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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Arviat)

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday April 28, 2000**

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Kevin O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Haviyok to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Assent to Bills

Speaker: Good morning members, before we proceed with the Orders of the Day I would like to read a letter from the Commissioner, addressed to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, it states,

“ As I am unable to be present and give assent to the following Bill please be advised that I give assent to Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Educational Council Dissolution Act. Thank you, Sincerely Peter Irniq, Commissioner of Nunavut”.

>>*Applause*

I believe members are aware that there was a death in his family and we send our condolences to Mr. Irniq. He is absent from his position to attend the funeral.

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 128 - 1(3): Five Year Review of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. First, I would like to recognize a person sitting in the gallery, NTI President Paul Quassa, welcome and his executive assistant Lena Evic-Twerdin.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, later today I will table the 5 year review on the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Avery Cooper of Yellowknife conducted the independent review.

The 5 year review covers the period of 1993 to 1998, prior to the creation of the Nunavut Government. The results of the review are currently being used as a basis to improve on the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Since the creation of Nunavut relations between the territorial government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have steadily improved. We are moving forward in implementing the Nunavut Land Claim.

Last year the government and NTI signed the Clyde River Protocol that continues the important task of bringing structure to our evolving relationship.

On April 1, the government is unveiled a new business incentive policy called the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy which implements Article 24.

The government is developing wildlife legislation with the participation of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as called for in Article 5 in the Land Claims Agreement.

The government is reviewing current laws and they will be amended to better reflect the realities that exist in Nunavut. They will take into account the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Discussions are on going with the federal government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to enhance the role of the Nunavut Implementation Panel and its ability to track each party's obligations with in the land claims agreement, as is identified in the review.

Mr. Speaker our government is working with other signatories on how to improve the implementation and I know that the next review will be build upon this 5 year review and Nunavut will be stronger. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 378 - 1(3): Appreciation for Charter

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker during the Easter break I went home for the weekend and on our way there we had aboard the plane a

young couple who travelled with us from Rankin Inlet to Baker Lake and finally on to Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, this couple comes from the community of Taloyoak in my riding.

The young man is son is the oldest person in Natilik area who is also my in-law. As with Inuit people we do not usually say the names of our in- laws. It is traditional taboo not to call them by their first name so I will not.

On behalf on Arnaquatsaaq Niviugak I would like to thank the government for making room on the charter plane to Kivalliq and into Natillik riding.

They brought their adopted child and an elder to Gjoa Haven. The Anglican Minister from Iqaluit, Daniel Aupaluk and his wife were also there, so also on behalf of Reverend Aupaluk I would like to thank the government for making room available on the flight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 379 - 1(3): Gifts from Santa Claus

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I know there are only 240 shopping days to Christmas but as thoughts of sugar plums dance through my head I say yes Iqaluit, there is a Santa Clause.

The elf responsible for Public Works and Housing delivered three duplexes to Apex.

The elf responsible for Health and Social Services delivered a 1.2 million dollar incinerator and promised a new hospital.

The elf responsible for Sustainable Development delivered a 1.5 million dollar campground and a 500 thousand dollar visitor centre renovation.

The elf responsible for Education delivered a 5 million dollar French school and yes Mr. Speaker, some day if the rules permit my children might be able to attend.

The elf responsible for Community Government and Transportation delivered almost 4 million dollars in water treatment plants and sewage treatment plants and a new dump, and yes, he forgot a grader with an operator to fill the streets.

And yes Mr. Speaker, the main elf, the Premier delivered decentralization to Baker Lake and as I stand here today I say yes Mr. Speaker, I believe in Santa Clause.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 380 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Easter Celebrations

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague's statement is very good but this morning I rise to speak about what had happened during the Easter long weekend.

I went back home to my riding during the Easter long weekend and the Sanikiluaq residents held a feast and games celebrating Easter. I am very proud to say Mr. Speaker during our feast they were able to provide us with caribou meat although we do not have caribou available in our islands.

In the 1970s there were some reindeer transported to Sanikiluaq on the Belcher Islands. But today I am proud to say that we got Caribou meat from Nunavik.

The Sanikiluaq residents are no longer able to go out hunting for caribou so I am very happy that they provided us with the caribou meat. We held wonderful celebrations and Mr. Speaker, by the way I would like to say today the Canada geese have already arrived in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 381 - 1(3): Hall Beach Fishing Derby

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice cannot get back to normal now. I press the wrong button, today I think my equipment feels it is a Friday.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to tell you that on the May 22 long weekend, my community will hold a fishing derby. The whole family enjoys that time of the year. It is not just for the residents of Hall Beach but for the residents of Igloolik to. We usually get people coming from Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet for the fishing derby also. Even the people just visiting the community take part in the fishing derby.

So, my colleagues, before you run out of your constituency budget please prepare to go to Hall Beach to take part in the fishing derby and catch lake trout. I do have a Bombardier that can carry eight passengers and I have a very huge kamotik. I think I can take all of you by my Bombardier and I will pull the kamotik behind. Some can ride in the kamotik and some can ride in the Bombardier. I just want you to be aware of that.

In regards to Peter Kattuk's member's statement, he said the Canadian geese are already in Sanikiluaq. I feel sorry that you have been selected as a minister because you will now not have the opportunity to go out geese hunting this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter/Applause*

Member's Statement 382 - 1(3): Tribute to Relatives

Speaker: Members' Statements, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As Inuit when we adopt children and it is our custom to keep all involved well informed of each other and where they come from. I was adopted myself as my colleagues may know but do not know who I am related to. I want to mention my family for your benefit and as a tribute to them.

Mary Autut in Rankin Inlet is my sister by adoption and in Repulse Bay I have a step brother Josaphee Angotingoar and Timotee Angotingoar in Chesterfield Inlet. I have a step sister Phillipa Piova Aggark in Chesterfield Inlet and also in Repulse Bay I have a younger step brother Louie Angotingoar, and through my adoption I do have another sister Mary Sagiaktuk Matto in Coral Harbour and Rhoda Ivalu in Repulse Bay.

Leo Angotingoar and Angoelie Nakolak in Coral Harbour. Mike Tulugak who is my older brother and Madaline Arnauaq Manitok and Elizabeth Pitauyok Kusugak who are my sisters. Peter Anawak my brother, Johnah Anawak my step brother, Donna Anawak my brother, Paul Anawak who is my younger brother; Margret Anawak who is my sister; Jackie Anawak and Imelda Panik Anawak are my step sisters.

With all these relatives I wanted to make sure to mention their names. Although you have relatives you do not even think about adopted even though you may have adoptive parents you treat them like real parents and even when you were adopted you do not lose relationships with your biological parents. So I just want everyone to be aware that we have to be sensitive to relatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 383 - 1(3): Visit to Uqqumiut Constituency

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to inform everyone that I will be leaving shortly because of an invitation to my community. We have been having our session for quite a long time, all your hair is turning white in front of my eyes, and I am the only one in this whole house with good hair.

One member is balding that I wanted to tell him that I could give him some of my beard to transplant. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter/Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 384 - 1(3): Income Tax Services

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a MLA representing the high arctic in the constituency of Quttiktuq I represent Santa Clause and I just want to remind my colleague whether you are naughty or nice, you may or may not get your wish.

(interpretation)Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is the end of the month of April and we have been dealing with our income taxes for a number of weeks now. One of the reasons that I want to stand up in this house this morning is that there are a lot of smaller communities that do not services available to help them with their income tax forms.

Especially those who do not know how to speak English or write English. I want to bring this up now and over the last 5 years Mr. Picco and I have been pushing to resolve this issue. I would just like to inform the members that it will be an ongoing issue with me until it is resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 385 - 1(3): Dogteam Travelling

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today as it is Friday and it will the weekend where we will be taking a break. To my colleagues I would like to say that I am the oldest one and there is a person across from me whose head is shining more and more every day.

When we were young we used to do all kinds of things and have joyous time as young people. If the person who was my peer who is now of the same age as me I am sure he is watching I say hi. We used to go dog teaming together and of course tobacco was not readily available in those days.

On our way home we travelled all night by dog team. We had tea and we had pipe tobacco. We had one kamotik and we were travelling together by dog team and were tired and getting drowsy and we started putting tea leaves into our pipe and tried smoking it and there was a fire and sparks flying all the way on our trail. What a time it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 386 - 1(3): Frobisher Inn Official Opening

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today to thank my colleagues the Regular Members, the Premier and the Cabinet Members for attending the grand opening of the newly renovated Frobisher Inn last evening.

I would also like to thank Mr. Doug Cox for inviting us there to share in the moment along with other residents and other business people in Iqaluit who were there. There

was a wonderful selection of fine food and beverages and Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you noticed as well as I did that my colleagues here took full advantage of this fine free dining opportunity last night. Everybody appreciated it quite well.

Mr. Speaker, investments like this in the community have a positive impact of the economy here, not only in Iqaluit but Nunavut as a whole. There was, as the Premier pointed out in his comments, there was only one negative impact that this fine facility would have and that is the fact that the members would want to stay in town longer in the newly renovated rooms that are now nicer and more comfortable. That would mean longer session and the negative impact only affects eight members that I can think of in Nunavut.

I think that I would look forward to longer sessions and questions periods and longer committee of the whole. So I would like to thank all members for participating yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 387 - 1(3): Tasiujarjuaq Place Name Project

Hon. Ed Picco: Good morning Mr. Speaker. Premier Paul Okalik and I along with many Iqaluit residents attended the official launch of Tasiujarjuaq Places Names Map Project at the Parish Hall. Mr. Speaker the Tasiujarjuaq map is the first one produced under the South Baffin Place Names Project which began in 1994 as a project of the Nunavut Research Institute and the elders of Iqaluit and Kimmirut. The Nunavut Planning Commission and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation later joined the project and helped make the production of the Tasiujarjuaq map possible earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker the map contained eighty-two Inuktitut names of the lakes, rivers, channels islands, mountains and other geographic features of the Tasiujarjuaq area. A brief explanation of elders knowledge associated each of the place names is also included

The named features associated are outlined in colour. Many of the place names in the Tasiujarjuaq map were originally recorded by Arnakallak, an expert hunter of the Iqaluit area, years ago perhaps in the 1940s on the map of the South Baffin.

Arnakallak is well known to many Iqaluit residents and is my wife's adopted grandfather. Participants in the South Baffin Place Names project worked long and hard to ensure that some of the place names that Arnakallak recorded were transferred to the Tasiujarjuaq map as accurate and complete.

An example Mr. Speaker, there is a lake that in English we call Crazy Lake. In Inuktitut I have always called it Aqitungjuk Lake but I now know the real name of the lake.

I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of everyone who took part in the Tasiujarjuaq phase of the South Baffin Place Names Project, especially our elders. This map would not have been possible without the dedication of the interviewers who worked many hours with our elders to gather and interpret and verify the place names information. I would like to graciously thank the late Abe Okpik, Pauloosie Kilabuk, Aseena Mablick, Shuvinaï Mablick, Aaju Peter, Lynn Cousins and Louis McComber.

Sincere appreciation is also due to Lynn Peplinski who co-ordinated the South Baffin Place Names Project since its beginning in 1994. Mr. Speaker I would like to seek unanimous consent to complete my member's statement.

Speaker: the member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. No nays please proceed Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Her commitment has been vital to the success of this project. I would also like to make a special acknowledgement of those people who took part in the project and no longer are with us today. Mr. Speaker the maps will be sold in order to pay for its printing costs and help generate funds to produce other place names and maps in the future.

The Nunavut Research Institute along with other groups and individuals will continue to create Inuktitut place name maps for other areas in the South Baffin and perhaps for other regions. Mr. Speaker traditional place names and the rich information that is associated with them is irreplaceable. Much work still lies ahead to document the thousands of Inuktitut places for the benefit of future generations. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Thompson.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 530 - 1(3): Furniture for Employees

Hon. Manitok Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday there was a question posed to my department and I would like to make a return to an oral question asked by Levi Barnabas on April 27, 2000. The question posed by the member was would employees moving from one community to another be giving funding to buy furniture.

(interpretation ends) For decentralized positions in different communities, Public Works and Service is responsible to furnish these units for decentralized positions. Office furniture is also going to be supplied by public works and services. Mr. Speaker, for the normal staff housing that is already in use and not related to decentralisation an offer is

made to the employees based on what is available. This may be furnished or unfurnished unit and it would be up to the employees to accept the unit offered.

For ordinary staff housing no decision has been made to standardise all units as furnished or unfurnished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot during my member's statement to include Louis Toonik in Repulse Bay and I have an older brother Peter Irniq, not the commissioner, but a person with the same name.

We used to go to school in Chesterfield Inlet and I have friends here who used to go to school with me, that was John Amagoalik who was one of the students there during my time and also the Nunavut Tunngavik President, Paul Quassa, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an old friend of mine, a long time friend of mine, In 1975 we went to school together, Lena Evic-Twerdin. I believe that it was 1975 that we were teacher trainees and we were together for about a year in Iqaluit. We were both twenty-one when we went to school there for teacher training in 1977. There was also Joalie Evic from the Baffin, Joalie Sanguya and George Mackenzie, Rosemary Twerdin from Uqsuqtuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 539 - 1(3): Transportation of Government Employees Household Effects

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One question. I am not sure which Minister this question is directed to. We saw in the newspapers that the contract for personal effects been advertised for government employees. I am not sure which Minister I have to ask this question to. I just wondered whether this could be used for decentralised staff, say for instance if I was from Sanikiluaq and if I want to move my personal effects. I just wondered if this would be allowed.

Speaker: Minister of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member is referring to the request of proposal for moving household effects. If that were the case, it is the responsibility of Human Resources. I would like to say yes, I understand that it is closed. There are some evaluations being done. It is for moving personal effects of all employees, whether or not they are specialised employees or recruitment of non-decentralised employees for departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 540 - 1(3): CBC News Stories

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would the Minister for Information Technology how long or closely she has been working with the CBC.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mr. Nutarak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this question is directed to me in regards to information technology that my department deals with. We are not really working with the CBC staff, they are independent although sometimes we talk to them when we are requested to. The CBC is not under the jurisdiction of our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I asked this question because I just wondered if she can encourage the CBC to bring air good news such as the TEP graduation which was not aired although it should have probably been. Perhaps the CBC could be encouraged to air positive news such as that event that happened last weekend so the Nunavut people can be encouraged to pursue opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Do you want to address that comment or question Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Everybody is agreeing to that. The CBC that is sitting behind us is responsible for what they air. The person with the cap over there is reporting everything here.

I think that is a good member's statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 541 - 1(3): Nunavut Tourism and the Nunavut Development Corporation Financial Reports

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is for the Minister of Sustainable Development. We are working on his department today and I wonder if the minister can make it available to me and to the rest of the Regular Members financial business reports on Nunavut Tourism and the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were just trying to figure out how to deal with this. One of them is an independent body but I will try to get the information. If we have any problems making it available I will find out and get back to the Member.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti if we are going to agree in this in detail on line items I may have a few questions on Nunavut Tourism budget and the Nunavut Development Corporation budget and I would really appreciate it if the minister could commit to that this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to provide the members some information on these items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 542 - 1(3): Infrastructure for Non-Decentralised Communities

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, looking at the business plans and the Main Estimates there is a lot of money set aside for decentralisation. Because the more population you have the more money you are given for building infrastructures such as the tanks, the roads and the facilities of course have to keep up with the population in the community.

My question to the Premier is, I have seen new programs being introduced by the Government, for example there is bunch of new programs coming up for decentralised communities and I just wondered if the smaller communities can take advantage of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we consider those by looking at the communities that are being decentralised because it helps the whole people of Nunavut. We are open and we would like to assist and support all the communities in the decentralisation process and we will keep on reviewing to see how best to assist the communities. There are ten communities that we are going to be decentralising to. Iqaluit is the Capital. We are looking into all the concerns of the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not just looking at Iqaluit. I am not talking about Iqaluit, I am just talking about decentralised communities. Also the communities that are not going to be decentralised to will grow in population.

If you can plan as well to bring in the resources to the communities that are not being decentralised. That is the question that I have if the resources will be brought to the communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are also concerned and sensitive about all communities we always plan how to use the financial resources especially the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the consultation process the communities asked questions of the government and made requests there was also review done in the communities when we had consultation. Are the recommendations being implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we used those questions and suggestions that were made by the people when we were planning the budget. We will be using the suggestions that were relayed to us. I am sure we will use them in the future as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 543 - 1(3): Per Capita Funding Increases

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Finance. Concerning the question that was just posed regarding the smaller communities. As we progress with Departmental estimates, it becomes evident that the communities are growing in population each year. Why does the funding for the

communities not increase even though the population is growing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Finance Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Community Government indicated they would be doing an extensive review of municipal financing at the same time financing of their housing authorities to find some better way of financing and recognising the extra demands that are placed on Municipalities.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 544 - 1(3): Pond Inlet School Budget Allocation

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Education. I would like to get a clarification in regards to the Minister response when the Member for Tunnuniq asked him a question on April 12 regarding the Pond Inlet school as to what would happen to the school renovation and addition.

He replied by saying 1 million, 500 thousand had been budgeted for planning purposes. The Minister responded by saying that during the Committee of the Whole that he would explain to the Member as to how this 1 million, 500 thousand will be allocated to the community in the Main Estimates.

Looking at the estimates and the budget to Pond Inlet it is only 1 million dollars. I just want to get further clarification on your response to that question. Because you stated there is 1 million, 500 thousand dollars in the Main Estimates. It is only 1 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that he understood that I stated before during the Committee of the Whole that once we go into the details of our Department. I estimated 1 million 500 thousand, that was just an estimate during the Committee of the Whole. You will be able to see what is written in the Main Estimates. When we got to the budget it was only 1 million dollars so I like to apologise because I responded with guess. As I stated before once we get into the details we will deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand that now. I will accept your apology. Did you respond with a guess and we missed out by 500 thousand dollars. In your response you were out 500 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes when we have been dealing with the Main Estimates for a long time and we think we know what the figures are in the Main Estimates and I remember 1 million, 500 thousand which was budgeted for Clyde River, I guess I got confused between the 2 community's figures.

I apologise if I made a mistake by switching the figure between the two communities. I think I was thinking of Clyde River. I responded without looking at the Main Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, 1 million dollars. I believe this means that half a million dollars is available. Mr. Speaker perhaps that half of million dollars could be used for the school in Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not even half a million dollars. It is spelt out in the estimates. There is no money hidden in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 545 - 1(3): Home Ownership Programs

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. We had a Task Force created under the direction of the Minister to look at the issue of housing. There are quite a number of homeowners in the Nunavut area and of course there are homeowners in Iqaluit. Was that issue of homeowner discussed by the Task Force on housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the 15 recommendations made by this Task Force there is reference to homeowners that we would look at the market price of the rental of privately owned homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us on this side of the table are losing their voices. I know that there are some homes that are available for rent. Do you have any estimates of the monthly rent of these homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us are catching a cold here. There is quite a lot of coughing going on so I would suggest to the interpreters that they close their ears when somebody coughs.

It varies with rental market here in Iqaluit. I am sure the rent scale follows correlates with the number of bedrooms, the size of the house and so on. I would estimate it is roughly about six to eight hundred dollars a month up to 2 thousand.

It depends whether it is a one bedroom, two bedroom or a three bedroom unit. We have not looked at all the prices but I am just using Iqaluit as an example because those are the approximate figures for the monthly rents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since you have not finished reviewing the market rent I would ask the Minister that once the review is done the information will be made available to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He did not specify a community. If he could specify a community or I would also like to know if he is referring to all the 26 communities or whether it is a specific community. I would like that clarification Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said there are quite a number of homeowners Nunavut wide and in Iqaluit. My question is specifically to Iqaluit and Pond Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Iqaluit we started a study which is not completed yet. Once we get all that information compiled I will give you a copy. I do not know about Pond Inlet but once I get that information I will submit it to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 546 - 1(3): Status of Furniture for Baker Lake Offices

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is to the Minister responsible for Public Works. The question that she answered regarding staffing. Furnishing staff houses

I think it is a good investment going to have the younger families or the younger people applying for these jobs in the decentralized communities because they don't have to go out and buy 10 or 15 thousand dollars worth of furniture.

My question today to the Minister responsible for Public Works is, there was an official opening of the office building in Baker Lake on April 4th, that I missed because I was here. But the building is open, it is empty and there are decentralized positions in Baker Lake right now, I think there are eight of them and they are located in various locations around the community. Can the minister responsible for ordering the furniture for the office buildings, the telephone lines and the internet provider update me on when this is all going to be installed in the building in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could get that updated information before the end of today and provide it to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Question 547 – 1(3): Internet Services in the Communities

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First today is my daughter's birthday, I love you, happy birthday and hello to the rest of my children and my wife.

I would like to address this question to the Minister of Technical Services in regards to the internet services that may be provided to the communities. The Federal Government I believe could provide support so that these technical services will be made available to the offices and so on. Thank you.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question keeps cropping up. There are private homeowners who do not work for the government who would like to be connected to the internet. We are reviewing this situation. I can use the example of Sakku, which is an organization in the Keewatin area. It is the economic arm of the Kivalliq Inuit Association. They provide internet services and these services are available to the entire public including the private sector, the private public at large.

In the Kitikmeot area there is also a company that it starting to provide internet services to the public. Everything is in the works but within the government entities we only provide internet services to the government offices and their related entities.

We do not deal with the public at large. The private sector is providing internet services to the public. Also, in Iqaluit there is an organization that provides internet services. It has been under discussion, but we only specifically target the provision of these services to the government offices and entities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I asked that question is that I was wondering if we could market our carvings through the internet. There are also private cable companies in the communities, is it possible for these cable companies to be given financial assistance by the Nunavut Government if they should wish to get into providing internet services.

With the present services we have to use the long distance services and we have to pay very high prices. Is it possible to provide financial assistance to the cable companies so that they can provide internet services.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there were two questions that were brought up. First of all in regards to marketing carvings through the internet, possibly this question should be posed to the Department of Sustainable Development because they go into providing services for these types of projects, I am sure that they are moving in that direction. Also, the Co-ops I know made a motion because they are cable providers. They were also wondering how they could get into the internet service provision business. MACA was working with them to decide on whether they should get into the provision of internet services.

This is different from the government, my department provides services only to the government departments and entities and I also made comments on the internet providers. Polarnet in the Kitikmeot, Sakku in the Keewatin and here in Iqaluit Nunanet.

I know exactly where the member is coming from and it is very expensive to run a computer operation in your home because you have to pay for long distance expenses. During the Co-operatives Annual General Meeting they tabled a motion which directed the Co-op to look into the provision of internet services. That was in co-operation with the Department of MACA, I do not know which direction they have taken with that directive because it is not part of my responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 548 – 1(3): Amount of Homeownership Assistance

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. With the homeownership assistance, how much money is made available to the communities to get into homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitik Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to homeownership it is very important for this government to get the people to own their own homes through homeownership assistance so that there will be less back up with social housing. Access homes that we built are just not decorative but very functional buildings. If anybody wanted to get one of these homes they would go through the Housing Corporation and go through an application process. There were some that were eligible to get more than others were because it went on a scale and that was just assistance so that they could buy a house.

Anyone who wanted to get into homeownership could get 15 thousand dollars through the NDAP program. That pot of money was depleted but in our new budget we have set aside a different program that will be accessible to the people that want to go into homeownership. We have set aside 1 million dollars for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to the interpreters for coughing into the microphone. Supplementary Mr. Speaker. Is the budget allocated to different communities for homeownership.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitik Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whoever wants to get into homeownership can make an application and send it to the communities. We do not distribute a budget to each community saying that Clyde River gets so much and Coral Harbour gets so much, that's not the way it is done. Whoever wants to get a home, they fill out an application form to the Housing Corporation. It is not distributed among each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand the response of the minister and I thank her for that. In my community of Clyde River there is a shortage of housing and I wondered if the Housing Minister could think of ways to get more housing for Clyde River such as homeownership for that community. I just wondered if she could make that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitik Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working as a Housing Corporation to make sure that all the people of Nunavut are provided with adequate housing. In every community there is a shortage of housing and we have been working very hard to be able to resolve this problem.

In Clyde River is there are any houses that are not being utilized, that's what we are looking for as well to make sure that those houses are rented by the public. We are doing these things now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 549 – 1(3): Smoking Cessation

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Health & Social Services because he seems to be falling asleep. To the Minister of Health & Social Services, if I was to try and stop smoking, would I have to be using the step 1, 2, 3. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and I thank the member for his question. There are various different resources being used to try to stop smoking. As you know Mr. Speaker, one way is to use the old cerebral power that you have located just above your shoulders. Mr. Speaker, using personal habits to break the habit of smoking.

There are other ways Mr. Speaker, including patches that are available through your doctor. There is also Nicoderm which is one form of commercial product that is available as a gum to chew. Mr. Speaker, the step 1, 2, 3 process is another one, so there are various different ways of trying to overcome the habit of smoking. Let me say Mr. Speaker, that all of the different processes are not successful if not taken seriously by the person who is trying to break the habit.

As the members in this house know, it is a very difficult to break. Some people have tried four, five, six times, have quit for four or five years, and have gone back to smoking. The best way to stop smoking Mr. Speaker, is not to start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was 3.5 million dollars that was set aside to stop smoking for the people of Nunavut. He also stated that if he had 4 million dollars to stop smoking he said he would use it. Then Mr. Iqaqrialu said that 3 million is not enough to get the people to stop smoking. I think it was about 2 million or whatever the amount was that Mr. Iqaqrialu was talking about.

I am asking the question as to whether I will be able to use 1, 2, 3 and I wonder if I can go right to 3, I wonder what it would be like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, going 1, 2, 3 or even 4 or 5 can at times be very difficult. But I would suggest to the member that if he would like to look into tobacco cessation and quitting smoking, to look at it very seriously and take whatever course of action that he deems is right and suited for him. In conjunction with a medical professional because they do have some tools available to them that they could help the member and other members and the public with tobacco cessation.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, the member brings up an excellent point. That was the money that we have in our budget toward stopping tobacco from becoming the epidemic that it is right now Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, by trying to target our younger people in Nunavut, the 12 to 13 to 14 years olds from actually starting smoking. As I said earlier, it is a lot easier to stop something if you haven't started it. That's the program that we are bringing forward in conjunction with Pauktuutit and other organizations Mr. Speaker, to show that tobacco is not a good product.

It is very habit forming and the step 1, 2, 3 process that the member mentioned and some of the other things that we just talked about, the patch, Nicoderm and so on, have proven to be successful. Those are the types of things that we will be bringing forward in this proposal in the budget that we have just approved, so we can bring this awareness to people who want to quit smoking and indeed, Mr. Speaker, targeting people who are young and most vulnerable in the smoking problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. He talked about the patches and the Nicoderm gum. Which one is better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a critical analysis of which one is the best, Nicoderm or the patch. Both equally to my understanding, Mr. Speaker, have been used successfully but also they have been used unsuccessfully. Again, it takes the dedication of the person who is the smoker to withdraw from using tobacco. As I said before, tobacco addiction is one of the strongest addictions that we have and it is habit forming, Mr. Speaker. So when you have a good meal you want to have a smoke afterwards, when you wake up in the morning you want to have a smoke.

Those types of habits Mr. Speaker, are hard to get out of. Some of the cessation programs that have been brought forward, Mr. Speaker, for tobacco products and tobacco cessation has been centred on breaking those habits. After having a good meal for example, you do something else instead of having a cigarette. When you wake up in the morning instead of having a cigarette maybe you gargle some Scope or chew a Nicoderm, whatever works best for that person.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to sincerely thank the member for his question and raising this topic here today in this House. Mr. Speaker, over the next coming weeks, once we start on the road, the member is the Chair of the Health Committee, the Standing Committee on Health, in this Legislative Assembly which has been very proactive Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Government of Nunavut in its' anti-tobacco cessation programs. I would like to thank the honourable member for being supportive and hopefully over the next few months when we are introducing some of these programs, with his support and with his efforts right now in helping me quit smoking and some of the other members of this House, which has been very difficult.

I have been known to take some butts out of my wife's ashtray, as she is still smoking, it's been very difficult for me, but I can honestly say that I haven't had a full cigarette since January the 1st, and actually I am doing a lot better Mr. Speaker, as you know. However, it is a very stressful place to be sometimes and it is stressful just being me. So with that Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you and thank the members. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco for that dissertation. Oral Questions. In fairness to some of the members who have not had a question yet or a second question, some of them have had three or four, so we will go to Mr. Tootoo.

Question 550 – 1(3): Types of Homeownership Programs

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. I would just like to ask if she could clarify. She indicated earlier, I heard her mention that program of homeownership that there was a 15 thousand dollar grant that was available. In her answer did she indicate that was a program that they plan to use this year as a homeownership program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good question from the member. I was indicating that we did have different programs in the past, EDAP and NDAP that I am sure that the member is aware of those programs. What we are trying to do with the 1 million dollars that we have allocated for homeownership is that we want to come up with something as down payment assistance to homeowners. We are just investigating that right now so it might be something like and NDAP program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister said that they do not have a program to administer the 1 million dollars or the Housing Corporation doesn't plan to use its existing programs to use the funds that have been allocated for homeownership this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No what I am saying is that we are working on a program right now, it might be similar to NDAP and I will be making an announcement in regards to that in the very near future to assist potential homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that previously under this government the NDAP program was shelved or axed I think is probably even the word if I remember correctly in headlines in the paper. Could the minister indicate then if, I know that program is no longer there, one of the other homeownership programs that is still available as far as I know is the EDAP program. I am just wondering if individuals who are interested in homeownership, if applications will be accepted under that program right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my budget I just have one million dollars allocated for homeownership and we are coming up with a program that would be able to assist as many people as possible to buy their own homes. Our priority right now is to build those 100 units that I have been asked to build this year.

We are looking into the possibility of assisting potential homeowners. The EDAP program was very expensive, one individual could have received up to 70% for down payment assistance. So the NDAP that was made available did assist quite a few more people. We are accepting applications but we will come up with a program that will assist homeowners or potential homeowners who would like to own their own homes.

I think everybody in this House is aware that we had to cut back many our programs because of the 100 units that are being built this year. The only allocation for homeowners is 1 million dollars and with 1 million dollars I can't do very much other than coming up with an NDAP sort of a program that would assist potential homeowners with the limited dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take that as a no, they can't apply under EDAP. Then I guess that leads to the question, did the department just arbitrarily say in their budget that we want to have a homeownership program and we asked people to apply for it but we don't know what it is yet. I am just wondering why if you are going to allocate money for a program, a program isn't in place for people to apply for.

I think a lot of people would like to know prior to applying for something, or even before a number being applied to a program in the budget, they should know exactly the criteria that is going to be used for allocating that.

I am just wondering what the people who are going to apply for homeownership money, what they are applying for. What are they going to be putting on the top of their application that they are applying for. Because the indication, if I am understanding the minister's comments, there is no set program right now that people can apply for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying is that we no longer have a program called EDAP. We have homeownership money, we can't call it something else if we wanted to. The EDAP program was quite expensive for us, and we just helped a few people when we could probably have helped more because of the percentage that was given to some people.

In regards to the application we are always getting all types of applications to our office, whether it be for new windows, doors, or whatever. So I am saying that of course, we invite anybody to apply and they do that, to every other department in the government, there are always applications coming forward even if they don't know what the programs are. With the 1 million dollars we are trying to find, trying to help individuals out there who want to own their own homes and unfortunately that's all I have right now and I have to make it spread out in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 551 – 1(3): Social Worker Recruitment and Retention

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I ask my question to the Minister of Health I would like to commend you on your nice Bugs Bunny tie. Anyway Mr. Speaker, it took me almost four years of lobbying, making statements to try and get my social worker. I would like to thank the minister and his staff for getting me a social worker, finally after four years in Arctic Bay.

I would like to ask the minister about the social worker recruitment troubles and shortages, can the minister update me on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for his complimentary remarks on my tie, he has a nice tie too, very nice and red. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank him for his question. Actually just this morning I met with the Regional Superintendent for the Baffin region for Social Services on recruitment and retention issues, with one of the members of the House, Mr. Akesuk.

We discussed some of the opportunities that we have with some of the members who are graduating right now with the Social Worker diploma from Arctic College, as well as

looking at some aggressive recruitment and retention programs that we could put in place.

Mr. Speaker, as you know we have been very successful over the past year after putting a recruitment and retention program in place for our nurses, we are at a very good level of staffing there, we seem to have averted some of the pandemic problems other jurisdictions have had. We have not Mr. Speaker, we have not for example, had to close any health centre in Nunavut, like they have done in the Northwest Territories because of a shortage of staff. We haven't done that.

Mr. Speaker, on the Social Workers situation maybe we should look at bringing forward some type of recruitment and retention program for social workers. I met with the Regional Superintendent this morning with one of the members, we still for example, have not got a social worker in Kimmirut and that's something that we would like to be able to bring forward. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for the question and maybe using the same type of work that we have done with the nurses, bring some sort of recruitment and retention program forward for social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Final question.

Question 552 – 1(3): Distribution of Smoking Cessation Funding

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. That 2 million dollars that will be allotted for smoking cessation, will they be allotted to all the communities of Nunavut so that they could do their smoking cessation programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's an excellent question. When we were designing the anti-smoking cessation program and bringing that money forward we were looking at a pan-Nunavut wide program co-ordinated through the Department of Health & Social Services and our regional offices. We didn't really look at specific community needs.

But with the opportunity that has presented itself Mr. Speaker, with the Standing Committees on Health that are being set up and I believe the last numbers were 16 out of 26 communities have now set up a health committee in their community, could work with those health committees. I know Clyde has that committee set up in the community of Clyde River, so Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent suggestion by the member and we will, Mr. Speaker, bring that forward to the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to have my supplementary although the question period is almost over. The money I would

like to see it being used all across the Nunavut communities rather than spending the money down south or using the funding for one community. We could focus it so we could distribute it evenly. I want you to commit to me that you will be considering spreading this money out to all the communities in Nunavut equally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we would like to do under the tobacco cessation program is to bring forward a multi-faceted approach which would mean Mr. Speaker, that we would develop manuals, books, information materials, for example here in headquarters and bring that forward to our regions and to our other communities.

We could also Mr. Speaker, look at using the health committees at the community level and if for example, in the member's community of Clyde River, the health committee in Clyde River said that we would like to have 30 thousand dollars to work on this tobacco cessation program in our schools for our young people, the Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, we would look at doing that and supporting that community. Because one of the principles of setting up the health committees in each community, was issues like this, advocacy issues, looking at the preventative side of medicine. I think Mr. Speaker, that's a good one.

I know the member had some concerns when we had the debate on Health & Social Services with the tobacco cessation program, I think the member's point is well taken and maybe with that type of information brought forward the member will be an advocate and a supporter of the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Members, question period is over. Returning to the orders of the day. We will move on to 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. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 99 – 1(3): Five Year Review of the Land Claims Agreement

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table a document called, "Five Year Review of the Land Claims Agreement". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Tabled Document 100 – 1(3): Letter from NEU Member

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table one letter in regards to the negotiations between the Nunavut Government and the Nunavut Employees Union. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will be tabling a motion, seconded by the Honourable Member Manitok Thompson for Nunavut symbols. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour for me to speak today on this motion to designate the new official symbols of Nunavut. Our flag, our coat of arms. I am very pleased that there are being announced in the early spring when the colours of our land are beginning to return.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly know...I am sorry.

Speaker: Please continue, Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the wrong motion. Many apologies Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 1, 2000, I will move the following motion.

WHEREAS it is the practice throughout Canada for provinces and territories to select official symbols and emblems that reflect the uniqueness and character of each jurisdiction and its peoples;

AND WHEREAS the Full Caucus of this Legislative Assembly agreed last year at its Baker Lake Retreat to seek input from the Nunavut public in the selection of official symbols of Nunavut to accompany the Flag and Coat of Arms;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly conducted an Official Symbols Campaign last year;

AND WHEREAS 249 suggestions for official symbols were submitted by residents of Nunavut and considered by the elected Members of this Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that the Purple Saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*) be adopted as the Floral Emblem of Nunavut.

AND FURTHERMORE, that this House recommend that a new *Floral Emblem Act* for Nunavut be introduced by the Government at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Canadian Inuit Husky Dog (*Canis familiaris borealis*) be adopted as the Official Animal of Nunavut.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) be adopted as the Official Bird of Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Item 14. Notices of Motions. My honourable friend, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, May 1, 2000, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, swore our Oaths of Allegiance and Office in the Spring of last year;

AND WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, wish to renew our commitment to upholding the trust and confidence of the people of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, wish to renew our commitment to working on behalf of the people of Nunavut according to the values and principles that have shaped our culture and heritage;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut do publicly commit themselves to upholding a code of Members' Obligations;

AND FURTHER, that this code of Members' Obligations be displayed in a public place in this Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you member. Notices of Motions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 1, 2000, I will move the following motion:

WHEREAS the membership of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges has been reconstituted by way of motion in this House;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut has been conducting its proceedings during its first year of existence under the Rules that were provisionally adopted on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly desires to ensure that its proceedings are conducted in a manner that respects *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, while being consistent with established principles of Canadian parliamentary democracy;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges undertake a comprehensive review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and any related matters, and that the Standing Committee report back to the House at its next Session.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you member. Moving on to item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 13, Tabled Documents 41 – 1(3), Tabled Document 61 – 1(3), Tabled Documents 87 – 1(3), Tabled Documents 93 – 1(3), Tabled Documents 96 – 1(3), Tabled Documents 97 – 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. Puqiqnak as Chairperson. Before the commencement of the committee of the whole we will break for lunch and I will ask members to report to the chamber by 1.15.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House recessed at 11.50 and resumed at 1.47 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon members, ministers and officials for the departments. We will be dealing with issues until 6 o'clock this evening so we will complete the departments.

For this afternoon's consideration of committee of whole of Bills and other matters, we will be dealing with Bill 13 and tabled documents 41-1-(3), 61-1(3), 87-1(3), 93-1(3), 95-1(3), 96-1(3), 97-1(3). Yesterday we were dealing with the Department of Sustainable Development's capital estimates. During those deliberations we dealt with the capital. What is the committees' wish, Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes I would like to have the Minister of Sustainable Development go up to the witness table and his officials. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk could go to the witness table. We cannot have you all down there but some of you can. Thank you and welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. Welcome to the House and before we begin I am sure that everybody knows your officials Mr. Minister but if you would introduce your officials at the witness table.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have the same officials as yesterday. On my right we have Katherine Trumper who is the Deputy Minister and also to my left is Mr. Peter Ittinnuar who is the Assistant Deputy Minister and Jim Martin the Finance Controller and Joe Tigullaraq who is responsible for Wildlife. We will have them here in the House today. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Yesterday we were at page 11-6 in the capital estimates and dealing with the details of capital. For the Kivalliq Region. Any general comments. Total Kivalliq Region, 305 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Kitikmeot Region, total, 280 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total buildings and works, 2 million 85 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning the page, the Department of Sustainable Development branch summary. Sustainable Development's detail of capital. Equipment acquisition at the headquarters region, on page 11-7.

Total headquarters region, 305 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Baffin Region, total Baffin region, 115 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Kivalliq Region, 95 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Kitikmeot Region, 100 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total equipment acquisition, 615 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital expenditures, 2 million 700 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): On page 11-8, information item, Sustainable Development, distribution of Budget, capital expenditures. Do you agree as a whole.

Some Members: Agreed

Chairperson (interpretation): Also in the main estimates in 2000/2001, on page 11-4 we will start with that. The Department of Sustainable Development branch summary. Corporate management, operations and maintenance total, 3 million 347 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 3 million 347 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Department of Sustainable Development on page 11-6, Sustainable Development information item. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I just want to point out something here. On page 11-6 on your grants to small businesses. As a government we talked about community empowerment quite a bit. Which includes your Economic Development Officers under the hamlets now. I know and I will use Kugluktuk as an example, they now have the Economic Development Officer position that they wanted transferred to them.

In the future will you be considering this part of the grants moving with the EDO as their allocation, so it can be handled at the community level. From my past experience as you know that anybody that is applying for GSB require regional approval at this time, but I would like to see the approvals at the local level for these types of grants. I am just wondering if this is going to be looked at in the future. I think it is a good thing to look at.

But I'm not to limited to each community but at least instead have two approval levels, one at the community level and then the region recommends approval. Instead of having

a small amount I think in the future you might want to see this small amount approved at the community level. I just want to point that out for something in the very near future. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Minister if you would like to respond to that question.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am having a little bit of a problem with my microphone here. We have already taken that into consideration and under the grants and contributions we can do that. The Keewatin Region is a little bit more used to grants and contributions and with the willingness and the abilities of the organization it can be handed over so it does not have to go through two levels of approval. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under page 11-6 there is 20 thousand dollars under the science scholarships and bursaries. It was 30 thousand dollars last year and now it is 20 thousand. Is there a reason for the reduction under this line item. Are there not enough students being granted these scholarships and bursaries. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, because of the low number or because of not enough advertisements there were not enough students accessing the money so we lowered it and we will make it more accessible to the students.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Underneath this line item under disaster compensation what do I have to do to access this money and how are you going to advertise it to the communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. To give you a brief overview of this item. There were a lot of times the hunters could not access the money for losing their hunting equipment on thin ice or through other accidents, because it was inaccessible with the previous government and we have made it so it is more accessible.

This kind of disaster compensation is more for floods and hurricanes and forest fires and so on, and losing equipment through those natural disasters. Now there are some changes and there will be a review of this whole disaster compensation so it will be more regularly available to the hunters and trappers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. Under the Prospectors Assistance Program I know there is not a lot of it going on in this region where there are individuals out looking on their own. They are spending their own money out prospecting with the hope of someday delivering themselves a bonanza of some kind while they are out there prospecting. Can the minister tell me why they dropped the program from 160 thousand to 150 thousand. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Any one of the officials can respond to that question. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last year this was the first time that we set a budget and we originally set it at 110 thousand and then we added an additional 50 thousand dollars. Due to the demand of the people out there for the year 2000/2001 we have set aside 150 thousand. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I think I made it very clear in the House over the year that the mining industry is very important in the Kivalliq Region and I'm sure it is as important in the Kitikmeot Region and it is self sufficiency here. Like that 150 thousand dollars probably gets thirty to forty people out onto the land, and when they are out there prospecting and out there hunting and gathering food and other items for their family.

It is no secret that for this territory to be successful and stand on its own two feet and get some kind of their own tax base, that mining is going to be one of the key items. It is nice to have a grant program and it was pegged at 110 and now it is at 150 but sometimes you have to invest in something early and develop it. I don't want to be too biased and start flogging mining as the answer to Nunavut's woes. However, I think there could be a big payback in this eventually.

I think in the future you are going to have to look at increasing this Prospectors Assistance Program because we can maybe start getting some of our young people involved in the idea of prospecting. Maybe if they get interested in it and with help from their parents because there are a few pennies there to go out and teach. They may become geologists, they may become miners or become involved in the mining industry and when mining does take off in this territory I think, as I say again, it is going to pay us back 100 fold.

I was on an aeroplane from Ottawa to here on Wednesday, there were fifty-four seats, and fifty-three were full. Thirty-five to forty of those people were going to the mines in Nanisivik and Resolute Bay to mine. I am getting back to where do those tax dollars go, to the area of residence that these transient workers come out of. It does us no good to

bring people from outside and come in here to work for 6 weeks, take their pay cheques and their tax dollars and have them collected by another province.

I know people are allowed to be mobile and work where they want. So I just want to emphasise that next year these prospectors assistance programs should be a bit more proactive. Maybe we should start a little bit more of a campaign to get the younger people in the schools and we know there is no shortage of them, to maybe get them interested in the prospecting field and lead on to a very rewarding career in the mining sector. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to briefly explain, in regards to what the member was stating. Yes we do. The Prospectors Assistance Program is to help the people go prospecting and each person can obtain 5 thousand dollars. If the demand was high this year then we would have to go back to FMBS and we can ask them for more funding in regards to the comments you made.

If the demand was high we could look into increasing that amount but this is under discussion on how we can review this. So to review what has been happening in the past I do not have that information with me now, but I can assure you that we do have ongoing discussions about this money of 150 thousand, which is the first initial stage. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. That is the answer that I wanted to hear so thank you and I am looking forward to it. Under per price program grants to harvesters in the form of a guaranteed minimum price for selected species of furs, individuals must be residents of Nunavut and hold a GHL. Could the minister explain to me what furs get this subsidy. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. At this point a majority of this pot of funds is used for sealskins, also for fox pelts, but a majority is used for sealskins. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is money wisely spent. On this 120 thousand dollars is your department utilising, is that a number that is just plugged there. Once it is used you drop it. Is there a demand for more on this first subsidy and if there is a demand for more on this first subsidy and it is very important to the people of Nunavut and the seal skin industry, are you thinking of increasing it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Also just to briefly explain again about that item. Yes that funding is revolving and the sealskins that are bought are sold by auction. We were short by 30 thousand dollars last year but we will be monitoring this and I am sure we have lost a bit on that because we could not keep up with the price. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. It is no secret that we have been hearing that in the House for the last year too. I am quite surprised there is only 120 thousand dollars there. I look around at where we are putting our resources and I know that being involved in buying seal skins a lot of people depend on those seal skins to pay for their boats to go out hunting and things like that.

Why is this government, and I am not trying to be mean or anything like that but why is this government only looking at 120 thousand dollars. It is nothing to invest into the sealing industry. Is there some rationale there. The government does not want to get into the business of buying seal skins on a full time basis because nobody else will. What is the rationale of only putting 120 thousand dollars into the purchase of sealskins when there is an overabundance of them and they directly effect the fish stocks and things like that. Why is there only 120 thousand dollars there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. At this point I know it is entirely true we have an overabundance of seal in Nunavut but because the fur price has gone down and they are not selling the seal skins this is just a guesstimate. We expect to buy quite a lot of sealskins and we know there is hardly any market for sealskin because the price has gone down.

Perhaps some time in the future, and we will keep monitoring it and if this amount is too small and if demand is high we would review it because the government is the only entity who buys sealskins. We will monitor it. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I am hoping my colleagues here are going to bail me out because I am not a expert in sealskin, but is there is a point where if the government subsidised a seal skin it would be attractive for someone to buy. Like I don't even know what the price of a sealskin is today, it might be 20 dollars or it might be 30 dollars. I think the government owes the seal hunter in Nunavut a break on the purchase of sealskins and we all try to wear as much as we can and contribute as much as we can.

But to me again, in a budget of 600 million dollars for the government, I know there are many communities that depend or used to depend on sealskins. It is the cultural thing. You know food, clothing and shelter, is there a point that this government could shelter sealskin sales until the sealing business picked up. Would the sealskin harvesting pick-up if we subsidised them by 10 dollars and buy "x" number more.

I am sure that would make many people happy in the smaller communities where there is high unemployment. Is there a point where these sealskins would become attractive if the government subsidised them. I heard someone say the other day, my colleague from Hall Beach said the Federal Government subsidised the grain farmers in Saskatchewan and Manitoba with the Crow rate and things like that.

I know the government doesn't want to get into the purchasing of sealskins on a full time basis but we all have been saying that the traditional economy is important to us in the smaller communities and sealskins contribute a lot to the communities. Is there a threshold where the subsidy on sealskin would make the sales pick up so they are attractive to somebody, whether chairs, bags, jackets or anything. Has your department looked at that.

I know you produced a successful movie but are we going to go one step farther and help this industry come back on track. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister, before I recognize you we have visitors in the gallery. Brent Buckler and Tobi Winmill, they are from the young offenders and welcome to the Legislature and thank you for coming over to watch the proceedings. Please give them a hand.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to explain further, in 1998-1999 that same year sealskins cost 30 dollars and with the subsidy we had to put in an additional 80 thousand dollar subsidy and it went up to 210 thousand dollars. In 1999-2000 fiscal year the sealskin cost 30 per skin and we subsidized, we had to subsidise them by 19 dollars and 65 cents, 50 cents per seal skin.

In total for 1999-2000, 310 thousand was in subsidies. In our previous year we do not have that information. We do not have the total information for our previous year. We were able to get more money for sealskin subsidies because the demand was quite high. Last year we had to find 150 thousand dollars from the government to subsidise the sealskins. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. That is good that we are getting we are putting money on where the priorities are and I have no problem whatsoever if we are looking at a 300 thousand dollar sealskin subsidy. I did not think this government even gave an eyelash on it. Especially when we are building campgrounds for 1 million, 500 thousand.

I have heard this from numerous people, that once the seal is harvested, it is all used for food and clothing. It is one of the things in the Bathurst Mandate that builds healthy communities because seal meat is probably a very healthy commodity in the communities. It is healthy to see and the sealskin that is harvested is usually turned into clothing and things like that. I think it is money well spent. Has your department looked at maybe enhancing this even more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the sealing and fishing industries, when I first came into this department I found that we were not doing enough about the sealing industry and the fishing industry. So in Sustainable Development we would like to create a position so that this person would deal solely with the sealing and fishing strategy. We would get into more of these types of programs accessible to the public. In our plan in regards to fishing and sealing and for part of this year I would like to see it implemented with a position whereby the person would deal solely on those issues and there would be more programs or plans going into sealing and fishing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every time when we develop a policy we have to develop a person to enact the policy. That is an extra 75 to 100 thousand a year that could be put in directly to the program. It is a mainstay of the government to get bigger and when you get bigger you take money out of programs and put it into staff. I am not against hiring people to work for their jobs. But like I say, I liked what you said in regards to developing a fishing policy and a sealing policy. I think these things are great.

Let us not get to caught up in developing a staff around it where the money by the time it gets down to the little people and this is a little people program where I think it is very important. It is like the prospecting program. It goes to the little people and it gives them money. It gives them self-esteem and I know you are tired of hearing me saying it. I have three or four more years saying it. Either you are going to do it or get rid of me somehow.

Like I say let's put the money where it is important. I think subsidising sealskin is important. I think the prospectors program is important and that is money that is well spent and really builds capacity and I hate to use that word, in communities in regards in circulating money and making people feel better about themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman that is all I have to say.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the past few operations I am sure that we will be increasing the amounts that are made available. I think it shows visibility of the department looking at the needs and meeting the demands of the people out there. Looking at the fur program and the fishing and sealing strategies. I just wanted to make that comment for further clarification Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the fur price program. Foxes or fox pelts are hardly used or hardly marketable. It was one of the important materials in the olden days. Do you have any plans for creating the usage of fox pelts.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite understand his question. I had to ask my official for clarification. His question was in regards to fox pelts and there have been huge decreases in the quantity of fox pelts that are being marketed today. We are going to keep this fur program going because it is needed out there. Going back to the position that we are going to create who will deal solely with the sealing and the fisheries. This person is going to be looking at who we can work with in regards to those two issues. We are hoping to increase the benefits that are going into the Nunavut Territory. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to pelts and furs, the price of seals and skins and pelts are very cheap now. One fox pelt might be about 20 dollars and in my community it would not even buy five gallons of gas for the snowmobile. What kind of assistance could you provide to hunters because from what I have noticed they wait for the end of the year in order to get money through social assistance so that they could buy the basic necessities to go out hunting. But if the price of fur pelts or fox pelts was better they could generate some revenue in order to maintain their hunting lifestyle. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was giving an overview of the monies that are made available through the Grants and Contributions. We are just following through with what happened last year. We are just following through with the quantities of fox pelts that were bought last year and we are looking at the market value of these furs. We base our Grants and Contribution on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. We have fox traps that are available out in the market today and there are the humane traps that are available today. They are quite dangerous to the young people if they do not know how to handle those types of traps. What can we do about this problem or we should be considering what we should do about that problem.

Chairperson (interpretation): That is more of a comment than a question. I do not hear a question. I do not have any other names in my list. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also set aside, again you can see the information on 11-6 where we have money set aside for humane trap development. These grants are made available to inventors working on the development of humane trapping devices. For example, they could be humane traps for foxes for example. There are monies set aside for inventors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Alakannuark. I do not have any other names in my list. We were on 11-6. Information item. Sustainable Development. Turning to 11-7. Information item Sustainable Development. And 11-8. Sustainable Development branch summary. Information item. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community Futures in the Inuktitut the second down. Under Grants and Contributions. There has been a decrease. Is it because of less of a demand from the communities out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a decrease in the amounts because there were monies available from outside. That is why there is a decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One the Nunavut Tourism core funding I noticed there is a decrease in that as well. I am just wondering at to why there is a decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for a position in Pangnirtung that was requested by the Tourism Association. There was an increase because that position was moved from our department.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that difference represents one less PY. Under Economic Development Officers, contributions to the Hamlets if I'm correct, for Hamlets to hire the economic development officers to work for them rather than being employees of the government. It show that last year's Main and this year is the same. Has there been an increase or a decrease. Are they the same as far as the Hamlets and Municipalities that are performing that function now. Are there plans for those communities that are not developing them or can they take on that capability in the interim and increase the level of funding in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with the Hamlets and in their by-laws it states that the communities can all have economic development officers. So this is part and parcel of the by-laws that were created under the Hamlet Council. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am just wondering how many Hamlets or communities now have economic development officers working for them as opposed to working for the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the community economic development officers in Nunavut are under the Hamlet Councils. We have none in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 1 million, 620 thousand dollars is being used to employ the economic development officers. Is it ok now by transferring the responsibility to municipalities from the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know exactly how much money we have saved with this transfer. I do not have a response to your question at this time.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am looking at the money that is saved in staffing. I like to see where these savings went. Whether, I hope they go into other programs like my colleague on my right indicated for the little people for the small

people. Is that where the types of savings through these types of ventures or devolution of authority, where those savings go to those types of programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any information about when the Economic Development Officers were transferred over to the Hamlets. I do not know what their objective was as to saving dollars. The main objective was for community empowerment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realise the main objective is to empower the communities, the decision making being done at the local level. I know from past experiences a lot of times when these types of responsibilities were devolved down to municipalities there was that cost saving to the government. I think along with empowering the communities that is one of the reasons for pursuing this type of devolution. It is simply the government at the time could not afford to continue going in that way. I am just wondering, I do not need it now. I am wondering what the difference was or is between that function being carried on by the department and whatever it is now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Once the information is available I will be make it available to all the members. I cannot tell you the amount of money that has been saved, but once the calculations are done in areas where we saved. The areas where we do not provide facilities and housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Page 11-8. Because I do not have any more names on the list, 11-8 is an informational item. Going back to page 11-9. Sustainable Development branch summary. Sustainable Development information item. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page 11-9. Community organised hunts, 45 thousand. Can you explain to me how this is used. How do you advertise it to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The communities have been requesting to our department to assist them with organised hunts for when they have to get meat from the other communities. They will be able to use this funding so that the communities can get meat just in case their species were inadequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any further questions.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. On page 11-9. Community Initiatives Program. On the detail, there is 175 thousand on the headquarters budget for CIP. Could the minister explain to me what that is for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be used, for example for the whole of Nunavut. For economic development strategies. It is not just the three regions. It is for Nunavut as a whole. The initiative program for the whole of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I got the answer. Could the minister be clearer on what initiatives. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to explain it better. For example at this point we have made plans for all of Nunavut for prospectors and this is for all of Nunavut. For promoting the development of a stable, diversified economy.

It is for Nunavut wide carving conferences and the first one that I mentioned was the mining symposium that I could use as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I have no problems with headquarters. I have a little slush account fund different initiatives. Are they if they fund these different initiatives like carving symposiums and mining symposiums and stuff like that. Are they also going to take money out of the regional CIP to fund these things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to follow the program criteria to do all that.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know if it fits here. I want to know about explorations or studies under water, if under sea projects fit in here. The reason why I am saying this is for the last three years my community has wanted to do this. However, I am not getting responses from the regional office or to find some money for these kinds of studies. I want to know what is under the sea in Coronation Gulf and this is a big area. They are not sure what is under there. I am wondering if it is going to fit in to these projects, one of these initiatives or contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Nunavut communities there have been some studies done in the past. The monies that were made available through the Federal Government are no longer, they have been deleted. However, they could be used for different uses, for example doing a study done on a ground fishery.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not really clear. I am not getting the answer that I want. I do not understand it maybe. Are you saying that it could be in one of these projects that are no longer funded by the Federal Government. Is that what you are saying. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: I will try it in English for my friend Donald Havioyak. If there was a community interested in doing a study of that type, there is no reason why they shouldn't be able to access some of their CIP money. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. My colleagues, if it is okay, I would like to ask Donald Havioyak to take over my seat. Is everybody in agreement. Mr. Havioyak could you come over please. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The local radios are very old in the communities and they are very useful in each community, especially the one in my community. The radio station is very old and sometimes you can even break part of the equipment with a pen it is that old and deteriorated. So do you have any funding available for improvement on the radio stations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the community initiative program could be used for different initiatives or for new initiatives. If they

wanted to apply for improvements on the radio station they could apply to the CIP. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Are there any other questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under page 11 – 9, under 251, community harvesters' assistance program. Is this because the people are dying off that is why the amount has gone down. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it's not because we are decreasing in population, as everyone is aware that at times, when we have to work on programs, I am sorry I was looking at the wrong one, 251. Yes that one. I am sorry. In order to help the harvesters we have to assist them and we made this available to the Regional Wildlife Boards.

It did not decrease because the population is decreasing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The assistance program is decreasing because there is less demand now for assistance. Or perhaps the regional boards are decreasing in their responsibilities too. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): The reason why it has gone down is because we used to have more outpost camps but now the number of outpost camps is decreasing within Nunavut. It will be part of the review of the outpost camps. It is because the outpost camps have gone down in numbers. That is why it has gone down. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo, we are on 11 – 9.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the community harvesters' assistance program the minister indicated that it is handled through the Regional Wildlife Associations. Is there some kind of criteria that are used or are there any program guidelines that go along with that. I guess what I am getting at is how do people in the communities, in all communities, access this funding.

Is it funding that they can access if they need to go buy gas, ammunition, or anything like that. I am just wondering how it is distributed at the community level. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps I could respond by saying, the hunters and trappers set their own. For example, the HTOs provide the funding to the outpost camps and they look at how long the outpost camp has been existing, that is put into consideration and it's done at the Hunters' and Trappers' Associations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Mr. Tootoo, did you get your response.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In reading what it says here, it says that the purpose is to assist holders of general hunting licenses to endeavour to harvest renewable resources. Is that funding available for anyone or is it available just to those in outpost camps. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister would you like to respond.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. At this point we only use that program for the outpost camps. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering if the program should reflect the actual use, by reading that it seems like anyone that needs help to go hunting that holds a general hunting license is eligible to apply to seek assistance. So I think, I don't know if the program was funded more, and it is just because of the reduced funding that it dropped down to only outpost camps.

I think that especially in here it should reflect more accurately what the funds are going to be used for. I guess I would just ask how many outpost camps are being assisted with that amount. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Perhaps there are close to 30 outpost camps that use this program. Also just to explain further. As I have stated before we will be doing a review and we will be appointing the people to do the review on this program. As well, we will review the funding program here. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. The next name on the list is Mr. McLean. Thank you. He does not want to speak any more. Page 11 – 9. Are you agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to 11 – 10. Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Page 11 – 10. Going to the bottom one. It seems like the first time the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has some funding. Last year there was no funding. Is it the first time that there is a demand from people and that is why there is finally funding this year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will have my Deputy Minister respond to the question on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Trumper you could respond please.

Ms. Trumper: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last year the money for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation was in the department's operations and maintenance budget and this year we have moved it into the grants and contributions budget. So it is a budget adjustment from O&M to grants and contributions. That's why it is not showing as a grant and contribution in the previous years. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Did you get your response Mr. Nutarak. We are on page 11 – 10. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay then we will go back to page 11 – 5. Department of Sustainable Development, operations and maintenance. (interpretation ends) Total operations and maintenance, 27 million 788. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 30 million 488. Agreed. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Before we proceed with the department, I would like to make two motions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean to your motions.

Committee Motion 60 – 1(3): Natural Resources Training Centre Feasibility Study

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. Committee motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Sustainable Development conduct its feasibility study on the establishment of a Natural Resources Training Centre with a view to establishing the centre in a non-decentralized community.

The second motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the...

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Your first motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Carried. Mr. McLean your second motion please.

Committee Motion 61 – 1(3): Parks and Tourism Socio-Economic Benefits

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Sustainable Development table during the fall 2000 session of the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive substantiation of the social and economic benefits to Nunavut communities and residents of the Department's spending in the areas of parks and tourism.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. To the motion. All in favour. Carried. Thank you Mr. McLean. Going back to page 11 – 5, total expenditures, 30 million 488. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to 11 – 11. Details of work performed on behalf of third parties.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 11 – 12. Information item. Going back to 11 – 3. Operations and maintenance, total 31 million 135. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Total capital, 2 million 700. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Agreed. (interpretation ends) Total expenditures, 33 million 835. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you. Do you agree that the total department is concurred with.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. The minister would like to make a comment.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Also, I would like to thank my colleagues for assisting us to pass this budget. Also I would like to thank my officials for when we were preparing the budget they have worked very hard and they have made themselves available to the Assembly during the budget exercise. I want to remind the Members of the Legislative Assembly about the Economic Forum coming up and all the members will be invited for the forum for those that can participate.

The concerns that have been voiced during the estimates while we were deliberating on the Department of Sustainable Development, I will take your concerns and issues under consideration and we are open to your suggestions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for coming and I would like to thank your officials too. Before we complete this Mr. Alakannuark would like to make a comment.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All in favour of the motion. Against. From what I gathered, the motion is defeated. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to deal with the Department of Finance, if the minister could do his opening remarks. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister, opening remarks for Finance.

Department of Finance: Minister's Opening Remarks

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to the Committee of the Whole the proposed budget for the Department of Finance and Administration for the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

The department's primary role is to act as the chief advisor to the Government of Nunavut on all fiscal matters. A more detailed description of Finance and Administrations' responsibilities is set out in the 2000/2001 Business Plan. This plan states that the department will provide direction and leadership to ensure fiscal responsibility and assisting with the establishment of a secure economic base for Nunavut, while promoting and maintaining public confidence in the integrity of government operations.

The department also has the additional responsibility of consolidating the annual fiscal requirements of the government's departments, boards and agencies to ensure that sufficient financial resources are provided to meet assigned responsibilities and to satisfy the financial obligations associated with running a government.

As well, the department is responsible for reporting on the financial performance of the government and ensuring that public funds are expended in an appropriate manner. Mr. Chairman for the 2000/2001 fiscal year, Finance and Administration has a budget of 30.8 million dollars and an approved staff complement of 136 positions.

The department is comprised of a directorate and four branches: Fiscal Policy and Expenditure Management, Corporate Services, Information Management and Technology and Comptrollership and Regional Financial Services.

The department is organized to fulfil the mandate as defined by the powers and responsibilities conferred on the Minister of Finance by the Financial Administration Act. The organization also reflects the role of the department in providing support to the operations of the Financial Management Board and the responsibilities of the Deputy Minister as the Comptroller General for the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, as mentioned earlier the department's budget for the 2000/2001 fiscal year is 30.8 million compared to 27.5 million for the 1999/2000 fiscal year. The increase of 3.3 million is required to finance the introduction of needed information technology initiatives across government and to cover the cost of handling payroll functions for staff of the former Health Boards, including payment of the Government of Nunavut's share of the employee benefits. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Minister. Perhaps the committee would like to take a break to take a quick look at it, I am only making a suggestion. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to read the Chairperson's opening remarks for the committee of the whole regarding the Department of Finance and Administration if it is okay with the rest of the members.

I am pleased to be able to make some opening remarks as we begin the debate on the 2000-2001 Main Estimates for the Department of Finance and Administration.

Over the past year, the Standing Committee has had an opportunity to meet with the Minister on a number of occasions. I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the issues of concern that we have had as a Standing Committee.

The first of these relates to information management and technology. The Standing Committee has noted that the Main Estimates for the Department include \$3.5 million in increased spending on IT during the coming fiscal year. While the Standing Committee does not dispute the need for an effective IT infrastructure for the Government, it would recommend that senior departmental decision-makers make every effort to ensure that

spending does not run out of control in this area, as it appears to have done in the past. The Standing Committee is also supportive of IT training being provided to Nunavut residents, so as to help build capacity in an area that is heavily dominated by non-resident contractors.

Mr. Chairman, the Workers' Compensation Board and the Liquor Licensing Board fall under the Minister of Finance's jurisdiction. Over the coming year, the Standing Committee looks forward to making input into a detailed plan for the future of the WCB. It also recommends that a comprehensive review and public consultations take place with respect to the issue of alcohol in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has responsibility for reviewing the Public Accounts of Nunavut and the Report of the Auditor General of Canada. Last year, Members of the Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Auditor General and his officials to discuss areas of mutual concern. We look forward to reviewing Nunavut's first set of Public Accounts this Fall.

The Department of Finance plans to have 17 decentralized positions in Igloolik. Over the coming year, we will be paying close attention to the success of this decentralization initiative.

On the issue of Public-Private Partnering, the Standing Committee notes that the department's business plan commits it to "adopt a set of policies and procedures to govern the management of the P3 process." These should be made available for review. Members also feel that the costs to Government of P3 projects should be made explicitly clear.

The Standing Committee notes that the 2000-2001 budget contained no tax increases. Over the past year, some Members of the Committee have expressed concern over the administrative costs associated with the payroll tax that Nunavut inherited from the NWT. We would be supportive of a review of the current tax regime in Nunavut. In reviewing the Government's own-source revenues, we find it sobering that the Government will collect approximately 320% more revenue from tobacco taxes than it will from corporate income tax.

Finally, we note the Department's business plan commitment to "produce periodic variance reports on GN expenditures and revenues for review and public information." We applaud this commitment to transparency, and encourage the Department to make public a wide range of information, including comprehensive lists of government contracts and community-by-community breakdowns of government expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, these are some of the general areas of concern that we have had as a standing committee. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. From my understanding I believe that we will take a ten minute break after the opening remarks of the minister and the Chairperson.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Some of the members are leaving and we want to deal with the department when everybody is here so I would like to report progress at this time.

Chairperson (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor and it is not debatable. All those in favour. Please keep your hands up. All those opposed. There appears to be a tie. I am just going to go eenie meenie minee moe. The motion is carried. We can ask the Speaker to return to the House.

Speaker: Returning to 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. Puqignak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and tabled documents 41 – 1(3), 61 – 1(3), 87 – 1(3) and 93 – 1(3), 95 – 1(3), 96 – 1(3) and 97 – 1(3) and would like to report that tabled document 87 – 1(3) is concluded and 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. Is there a seconder. Mr. Picco seconds the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. 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 Regular Caucus at half past 8 Monday morning, May 1.

Orders of the Day, May 2.

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

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 24 – 1(3)
 - Motion 25 – 1(3)
 - Motion 26 – 1(3)
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 61 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 93 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 95 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 96 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 97 – 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. Well, members there is another week gone by of rigorous debate. I understand some of the members are leaving for their home communities. Have a safe trip and for those that are staying in Iqaluit, enjoy. According to the authority vested in me by motion 3 – 1(3) this House stands adjourned until Monday, May 1, in the year 2000, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 2.57 p.m.*

