials for their books and stuff and this is to encourage scholarships which we receive from the Bank of Montreal. We in turn take it from the bank and reimburse them to the students that receive the scholarships while pursuing their higher education. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not really sure. How long has this scholarship been in effect, the scholarship that the Nunavut Government receives from the Bank of Montreal.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Puqiqnak when you finish can you recognize the Chairperson, so I know when to ask the minister to respond to the question. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have been receiving this for two years now and when we had a meeting I told you, I think it was Saturday that I would be receiving another 10 thousand dollars from the Bank of Montreal representatives. It has been ongoing for about 2 years now and they will give us 10 thousand dollars every year for 5 years. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. There are 26 communities in Nunavut and 10 thousand dollars is not very much to distribute amongst the 26 communities. You mentioned this is the second year that we received this scholarship from the Bank of Montreal for students' purposes, for the use of the students. I wonder when the Bank of Montreal will be, which program is this under is it for smaller communities. Is it for people that do not have a Bank of Montreal in their communities. Which program are you putting this under. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Bank of Montreal gives that 10 thousand dollars for a scholarship program. As you know sometimes the students at the Arctic College or the university or taking trade programs, the students don't usually have that much money even though we provide them with student financial assistance they usually don't have much money to spend. So what we do is give them a scholarship for those that don't, to help them out and to recognize them and the Department of Education is planning right now who would be eligible for that 10 thousand dollars. Another one Mr. Chairman, is the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation. In the year 2000 this Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation will be giving 76 students in the amount of 200 thousand dollars to be distributed among the students as a scholarship to further their education. That would also be a scholarship for some students as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Any questions on 9-16. Any comments or questions. Everybody is in agreement. Turn the page to 9-17. Department of Education, distribution of budget. Distribution of Budget. Any questions on this page. Comments from the members. Everybody's in favour.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (Interpretation): Going back to the first page that we started on. Page 9-3, under 9-3 Details of Expenditures, Department of Education, Program Summary, Detail of Expenditures. Any comments or questions from the members on this page. Operations and Maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 135 million 149 thousand. Jobie. Jobie Nutarak

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Total, I would like to make a note, I would like to say that I would like to defer Capital Expenditures and Total Expenditures of the department under Details of Expenditure in the amount of 150 thousand 474 dollars. I would like to defer that.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. We are under item...Mr. Nutarak.

### **Committee Motion 57 - 1(3): Deferral of Kitikmeot Department of Education Capital Estimates**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that this committee defer the consideration for the Capital Estimates for the Kitikmeot region under the Department of Education until the estimates of all other departments have been approved. We can go back to the Department of Education once we have dealt with the other departments just before we finish with Bill 13.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. All in favour of the motion. I am sorry can you hold on a second. The motion is in order any questions on the motion, comments. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Just a question Mr. Chairman. There will be a barge early before the summer and we have to wait a long time for the barge to come into the Kitikmeot region. They have the barge going to the Kitikmeot region very early so I just want to make sure that you have considered the barge shipment season to Kitikmeot before you make the deferral.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Yes we realize that. We can defer that further until we have discussed Bill 13 and you cannot approve everything until Bill 13 has been dealt with. So that is why we want to go onto other departments before we get back to the Department of Education's Main Estimates. We are just deferring it in the meantime because we cannot let them; it is not law until we deal with Bill 13 anyway.

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

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I just want to get some clarification on why just Kitikmeot is mentioned in this motion.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): The reason why we said the Capital Estimates for Kitikmeot region is we have questions on that, the Capital Estimates, we asked the minister questions but he said to us that he will just think about the recommendations because he has to meet with the Cabinet first. So what we want to do is talk to the Minister of Education on this before we make a motion.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Perhaps if I could clarify to the members. It is not taking away the Capital Estimates for the Kitikmeot region from the Department of Education because we are going to have to bring more departments as witnesses and we will find out after that what is happening with the Department of Education. Yes, Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, I understand what you are saying but it seems like Kitikmeot is being targeted. As far as I am concerned, it will feel like you are not really in support of Kitikmeot people.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Any responses. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I am sorry. I do not mean to do that Mr. Chairman. But whenever we have a limited amount of funding we would like something done for our community as well but some communities have more than the others and it's got to do with the questions that we have of the Minister of Education. We would like him to be able to respond to our recommendations before we continue with the estimates of the Kitikmeot region, Capital Estimates.

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

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, the reason why I think the Kitikmeot is targeted is because of Cambridge Bay. I think you are talking about the Cambridge Bay addition of the heritage centre. I think that is the problem of the committee right now. I know that some communities need more than the others do because some of them do not have any schools, they have closure of their schools, and they have to use some other rooms or some other buildings as schools. If we are going to keep delaying or deferring the department is it going to delay the building of the school in Cambridge Bay.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Anawak we have not dealt with Bill 13 yet so we have to deal with all the departments first and then keep the Department of Education to be discussed last, we will get back to it. So I just want the members to understand that as long as we do not deal with Bill 13, the Main Estimates that we are dealing with now cannot be approved anyway. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess my colleague brings up a valid point. If members are saying there are concerns with the capital allocations for education I think we recognize that, there's been a lot spoken of that over the past six days of debate over the Department of Education's budget. One has to recognize that all the recommendations that the members have approved in the committee of the whole targets specifically the capital, the Department of Education for all of Nunavut not specifically the Kitikmeot region. So in all fairness for the members that are putting forward this motion there should be a deferral of all capital of the Department of Education until such a time the department's budget is approved and I think that's the fair way of dealing with this issue. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. We now have a motion on the floor, so we still have not approved the estimates. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. I do have a concern now in regards to this issue. I think we have to be more considerate of the students. It is not the Members of the Legislative Assembly, we can argue about this in the House but we also have to consider the students. We are all aware whether the school is huge or small, I do not think we will ever be happy with the size of the school. So I just want all the members to consider that because we are not the only people, we have to consider the people that we are trying to serve. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. The motion, in the motion they did not agree, regular members did not approve the Kitikmeot Capital Estimates. That is why the motion was brought forth. I want everybody to be aware. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do understand Mr. Kilabuk's comments, yes, that is what we want. We are serving our people; we are serving all the Nunavut residents. The recommendations that we put forth as regular members, we do not even know whether the recommendations were brought to the Cabinet level. It seems like they have been put into the 20-year plan. Nothing has been changed regardless of the recommendations we made. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

### **Committee Motion 58 - 1(3): Amendment of Committee Motion 57 - 1(3)**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I would move that we delete the words "Kitikmeot region" in the motion. I would move that the words "Kitikmeot region" be deleted.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The amendment is in order. Would you like to, Jack Anawak has made a motion to amend the motion and we will have to re-draft the committee motion. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Please recognize the people who have put their hands up. The regular members are talking about the Kitikmeot region in the committee motion. Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay would need their materials shipped up and we are pretty late in the spring already. It seems like the members are not considering the contracting part of it and I know that if you keep deferring this, if you keep on deferring this we might be late in ordering our material in the Kitikmeot region. This is not being considered, it seems like we are just playing here Mr. Chairman, you have to be neutral. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. I will treat everyone the same. We are going to take a short break, I will ask for a short break so we can re-draft the motion, the amended motion. So we will take a short break until the motion is amended and we will get back as soon as we can.

>>*Committee recessed at 5.02 and resumed at 5.30 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We can resume. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Committee Motion 59 - 1(3): Deferral of Capital Estimates of Department of Education**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will try read the motion as amended. Mr. Chairman I move that this Committee defer further consideration of the capital estimates for the Department of Education until the estimates of all other departments have been approved.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The copies of the motion are being handed out to the members and I will have to find out from the members if you are in favour of it. Comments to the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I have to thank the Minister for Education and he can make his closing remarks and we will move on to the Department of Health and Social Services once we complete his closing remarks. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I realise we have not completed the department but I do agree that we go through this process. I would like to thank you, Mr. Moody and the staff sitting over there who have been working diligently to assist me and keeping up with the requests as they get produced in the House. They try to keep up with the requests that are being produced in the House. I would like to extend my gratitude to them Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Education. The items are detailed and we will be moving on them slowly and thank you for your attendance. Going on to the Department of Health and Social Services. I think we can deal with the Department. To the Department and opening remarks by the Minister. Minister for Health and Social Services. You can remain seated or move to the witness table for your opening remarks. Minister of Health and Social Services whenever you are ready.

### **Department of Health & Social Services Main Estimates: Minister's Opening Remarks**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you to my colleagues and a special thank you the Minister of Education and their staff who have been with us over the few days. Some of them are our constituents. Special thanks to Mr. Horn and those two special people Sandy Teiman and Nancy Highland and we cannot forget Mr. Rose too. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to be able to begin today with the opening comments for Health and Social Services. I would like to take this opportunity today to invite a couple of my staff people who are with me today to come over and join me here at the witness table. Ms. Cooper and Ms. Hecks.

Ms. Cooper is no stranger to this House Mr. Chairman. Rosemary is the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services sitting on my left, and seated on my right is Ms. Karen Hecks who is the acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services. Many of the Members have met Karen over the last couple of months and she has been doing an exemplary job for us in the department.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is second only to the Department of Education in the overall government of Nunavut budget.

As reflected in our business plan our department's activities bring the Bathurst priorities to life, namely building healthy communities, self-reliance, simplicity and unification and continuous learning.

Having said that Mr. Chairman, I am sure there is no one in this room who is unaware of the immense challenges of managing a health system anywhere in Canada.

You all know that the Premiers and Ministers of Health from all the provinces and territories of Canada are engaged in a process to try to bring more efficiency to the Canadian health care system. Intense discussions continue among the ministers to find ways to redirect monies within their health and social services system to better serve all Canadians.

In Nunavut we too are striving to reach the goal of efficient, effective health and social services for Nunavummiut. We have a total departmental budget of 120.2 million, which includes 115.9 for operations and maintenance, and 4.3 million for capital projects.

As you know the regional health boards are now integrated into the department and the ongoing administrative efficiencies which that change brings will allow the savings to be re-directed into essential priority areas.

In keeping with the vision statement of the Government of Nunavut, we have reserved funds within our budget to ask elders to help us bring more Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit into our programs and services. It is very important to us to be sensitive to the cultural needs of our citizens.

We will engage elders for general advice and perhaps specific elders on particular issues where their wisdom will help us improve what we do for Nunavummiut. Our capital plans contain some 4.3 million worth of projects. These projects are spread throughout several communities. For example, we will be undertaking feasibility studies for the replacement of the Health Centres in Igloolik and Repulse Bay.

In recognition of the importance of technology to assist treatment activities in Nunavut, the capital plan also contains 1 million for Telehealth. Over 46 million will be provided for medical treatment in the Health Centres and the hospital and nearly 24 million will go to fund health Insurance programs.

In his budget address, Minister Ng spoke of our initiatives with respect to nursing. We have the first group of students underway in the Nunavut nursing program and a second group of students will begin their training this coming fall.

In addition, the department is supporting a group of student nurses who will be coming to Nunavut to do work sessions this summer. We feel that the investment in nurses is fundamental to health care delivery in Nunavut and have directed 600 thousand to this area out of our base funding.

As we are all aware staffing is a difficult issue for the government of Nunavut and nowhere is it more difficult than in the fields of health and social services professionals. In recognition of this we have undertaken several initiatives such as reclassification of positions and have introduced financial bonuses for indeterminate nurses to try to make working in Nunavut more attractive.

Another area we will address is mental health. Issues such as sexual abuse, family violence, and other anti-social behaviours. Mr. Chairman these issues are not easily nor quickly solved. General mental health work is broad and comprehensive. This year we will direct 4 million to begin to address some of the many issues that lie there. We will focus on building capacity at the community level.

We will also be focusing great effort on suicide prevention. Suicide is a disease that is robbing us of our most precious resource, our young people. But the government will never solve this problem alone. Every one of us as Nunavummiut have a role to play.



Mr. Chairman, for its part the department will direct resources in the amount of 3.6 million throughout the year into this area. We have had departmental staff lead workshops and have supported communities where tragically there has been a recent need and will continue to do so.

Mr. Chairman, we must also begin to address the epidemic of tobacco use. It is one of the main causes of death among our citizens and unfortunately Mr. Chairman, 78 percent of our young people between the ages of 15 to 24 are smokers. Mr. Chairman, we will direct approximately 3.8 million dollars into work to discourage smoking in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the development of comprehensive dental program focused specifically on pre-schoolers is also part of our plan for the next fiscal year. We will support this with 3.1 million dollars. Obviously, investment in this prevention initiative will benefit all of us in the long run.

Mr. Chairman, the foundation for moving forward in the field of health and social services is working with communities. To that end we have begun the dialogue with every community in Nunavut to encourage them to be part of the partnership with the government to address health and social services needs.

We will Mr. Chairman; we will work with existing community health and social service committees or encourage the development of such committees to develop joint solutions to community problems.

Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier these activities are a sample of programs and activities of the Department of Health and Social Services which reflect both the Bathurst mandate and the priorities identified during pre-budget consultations and indeed in on-going debate in this House.

In closing Mr. Chairman, we believe that the government funds which are available to our department will be used in the best possible way to help Nunavummiut achieve better health and Mr. Chairman, make better lifestyles choices.

Those Mr. Chairman, are my opening comments under the 2000-2001 budget for the department of Health and Social Services for the government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Health and Social Services. Now for the opening remarks by the committee Chairperson Mr. Nutarak.

### **Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health: Opening Remarks**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I too have a fairly lengthy item to present. So bear with me. Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity to give introductory remarks as we begin debate of the main estimates for Health and Social Services.

As Chairperson of the Standing Committee of Culture, Education and Health, our members have taken great interest in matters pertaining to Health and Social Services. The standing committee has met with the minister on a number of occasions over the last year and has issued two reports with recommendations.

Many of the recommendations have been acted on such as the support for the new nursing education program at Nunavut Arctic College. We also reviewed draft Bills and legislative proposals. Members have supported the dissolution of the health boards and we thank the minister for acting on our recommendations to specifically include in his Bill dealing with the dissolution of the three regional health boards, that the minister may enter agreements with the local community health committees.

The standing committee is very supportive of local involvement in the delivery of health and social service matters and we know that this will be essential if we are to deal with some of the problems facing individuals and families in our communities. As with all departments we also look forward to the decentralization of positions in this department to the smaller communities in Nunavut.

In terms of the main estimates once again we have requested and supported the government's plans for a much more comprehensive budget process so that members will have all the materials well in advance to properly review them. The standing committee had an opportunity to review draft business plans and capital plans in February and March of this year during fairly extensive discussions with the minister and his officials.

While there were no changes to the main estimates for this department we are very pleased that the business plan tabled yesterday has been significantly amended and reflects many of the concerns raised by members during those meetings. The plan has significant additions in terms of the concrete plans of the department for the next year and into the future.

It also includes much more relevant indicators of health and well being in our population. Some of the concerns that were raised by members that we welcome being listed now as actions in the new business plan include the following:

Revising and implementing the Nunavut mental health strategy and ensuring the departmental Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee has adequate input.

Developing and distributing Nunavut and Inuit specific materials to address suicide prevention.

Developing a communication strategy that incorporates Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and emphasis personal and community wellness.

Utilise elders as consultants to educate headquarters and regions on traditional practices for integration into programs and services.

Formalise the partnership roles and responsibilities with NSDC and NTI.

Work with other Nunavut government departments to develop the areas of child well being, disability and community wellness.

Develop mentoring opportunities for Inuit who are interested in careers in health care, social services and wellness.

Involve communities in assessment and planning of programs to ensure programs are responsive to community needs.

Encourage communities to be involved in changes to programs and services.

Members will be very pleased to see these actions actually being carried out and they will be interested to hear how the department intends to do so over the coming year. Members have been very concerned about the accumulated deficit of the regional health boards. In support of the use of the previous years surplus to pay for them.

However it is the hope of the members that the integration of the health boards into the department will ensure that some cost savings will be realised and that these deficits do not accumulate again. Member will want to hear how the department addresses this in the coming year. At the same time members have recognised that new preventative initiatives may cost new money and we have requested that the department bring these forward in an explicit manner.

The Telehealth project is one area where the department is hoping to realise cost savings from travel and at the same time provide specialised services to the smaller communities. We are supportive of this pilot initiative although members have requested an evaluation so that we can be certain that the expense of establishing this technology is worth the effort.

Members have expressed concern of the turnover of nurses in the local communities and look forward to hearing the results of the minister's consultations to improve retention as well as efforts to train Nunavummiut to become nurses in the future. Members are very supportive of the community health representatives in the communities taking on more involvement with the local health committees and look forward to hearing about the department's planned initiatives for recruitment and training in this regard.

Members look forward to the development of the long-term capital plan for the department. Particularly health facilities in their communities. Members are also

concerned as the government proceeds on the P-3 issue. Members are concerned it does so in a more open and transparent way than has been done in the past. While P-3 projects have unique qualities, they nevertheless involve the spending of public money.

Members of the Legislative Assembly need to have all the facts in front of them. Members look forward to a spirited discussion over the next few weeks and I would like you to know that the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health will prepare and table a report with recommendations before the final vote on the Appropriations Act. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. All opening remarks have been made.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress and defer this item until tomorrow when we get back into the committee of the whole. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. Motion carried. If we can lead the Speaker back into the House. Thank you Mr. Minister and your staff, we will invite you back tomorrow during committee of the whole. Thank you Mr. Minister, Ms. Cooper. Thank you. We can have the Speaker come back to the House.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I would just like to say that I enjoyed the comments made by the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and I and my department officials look forward to a spirited debate and some good questions over the coming weeks as we debate this budget for Health. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Speaker**: Returning the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13 and Tabled Documents 41 - 1(3), 51 - 1(3), 60 - 1(3), 61 - 1(3) and 68 - 1(3) and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion. Mr. Haviyok is the seconder for the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Contrary. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development at half past six this evening in the Nanuq boardroom and meeting of regular caucus tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Orders of the Day, Thursday April 13.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 13
  - Tabled Document 41 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 51 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 60 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 61 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 68 - 1(3)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until April 13, 10.30 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House recessed at 6.08 p.m.*

