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**4th Session**

**1st Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 6**

**Tuesday October 31, 2000**

**Pages 256 – 313**

**Iqaluit**

**Acting Speaker: Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, M.L.A.**

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

## *Speaker*

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(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Community Government and  
Transportation*

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
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Power Corporation*

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*Minister of Housing; Minister of  
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Government House Leader*

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(Kugluktuk)

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

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(Hudson Bay)  
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Elders and Youth*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday October 31, 2000**

**Members Present**

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): I would like to call on Mr. Havioyak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Assent to Bills**

**Assent to Bill 5 – Floral Emblem Act**

**Assent to Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act and Other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, my colleagues and cabinet members. At this time before we begin today I have a message to pass along to the house. It came from the Commissioner's Office and I quote: "I wish to inform you that I have assented to Bill 5 – Floral Emblem Act, and Bill 6 – An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly & Executive Council Act and Other Acts in Relation to the Legislative Assembly". This letter came from Commissioner Irniq.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 016 – 1(4): Ministers Absent from House**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the members that Minister Kelvin Ng will be absent from the House today, Tuesday October 31 and tomorrow November 1, 2000. I would also like to inform members that the Honourable Olayuk Akesuk will also be absent today Tuesday October 31, 2000 until November 2, 2000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Ministers' statements. Mr. Okalik.



**Minister's Statement 017 – 1(4): Qikiqtaaluk Regional Field Operation Office Decentralization**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform you of some of the positive progress that the Department of Education has made in our efforts for decentralization of our Qikiqtaaluk Regional Field Operations Office to Pangnirtung.

During Phase 1 of our decentralization the delivery of programs and services was almost seamless. Staffing is progressing extremely well. Effective November 6, 2000 we will have relocated 12 of 15 positions. Five positions were local hires and four others have lived in Pangnirtung in the past.

There were sessions held with the community by Community Career Development Officers of the Department of Education and staff from Human Resources. These sessions were designed to assist people with job interview skills and resume writing.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased with the staffing efforts and the training that has been provided to new staff, particularly to those hired locally in Pangnirtung.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to provide members with an update on the Department of Education Qikiqtaaluk Regional Field Operations Office Decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Minister's Statement 018 – 1(4): Minister's Support for new Homeowners**

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give members an update on the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program, or NDAP.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the objective of NDAP is to assist Nunavummiut to save enough money to get a downpayment to buy a home of their own. The program does that by giving a grant of 15 thousand dollars to eligible clients.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce today that half way through the fiscal year we are a little more than half way through the total available funding of 630 thousand dollars.

As of October 16, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has 16 approved applications with five pending. These 21 new homeowners represent 50% of the available funding.

Here is the breakdown, Mr. Speaker: (interpretation) Arviat, 2 approved. Baker Lake, 1 approved. Cambridge Bay, 2 approved, 1 pending. Iqaluit, 3 approved. Kugluktuk, 3

approved. Rankin Inlet, 3 approved and 3 pending. Repulse Bay, 1 approved. Whale Cove, 1 approved. Approved in total are 16 with 7 pending for a total of 23.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, with the interest shown to date in NDAP we are confident that the Housing Corporation will meet its 2000/2001 objective of assisting 42 Nunavummiut in becoming homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

### **Minister's Statement 019 – 1(4): Nunavut Emergency Management Training**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Community Government & Transportation has provided training in emergency planning, fire services and search & rescue.

The Department has provided training in places such as Baker Lake, Kugluktuk, Pond Inlet, etc. I would like to stress that each community has sent their representatives to the training that we offered. We will continue to train Nunavummiut in all emergency related functions.

I would like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, to thank the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Canadian Coast Guard, Emergency Preparedness Canada and all Nunavut communities for their co-ordination efforts towards ensuring that all Nunavummiut are prepared for any kind of mishap or disaster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 020 – 1(4): Suicide Prevention in Nunavut**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, suicide is a tragedy that touches all of us. When we lose someone to suicide we become poorer as individuals and as a territory. As I have said before, the government cannot solve this problem alone - it will take the actions of families, friends and communities working together to counter the perception that suicide is an option for people in despair.

Mr. Speaker, of course government does have an important role in suicide prevention. The Department of Health & Social Services is focusing efforts on providing training and skill development to help people mobilize to prevent suicide and support each other.

Mr. Speaker, in our activities we are affirming Inuit values that emphasize strength, pride and resilience. With that in mind I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of our department's activities these past few months.

We have delivered “train the trainer” workshops with participants from the ten communities having the highest number of suicide completions. We have delivered suicide prevention, intervention and post-intervention training to coroners and RCMP. Two sessions have been delivered to clients at the Young Offenders' Facility and sessions are planned for the Baffin Correctional Facility.

Twenty eight new Community Constables will be receiving training in suicide prevention this month, and plans are underway Mr. Speaker, to deliver workshops in Cambridge Bay and Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to tell you that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth will offer a series of suicide prevention training workshops to community youth representatives from across Nunavut. I will leave it to Minister Kattuk to provide more information about this promising initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Ministers' statements. Minister Kattuk.

#### **Minister's Statement 021 – 1(4): Youth Self Awareness**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is excited to announce a joint youth alternative with the Department of Health & Social Services.

Culture, Language, Elders & Youth along with the Government of Nunavut, is concerned with a number of issues affecting Nunavut youth. The high rate of suicide is an issue demanding immediate attention and action from the Government of Nunavut.

In times of loss, it is beneficial for people to come together to help each other through the healing process. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is co-ordinating and sharing resources with the Department of Health & Social Services in an initiative to provide Counsellor Training to communities throughout our territory.

We are excited to announce our participation in the “Train the Trainer” program. This training will be offered to youth leaders at the regional level, and training will stress suicide prevention and improving youth mental health through overall self-awareness. Improving the well being of Nunavut's youth will be directly related to the strong connection to cultural roots.

The program, funded by Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, is made possible by the participation of the resourceful and professional staff of the Department of Health & Social Services. Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's Youth Division will provide ongoing community support and program delivery.

Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's Youth staff will review applications to select strong peers who can share the knowledge and skills they will gain from this training with the community and peers. Two to three participants will be selected from each community. Training workshops will run from Monday to Friday and will require dedication from participants because work will be involved after workshop hours. The first regional workshop will be held in November. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 022 – 1(4): Update on Sanikiluaq and Kugluktuk Power Plants**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the Assembly on the status of the power plants in Sanikiluaq and Kugluktuk.

As you know, the plant in Sanikiluaq was destroyed by fire last May. The extraordinary efforts of the men and women of the community, NTPC and Emergency Services ensured that power was restored Mr. Speaker, within 32 hours through the swift installation of three generators at a temporary location.

Mr. Speaker, at that time NTPC officials met with the Hamlet Council and committed to building a new power plant within seven months time. I am pleased to tell you Mr. Speaker, and the House, the new power plant is roughly 80 percent complete at this time. Three new generators have been set up and NTPC is currently installing the mechanical as well as the electrical equipment required to operate the plant. The project is on schedule Mr. Speaker, and I plan to travel to Sanikiluaq at the end of November to celebrate the start up of the new plant.

In Kugluktuk Mr. Speaker, two engines in that power plant were also damaged by fire last month. Again, a swift response by NTPC employees and community residents ensured that the fire was put out quickly and that the damage to the plant was limited to the engines. Mr. Speaker, for 31 hours the community concentrated on greatly lowering their power use by participating in rotating brown outs so the emergency engines could be connected to bring full power back on line. Today Mr. Speaker, the engines are completely repaired and the plant is operating normally.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes adversity brings out the best in people. These unfortunate fires in Sanikiluaq and Kugluktuk were just such occasions. I hope you will join with me in expressing my admiration and gratitude to the staff of NTPC, residents, community

leaders and the emergency response teams who reacted so quickly and so effectively to these incidents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

#### **Minister's Statement 023 – 1(4): Legal Registries Office Moves to Iqaluit**

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the Legislative Assembly that last Friday, October 27, the staff of the Nunavut Legal Registries Office arrived here in Iqaluit. Until now they have been operating out of Yellowknife while they waited for office space to become available.

Mr. Speaker, the Legal Registries Office, which is a division of the Department of Justice, performs several important functions. It is responsible for the operation of the Land Titles Office and Corporate and Securities Registries. The statutes administered by Legal Registries include laws governing land ownership, the registration of corporations and the regulation of trading of shares and other securities to the general public.

In the corporate area, Legal Registries maintains records of registered business corporations, non-profit societies, co-operatives and partnerships that are operating within Nunavut. The office is also responsible for the system of registering secured interest in personal property. The Legal Registries Office will be located on the first floor of the Brown Building where it will be accessible to the public, businesses and to the legal profession which use its services.

I am told that the files have arrived over the weekend and that office staff, some of whom are behind me, are working hard to get the office set up. We anticipate that the Legal Registries Office will be up and running this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 4. Members' statements. Members statements'. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Item 4: Members' Statements**

##### **Member's Statement 047 - 1(4): Clyde River Letter on Fuel Price Increases**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very interesting to hear all the ministers' statements.

Today Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding a letter I received from my constituency of Clyde River about fuel price increases. Mr. Speaker, this letter from the Hamlet of Clyde River in my constituency asks why the fuel prices will increase by 17%.

Our tank farm has not been re-supplied for two years. Mr. Speaker, at this time the price should be discounted rather than hiking it up by 17%. At the appropriate time Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling this letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Member's Statement 048 - 1(4): Giving during Halloween**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because, as we all know, it is Halloween and the children will be going out trick or treating with their parents tonight. Please treat them well by giving them what they want.

In the past when we woke up we used to go to our neighbours and give food. This is what we did a long time ago and it is a practice of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. At the time when Inuit were still living in igloos it was a very happy time. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that all the ministers answer to what I want and everything I request today I will get.

>>Applause

**Speaker**: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' statements. Mr. Havioyak.

#### **Member's Statement 049 - 1(4): Two Time Zones in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like say that the people in Kugluktuk are currently on a search and rescue right now, for your information.

I would also like to comment about the fact that in Kugluktuk there are now two time zones. The Hamlet and the Nunavut Government have two different times.

The children that are going to school are having a hard time adjusting to the time zones because some are following Mountain Time and others are on Central Time. I wanted to inform the members that in Kugluktuk there are two time zones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 050 - 1(4): Halloween and Brushing Teeth**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the member from Akulliq's statement on Halloweens past. Mr. Speaker, this is the evening when goblins, witches and ghouls and their parents make their way around in many of our communities for trick or treating.

Mr. Speaker, here in Iqaluit with the bad weather I know that parents and children will be assisted as usual by local law enforcement and volunteer watch people. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the watch volunteers and wish our children a safe and pleasant trick or treating, and Mr. Speaker, to remind the children that brushing their teeth will be a primary and a priority, tonight and over the next couple of days after they consume their goodies this evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members statements'. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 051 - 1(4): Elections Canada First Inuktitut & Inuinnaqtun Brochure**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with the House some good news.

Last week Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, the Chief Electoral Officer of Canada, met with me as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit to inform that me that Elections Canada have for the first time ever produced a brochure in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun on how...

>> *Applause*

**Mr. Tootoo:** ...on how to get onto the voters list for the upcoming Federal election. I will be tabling this document later on today.

Mr. Speaker, this brochure is a result of our meeting with Elections Canada earlier this year. The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, including my colleague Mr. Alakannuark and Mr. Akesuk and myself as well as delegates from NTI, suggested to Elections Canada when producing any public information that they should also have that information in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

Mr. Speaker, this brochure will have a positive impact on the number of people that Elections Canada will have on the voters list in the upcoming Federal Elections. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley and the staff of Elections Canada for acting on the suggestion made by the Standing Committee earlier this year and I look forward to other opportunities to work together with them and share information in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, that was very good news and we are very proud of the Standing Committee Ajauqiit for doing an excellent job. Going back to orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

#### **Member's Statement 052 - 1(4): Halloween Tradition versus Inuit Ways**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement regarding a practice which is out of the ordinary for Inuit. Something that we usually do not practice. It is called Halloween, as Mr. Picco stated.

My children will not be participating because I do not want them to lose their teeth. I try not to give them too many sweets. At three years old they eat frozen meat. They can even have fresh seal liver and other country food.

>>Applause

I think with the increased cost of living these days when some people can't get everything they need, they go through extreme hardships, and don't know where the money is going to come from for such things as Christmas gifts, Halloween treats and other holiday expenses.

I am happy with what the minister said about improving the well being of Nunavut's Youth which will be directly related to this strong connection to cultural roots. That's the only way that the Inuit traditions will become respected by government.

The people that have come from other side of the ocean celebrate their own holidays. I think that we can do the same thing, so that we can celebrate our own heritage.

So for those of you that do not traditionally celebrate this Halloween, I would suggest that you do not feel bad about not providing candy. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Members' statements. Mr. Anawak.

#### **Member's Statement 053 - 1(4): Ice Safety**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, I wouldn't mind either if I stopped eating turkey.

>>Laughter

Thank you, again it is fall and the weather gets bad often this time of year. People get lost out on the land due to poor visibility and the bad weather and it takes awhile for ice to get



thick and it's quite hard to tell if the ice is thick enough, or if it's too thin when we go on fishing trips.

Many of the people from my community are probably out fishing right now, but the lakes are not all iced over and if there is snow on top of the ice then it will be even thinner. So it's pretty dangerous at this time, and I know that the elders who are going out hunting will know exactly what they are doing but I would like to tell all the people of Nunavut to be cautious and to watch out for thin ice in the fall because all lives are very precious. Let us older people provide this kind of advice to the youth. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

#### **Member's Statement 054 - 1(4): Living Dictionary**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thought you said nutaraga, my child. Thank you for being my parent.

>> *Laughter*

I just flew into Iqaluit around lunch time, I came right to the House. I wanted to speak a bit about the new dictionary, the Living Dictionary. This was produced by a resident of Pond Inlet. I'm very proud of the elders who participated in this book. Mr. Timothy Kalluk who helped produce the book, is my uncle and Kooneeloosie Nutarak is my step father and I am very proud of them.

Sam Arnakallak helped along with Markosie Inualuk and Takigak Akpaleapik who are both deceased now. Markosie Inualuk once said if you can not make an igloo you can not marry.

There was one time that I mentioned this in the House. That was one of the reasons why I brought it up three years ago. In the Inuit culture, you are not mature until you can build an igloo. Also you can not marry or go hunting until you know how to build an igloo.

In the dictionary there were a lot of elders that participated from Pond Inlet. I just want to say that I am very proud of the people of Pond Inlet and to the people who provided the funding for the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 055 - 1(4): Appreciation for Sanikiluaq Power Plant**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of the people of Sanikiluaq. I appreciated Mr. Picco's statement today in regards to the fire that we had at the power plant.

The people of Sanikiluaq went through hard times but I would like to thank the people of Sanikiluaq and the Nunavut Power Corporation. All of the people worked very well together to get through this emergency. We had one night in particular where there was no heat and no light and we were cautioned about using portable stoves to heat the houses. We overcame this emergency in a co-operative way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' statements. Members' statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Member's Statement 056 - 1(4): Halloween Treats**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever we go on TV we seem to get bigger even though we are small. I am told that whenever we go on TV we appear so big.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for their comments regarding Halloween. I just want to state that for our children, especially the smaller ones who are just getting their teeth, Halloween can overwhelm them when they have treats. Tooth decay is worrisome. I would like to get parents involved to ensure that they have a safe Halloween.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to inform the parents that there are masks that depict horrors such as monsters and people bleeding that are giving the wrong message to smaller children. For example if you had a person who has an axe it is okay to be like that on Halloween but parents should watch what kind of influence this is having on our children on Halloween. To me Halloween seems to convey that it is okay to bleed and cause hurting, and liking bleeding masks. We as parents must think of the way Halloween is portrayed and let us watch our children and their teeth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' statements. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Thompson.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to OQ 609 – 1 (3): Responses to Housing Corporation Call for Expression of Interest**

**Hon. Manitoak Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide a response to a question posed to me by Mr. Hunter Tootoo on October 19, 2000.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation received 20 responses to our request for expressions of interest in 13 communities with 97 units in total. We sent a request for proposals to all respondents with the exception of Resolute Bay where there is no need for additional social housing at this time.

Mr. Speaker, here is the breakdown by community. Arviat 2 units, Baker Lake 17 units, Cape Dorset 19 units, Clyde River 5 units, Coral Harbour 1 unit, Gjoa Haven 5 units, Iqaluit 20 units, Kimmirut 2 units, Kugluktuk 5 units, Pangnirtung 14 units, Rankin Inlet 11 units, Resolute Bay 4 units, Taloyoak 2 units, for a total of 97 units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Returning to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Back to the orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from Kuugaaruk who is attending training as well as a person from Uqsuqtuq. They are training in fire fighting. I would like to recognize them. The person from Kugaaruk is Angutii and his friend is Alec Ruben from Uqsuqtuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and also welcome to Iqaluit two of the staff that moved from Yellowknife with our Legal Registries Division in the Department of Justice. They are Mr. Gary Crow, Director of Legal Registries and Mr. Norm Cavanaugh, Registrar of Land Titles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Haviyok.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from Uqsuqtuq, my assistant Darlene Elias. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The person who was recognized from Kugluktuk is a man who has done volunteer work for 20 years and he has worked at the Fire Department as the Chief. He has been a fireman that whole time and is still the Fire Chief, Alec Ruben from Kugluktuk.

Returning to the orders of the day. Oral questions. Oral questions. First person down is Mr. Arvaluk.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 049 - 1(4): Income Ceiling on Homeowner Assistance

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to the Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications, Technical Services and Housing. The question is about the statement she made earlier and we appreciate the statement that she gave.

She told us about a down payment assistance program of 15 thousand dollars per client. The question I want to ask now is, she did not state that what the income ceiling was to receive the 15 thousand dollars. What is the income limit to be able to apply for this housing assistance program of 15 thousand dollars. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications, Technical Services and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The maximum salary for this assistance program is 125 thousand dollars. The reason it is like that is because the 15 thousand dollar grant has to be approved by the bank. When a person wants to go for homeownership and the person needs down payment assistance, the maximum household income is 125 thousand dollars. Even for combined salaries the limit is the same. The bank has to pre-approve their mortgage then this 15 thousand dollars will be given as a grant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that this 125 thousand dollars could be the base salary for both partners. If they are both working or if

one of them is working. Does this include both spouses' salaries, and I would like to get clarification when was this established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When the last budget was approved this new 15 thousand dollar amount came into effect. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to complete all my questions, she should have stated that the criteria is new, that this 125 thousand dollar limit was approved when we did the budget session. My second question, do you screen the potential clients to make sure that the 125 thousand dollar limit is adhered to. I was wondering what kind of monitoring you have. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes we do the monitoring and the banks know our programs. For example, if I want to apply for a mortgage or loan at the bank, I will be told that if I am eligible I could apply for a 15 thousand dollar grant from the Housing Corporation. So they can refer you or the client to the Housing Corporation.

The banks work with our staff and the banks already know the criteria for the eligible clients, so the salary limit is 125 thousand dollars per year and if a single person makes less than 125 thousand a year they would be eligible for the 15 thousand dollars, providing that they have been approved by the bank. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this for first time homeowners only, the 15 thousand dollars, or if a couple moves from one community to another community, would they still be eligible to get that 15 thousand dollars. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is used for first time homeowners. If it's too hard in the communities, for example in the smaller communities when they can't afford to pay for their home, we could work with the MLA to see what we can do but this is used for first time homeowners. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. That was your last question. I'm sorry. According to the names on the list, I have Mr. Haviyok next.

**Question 050 - 1(4): Artificial Ice Policy**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. Right now in Kugluktuk and possibly other communities they need artificial ice because in the recreation complexes that are being used, the ice cannot freeze there and the arena is only in use for three months.

The artificial ice if it is going to be put in there the arena would be used longer even up to the end of May. Right now however, they are only able to use it from December until the end of March. Are there other communities with artificial ice, or can artificial ice be installed in the future. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Community Government & Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With global warming, the hockey arenas are used less and less in winter time. I know what the member is saying. Our weather is starting to warm up. The Department of Community Government & Transportation at this point in time are now putting together a policy for each community that wants to have artificial ice whether it is a skating rink or a curling rink.

This coming fall I don't expect to see artificial ice, but once the policy is put into place then we can look at the longer term. Perhaps in the next budget session. At this point we are now working on the policy and we should remember that this artificial ice equipment is very expensive. If we are going to be putting in artificial ice we should probably do it for the first time as a pilot project to make sure it works well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we could use Kugluktuk as a pilot project that would be good, because in Kugluktuk there would be more months available for skating or curling. When you talk about a policy can this be completed before the end of the Fourth Session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we are going to put ice into Kugluktuk we might be two hours late with this policy.

>> *Laughter*

We are now working on this policy and I am sure we will have the policy completed before we begin dealing with the capital items. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe it will be done when we are still sleeping and when we wake up it will be completed.

>>*Laughter*

Is there a direction as to how this is going to be done, because the Hamlet has already mentioned that they would like to be involved and help but they need direction and to know where the funding would come from. Before the new fiscal year begins they would like to know what the funding program is going to look like. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member that the policy within Community Government and Transportation will be completed before we look at the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 051 - 1(4): Process of Tracking Decisions**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier. I would like to ask the Premier, as Premier and Chair of the Cabinet, I am just wondering what types of mechanisms they use or how do they keep track of the decisions that are being made at that level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on the type of decision that is being made. Usually our Secretary to Cabinet monitors to make sure that decisions are put in place and usually one of the ministers responsible will be directed to implement a certain decision. So it varies from each decision on each issue.

So I cannot really specify exactly what mechanism may be in place to enforce a given decision. It depends on which decision is made by cabinet. But there are checks and balances in place. Usually on a given decision we also ask for monitoring and review of the decision at a given point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am looking at trying to find out whether there is follow up and monitoring done on any decision. Once a decision is made by cabinet in a policy area, how is that decision kept track of. That is all I am asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I said we make a lot of decisions at cabinet. So some are monitored by the minister, some are monitored by cabinet itself. Over a given period we ask for reports on any given issue. So regardless of the decision there are checks and balances in place and there are certain decisions that ensure that the decision arrived at by cabinet is put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take it from the Premier's comments that he answered the same question I asked last time. But he added in that there are written decisions. So would, in indicating that there is a written record of any decisions, is there a list of records made by cabinet that is kept. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a record registry of decisions made by cabinet and those decisions are conveyed on to the appropriate department and deputy minister of a given department and enforced in that manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that there is a record of decisions that is kept, I would like to ask the Premier if he could take a look at that log book and provide me with some information that I have been asking about for quite some time now.

When the staff housing policy was approved by cabinet, there is a piece of information that I have been seeking for almost a year and a half now, so I am just wondering if he could take a look at that log and indicate the date on which that decision was made by cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contents of decisions and how they are arrived at are confidential but when directives and policies are made each of the departments are aware as to when they are effective. So the minister I believe has responded in some way but it is not up to me to deliver each decision to a member when it is a given department that administers and implements our decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.



**Question 052 - 1(4): Children Born on April 1, 1999**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

We were elected in 1999 as the very first Members of the Nunavut Legislature, we were sworn in on April 1, 1999 and we started our sessions thereafter. At the time, on April 1, 1999, that day was special. That day Nunavut was created and we had our own Nunavut Legislature.

Therefore, my question is if anybody was born on April 1, 1999, have you given any thought to how you are going to be treating that child born on April 1, or a little bit after mid-night if there was a child born, or if there was a child born on that particular day of April 1, 1999.

Do you have any plans to celebrate that birth because that day is unique for those children who were born on April 1, 1999. Do you have any plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Is he referring the question to the Premier. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think in the context of births, I think I am the Minister responsible. Therefore Mr. Speaker, I will try to answer the member's question.

He brings up a very interesting question. The point is the celebration of April 1, 1999 as it goes toward a birth. Something similar to New Year's babies. I think that is the analogy that the member used.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, does not have any plans at the present time to formally recognize the first birth of April 1 or the closest date or approximate time to April 1, 1999.

That is something Mr. Speaker that we could do under the suggestion of a motion or of some debate here in the Legislative Assembly or indeed a statement or something brought forward by the member. If the House would choose to move in that direction that could be a recommendation of the members or the general public at large. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a mistake last week and I am glad that I made a mistake because I learned something new that I didn't know about. In the past, I didn't know which direction to go and I know that we have to abide by the rules. That was just a comment Mr. Speaker.

If we are going to be following that line, there was a child who was born on April 1, 1999. If we are going to recognize that child, April 1, 1999, that day was very special and it was a historical day. No one will forget that day as it was the beginning of our own Nunavut Government. We have never recognized that child, so when can we start celebrating the birth of children who were born on April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. If you would like to respond Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think as I was trying to say earlier Mr. Speaker, this is the first time to my knowledge that this has come forward to the cabinet or to the Government of Nunavut. As I indicated earlier, an opportunity may present itself for the members of this House, as they could come forward and ask the government if it so desired, to recognize the first birth on April 1, 1999. That could be a recommendation of the House.

As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, it could come forward from the public at large, it could be a motion passed by the Mayors' Association for example. So there are different ways to approach this issue. Mr. Speaker, again this is the first time that this issue has come forward to the cabinet and to me as a minister. Mr. Speaker, I think that is where we would leave it in the hands of the membership of this House to decide if they choose to bring forward some type of recommendation and see what we would do.

As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, there is no formal or informal policy or procedure, regulation of the government to endorse or indeed, to celebrate or identify or to recognize the first birth on April 1, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco and Mr. Nutarak. Going back to the orders of the day. Oral questions. Item 6. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Question 053 – 1(4): Polar Bear Article**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Sustainable Development. This summer I read in the newspaper an article about stopping the harvest of polar bears. I had a copy of the item on polar bears but I don't know where I put it. What's happening with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall the newspaper item. As I do not have the details I cannot answer his question at this time. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu. I apologize Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 054 – 1(4): Artificial Ice Policy Clarification**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Minister of Community Government & Transportation was talking about a policy in regards to artificial ice. I am just wondering if he could elaborate on that further to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently in Nunavut there is only one community with artificial ice but due to the global warming and other factors I guess, we found that there is a need to look at the possibilities of putting artificial ice in our communities.

That's why we are discussing the possibilities of getting a policy to determine how communities can get artificial ice. The policy is in the works right now, so other than that, it's a policy on how to move forward on assisting our kids who are suffering.

I can point to my colleague on my right, the Member from Sanikiluaq whose community has ice in the rink about two months of the year, or in other communities. So we're just in the process of developing a policy on how we are going to proceed with looking at putting in artificial ice in some of the communities with the intent at some point we would be looking at all the communities, at some time down the road. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that new policy would be in place prior to the capital plan being developed and I'm just wondering Mr. Speaker, while recognizing the importance of good recreation programs in the community, if these types of facilities and programs are going to be more of a priority than education.

There is a need in many communities for additional classrooms and new schools and health facilities and I'm just wondering if, given the very limited capital resources that we have, is a program like this going to take priority over some of the programs or other issues that we've already made decisions on. What is the priority of this government. Thank you Mr. Speaker

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Anawak

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Education and Housing are a priority. The smooth operation of the communities is important and recreational facilities are a part of that. But the member knows that a majority of our budget is put into Housing and Education. The member is well aware of that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Tootoo

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance said in this House last week that the 5 year Capital plan was going to be developed, the intention was that this plan be developed by government in isolation taking a look at the priorities set by this government and not so much, I don't know how to say this, of a wish list that usually came from the communities, the way the past system was done.

I think his exact words were more like a realistic plan that could be implemented, and I guess I'm just wondering, based on this announcement today by the minister on developing a policy on artificial ice, is are we going to see a push for any of these things to be listed in the 5 year Capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you. In the 5 year capital plan of course we are going to include, once we develop the policy, we're going to include how the communities would want to proceed with their recreational facilities and we're talking about recreational facilities, we just happened to mention artificial ice.

But we are also looking at communities that need recreational facilities such as Mr. Speaker, your community of Gjoa Haven, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet and others, as well as other recreational programs that we might look at.

Programs such as other communities might want under the swimming pool program. So we have not just announced this, I would remind the member that last year we were discussing the possibility of putting artificial ice into some of the communities. So it is not a new idea and it is not a new announcement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the members know my background is recreation and one of the frustrations shared by many of the professionals in the field of recreation is the fact that when dollars get tight generally the first thing to get cut out of many budgets and programs are recreational dollars. It is deemed as a frill.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I am wondering is this type of program that he is talking about now, it is not just an artificial ice policy, he is talking about a policy on recreational facilities. I think earlier on he was specifically talking about artificial ice. So maybe I could just ask for some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the question from the member from Kugluktuk, I mentioned that because he asked that particular question. We see recreation as a priority and we have looked at what each Nunavut

community should have for a gym or a recreational facility. It is part of the well being of the community and it could be less of a priority than education or health but it is still a priority. We have a very high percentage of teenagers and adolescents in each of the Nunavut communities and we will keep looking for additional funds so that we can build recreational facilities. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. That was your last supplementary. Going back to the orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

#### **Question 055 – 1(4): Proposals to Access Suicide Prevention Funding**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The Minister of Health & Social Services and the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth both made statements on the issue of suicide. We have to do something about suicide, using some preventative measures. Like the Minister of Health & Social Services said, it is up to the community and each individual in the community to work on this problem.

There is also going to be some funding available for suicide prevention programs. Does that mean that the communities will have to make proposals in order to access these funds or are these funds going to be given to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your question is a very good one. I have at times thought about the issue of suicide when it is mentioned in the House. In my Minister's Statement, I said that in November we will be having the first meetings to decide on what we are going to be doing and how the programs will be done. That is all I can say at this time Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the meetings, I am sure that we will see what is going to be happening. As the minister said he will be holding a meeting in November for the whole of Nunavut, my question is who are you going to be focusing on when you are inviting participants. Are you going to be inviting the Hamlets, the Social Service Workers, the youth, who will you be focusing on when you are sending out your invitations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Minister's Statement I said we are going to be asking the youth committees to select a young person who will be going to this meeting to represent them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Oral questions. Item 6 of the orders of the day. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 056 – 1(4): Clarification on Housing Corporation's Call for Expressions of Interest**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Housing. In regards to your response, I don't understand at all what it says here. Could the minister elaborate on the return to oral question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, which are you referring to. Which document or correspondence are you referring to.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question, to a question that was posed to the minister by Mr. Tootoo about the Nunavut Housing Corporation responses. Exactly what does it mean here when we are looking at the breakdowns. There is a community and the number of units under the breakdown. Exactly what does this mean because I don't understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Housing. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I am sorry that the member didn't understand the response. This is a question that was posed to me by Mr. Tootoo, on October 19. There are some houses that are not being used in some of the communities. I was talking about that and it has been identified in our budget. We are not renting houses that were vacant. We have the breakdown here by Nunavut communities.

These are the number of responses that we received. For example, in Arviat there were two units. It is per community and units that are available. Qamanittuaq or Baker Lake there are seventeen units. I hope that clarifies it. It is in regards to the houses that are not being used when they could be rented by the Housing Corporation. We posed that question to the communities and these are the responses that we got from these particular communities. I hope that is clear. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, thank you for that clarification. I have another question. When we were still under the Government of the Northwest Territories there were some houses that were not being used.

What is going to be happening with those old government units. When there is a shortage of housing out there it seems kind of unfair to leave those houses empty. What is going to be happening with the old government units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the units in the communities are owned either by corporations or individuals and because of that we sent a questionnaire out to the communities to find out if they have any units that could be leased.

The houses that are not being used are owned either by corporations or individuals and they are left empty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well that might be the case but myself personally I do not know who owns these buildings. So if they are all owned, is it clear that these units are owned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the units that are empty, there are some empty units out there at the communities and we do not know who owns all those units. For example, we know that there are 4 units in Clyde River that are owned by Qanait Construction and there are other units that are empty.

I would like to know exactly which building he is talking about so I will know how to respond to his question. Is it a unit that is not owned in one of the communities or exactly what is the main focus of your question. I only know about the units that are owned by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I as a minister do not know who owns every house in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your last question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So it is my final question already. In particular there are two units that used to be owned by the Government of the Northwest Territories that are in Qikiqtarjuaq, Broughton Island and they have been empty for a long time when there is an extreme shortage of housing in that community.

I am sure that there are operations and maintenance costs being paid for those two units that have been empty for a long time. I think that the government should look into these two particular units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know who owns those two units in Qikiqtarjuaq but using those as an example, we would try and find out who owns those units, if they are interested in selling or renting them. I have no idea who owns those units that you are referring to. If they were owned by the

Government of the Northwest Territories or if they are the Government of Nunavut's property.

I could look into it but I would have to know exactly which houses you are referring to because of course there are many houses in that community. If you write me a letter, I could find out who owns those units, give me the house numbers, this would be a great help in identifying the ownership of these units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 057 – 1(4): Aircraft Charter Policy**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question, I guess the easiest way to do it is probably to ask the Premier. I am just wondering what policy the government has in regards to the use of charter aircraft versus commercial airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. None of the departments actually charter aircraft. Each of the departments requisition a charter through Public Works. So Public Works has the policy and chartering guidelines. So it varies on a given issue. But the policy is in place with Public Works for charters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then with your permission maybe I could refer the question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services. If she could inform me as to what the policies and guidelines are regarding charters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Manito Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new air charter policy is intended to outline provisions and procedures that are supported by senior management across the Government of Nunavut and enforceable by Public Works and Services. It also defines standards for dealing with suppliers of aircraft charter services. It also assists in fulfilling the Government of Nunavut's reporting requirement for insurance and risk management purposes.

The current status on the policy is that it is anticipated that the draft policy will be circulated to other departments this month in November, tomorrow, for their feedback. A copy of the draft is included to be given to the departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that they are in the process of developing a new air charter policy. She said it is going to be coming out tomorrow to the departments. What has been the practice up until that policy is in place as far as a policy regarding charters from April 1 until now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, actually under the GNWT there was no formal policy in place to aid in the administration of aircraft charter service purchases. But Directive number 815, Aircraft Chartering was included in the GNWT Financial Administration Manual which has been adopted by the Government of Nunavut. So we have to develop a policy because there was no formal policy under the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought it was going to be an easy answer. Maybe what I will do is think about it a little more and provide a written question tomorrow on it. In light of what the minister indicated about the financial administration manual, are there any guidelines related to the use of charters in that manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I think the simple answer is that we are developing a policy and that we will be giving a draft to the departments. Actually there is an aircraft chartering directive in the financial administration manual, outlining appropriate use of aircraft charters, signing and contracting authorities, provision for the sharing of charters, as well as guidelines on the use of government chartered aircraft by other parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Thompson. Going back to the orders of the day we are still on number 6. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

#### **Question 058 – 1(4): Widow's and Widower's Pensions**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are not too many questions today so I am going through my questions quickly and I appreciate this. I want to direct my question to the Premier. Perhaps this is not the appropriate member but I will proceed.

As human beings we are going to die someday and we will become or leave behind widows. I want to know if there is any widow compensation here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I believe that is provided for by the Federal Government. However, if you would like to respond Mr. Premier. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Income Support programs policies and guidelines were set by the Federal Government and those are the policies and guidelines that we have to abide by. I want to know will widows' pensions be distributed according to these policies and guidelines. I am sure there is some hierarchy here, and that is something that I wanted a clarification on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Federal Government has federal policies and guidelines for widows' pensions. There are also unemployment insurance benefits. There are contributions that are made to assist widows through these pensions. Sometimes the assets are given to siblings if there is no spouse involved. But we also make contributions through our policies and guidelines. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Widows and widowers are paid a pension from the Federal Government. I am just talking about the finances. How much is a widow or a widower paid, whether they work or not. Is there such a regulation or a policy out there that if they become widows or widowers that they are paid a pension.

How is the amount decided. If you understand my question you may answer it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before there are various pensions that are provided for by the Federal Government. If you are over the age of 60 and you become a widow or a widower, until the time you are 65 you can receive a pension. So the Federal Government has various criteria. So therefore I can't really get into the detail of the programs because they are out of our jurisdiction. The Federal Government has various pensions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Your supplementary comment. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. Perhaps the Premier can let me know how long it takes to get your pension from the Federal

Government. Can the Premier give me a response by correspondence as to how long it takes the Federal Government to pay the widow or widowers' pensions.

He also said that he has staff that can look into this issue. Therefore I would really appreciate it if he could respond to me in a written format. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): At this time the question period is over. Even though this is the case we will let the last member finish his question. Is there a response. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before, we have an elected Member of Parliament who can assist you. They have said that if you have any questions you can get an answer through the Member of Parliament.

She has stated that if you have any questions at that level you can go through your Member of Parliament because this is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. So I cannot answer on behalf of the Federal Government. We have a Member of Parliament and it would be advisable for you to ask those questions of her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. At this time question period is over. Before we go on to the next item on the orders of the day. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry even before you finish your sentence, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to go back to item 2.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to go back to item number 2. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You may proceed Mr. Anawak.

## **Item 2: Revert to Ministers' Statements**

### **Minister's Statement 024 – 1(4): Halloween Postponed**

**Hon. Jack Anawak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know when I became the minister responsible, but I would like to announce that the Town of Iqaluit has just made a decision to postpone Halloween from tonight to tomorrow night because of the deteriorating weather. So for the people of Iqaluit, they would like to hold it tomorrow night instead. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes we will have Halloween tomorrow in Iqaluit. Since question period is over, before we go to item 7. Written questions, we will take a short 15 minute break.

*>>House recessed at 3.22 p.m. and resumed at 3.48 p.m.*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

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

#### **Written Question 002 - 1(4): Vehicle Regulations**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question with 12 parts for the Minister of Transportation.

1. When did the large vehicle control regulations in the motor vehicle regulations begin being enforced.
2. Under what statutes are these regulations made.
3. Were the regulations carried over from the NWT.
4. Has the government determined if the regulations are relevant to Nunavut.
5. Do these regulations apply to municipal vehicles as well as privately owned vehicles.
6. How does the department determine the maximum load capacity of vehicles on roads in Nunavut.
7. Is the maximum capacity of the vehicles determined by the manufacturer taken into consideration.
8. Are things like wheel and brake size, suspension, wheel spread, taken into consideration when determining maximum load capacity.
9. When these regulations were originally drafted, were they drafted for road conditions in Nunavut or the NWT.
10. Who is responsible for monitoring vehicles in Iqaluit on the road to ensure they are roadworthy.
11. Who is enforcing these regulations in communities outside of Iqaluit.
12. Does the Motor Vehicles Act allow for the use of ATV's and snowmobiles on municipal roads.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Written Questions. Mr. Havioyak

#### **Written Question 003 - 1(4): Time Zone Survey**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question for the Minister of Justice on the results of the time zone survey. During the last session on October 19, he indicated that he would provide the results, and again during this session on October 27, he said he would provide the results. Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the results and therefore am submitting these written questions in an effort to get the answers that I am looking for.

1. Which department conducted the government time zone survey during the summer of 2000.
2. How much did it cost the government to conduct this survey.

3. Did members of the Public Service conduct the survey.
4. Who gave the final approvals for the methodology and questions used in the survey.
5. How were survey respondents selected.
6. Were the survey respondents informed that their answer would have an effect on possible alterations to the government's single time zone policy.
7. What questions were asked on the survey.
8. Broken down by region and community, how many people responded to this survey.
9. Broken down by region and communities what were the responses to the survey.
10. How were the survey results used in respect to the government amending the single time zone policy.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyak. Written questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Item 9. Replies to opening address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Tootoo.

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

#### **Tabled Document 015 - 1(4): Elections Canada Pamphlet**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table today a pamphlet that I discussed in my member's statement. For the first time ever Elections Canada has provided information to Nunavummiut or the then Northwest Territories before division, in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. I would like to table it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Tabled Document 016 - 1(4): Clyde River Hamlet's Letter regarding Fuel Prices**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document that I am tabling is in regards to the increase of fuel prices. I am tabling this letter which I received from the Hamlet of Clyde River questioning the fuel price increase. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to orders of the day. Tabling of documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Tabled Document 017 - 1(4): Clyde River Homeowner's Letter regarding Fuel Prices**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This letter is coming from a homeowner in Clyde River about the fuel price increase. I wish to table that document. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on Item 13. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Item 14. Notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 15. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Premier.

### **Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act – Notice**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday November 2, 2000, I shall move that Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. At the appropriate time Mr. Speaker, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Picco.

#### **Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation - Notice**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday November 2, 2000, I shall move that Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 007 - 1(4): TD 10 - 1(4) Languages Commissioners' Report on Nunavut referred to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the matter of referral of the annual report of the Languages Commissioner to the appropriate standing committee.

Whereas, the first annual report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas, the Assembly desires that the report and recommendations be considered;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Akulliq, that the annual report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut be referred to the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health and that the Committee report back to the House at the earliest opportunity with its findings.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To the motion. To the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Motion 008 – 1(4): TD 011 – 1(4) Report of the Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner Referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations & Services**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Member for Nanulik that:

Whereas, the first annual report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut has been tabled in the Legislative Assembly; and

Whereas, the Assembly desires that the report and recommendations be considered;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik that the annual report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut be referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services for review and that the Committee report back to the House at the earliest opportunity with its findings.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Contrary. The motion is carried. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 17. First reading of bills.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive the two day notice required for first reading of Bill 8 - An Act Amend the Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Are there any nays. No nays. Proceed Mr. Premier.

**Bill 8 - An Act amend the Access to Information Act and the Protection of Privacy Act - First Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information Act and the Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. First reading of bills. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. First reading of bills. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Qujannamik Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two day notice required for the first reading of Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the NWT Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Are there any nays. First reading of bills. Proceed Mr. Picco.

### **Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the NWT Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation - First Reading**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** It has something to do with Halloween Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the NWT Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. Item 17. First reading of bills. Item 18. Second reading of bills.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 7 - Legislative Assembly Members Removal and Disqualification Act - Second Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk that Bill 7 - Legislative Assembly Members Removal and Disqualification Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act to change the consequences for Members of the Legislative Assembly who are convicted of offences.

Under the new provisions, a member who is convicted of a criminal code offence that was prosecuted by indictment shall not be elected, or sit as a member. If a member is convicted of any Federal or Nunavut offence the Legislative Assembly may determine whether to expel or otherwise discipline the member.

The bill also amends the Elections Act to disqualify a member who loses his or her seat or resigns as a result of a conviction from being candidate until after the member's successor is elected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 18. We are on Item 18, second reading of bills.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request consent of this assembly to give second reading to Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any nays. There are no nays. The bill is ready for second reading.

### **Bill 8 - Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act - Second Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 8 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to extend the period of time before the provisions of the act will prevail over the provisions of any other Act.

The Act is also amended to change the rules concerning when notice is given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the bill. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you. Item 18. Item 18. Second reading of bills.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request consent of the Assembly to give second reading to Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any nays. There are no nays. The bill is ready for second reading.

### **Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the NWT Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation - Second Reading**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 9 - An Act to Facilitate the Transfer of Employees from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will allow NTPC employees currently working in Nunavut to become employees of the Nunavut Power Corporation on April 1, 2001.

We require this legislation to ensure that we may keep our valued Nunavut based NTPC employees with us when the Nunavut Power Corporation takes over operations on April 1, 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Second reading of bills. Item 18 on the orders of the day. To the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Thank you.

Second reading of bills. Item 18. Second reading of bills. Item 19. Consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Bill 1, Minister's Statement 006 – 1(4), Minister's Statement 007 – 1(4), Minister's Statement 008 – 1(4). We will deal with Bill 7, with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you members. It has been a while since I have chaired the committee so be patient with me as I will probably be making mistakes, although I don't want to. Welcome to everyone. What is the committee's wish. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to deal with Minister's Statement 007 – 1(4) Fuel Price Increases. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I apologize. I was reading my document here. During committee of the whole we have before us Minister's statements 006 – 1(4), 007 – 1(4), 008 – 1(4), and Bills 1 and 7. What do the members wish. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): I will try it again. What we would like to deal with is Minister's Statement 007 - 1(4) on the fuel price increase issue. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Agreed. Yes, we will deal with ministers' statement 007-1 (4) on the increase of fuel prices. We started this during the previous day's session. Madame minister you can go down to the witness table with your staff.

Thank you, you can start with your opening remarks. I give the floor to the minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Roy Green is not with us today. He was with us last week when we were discussing the increase of fuel prices. He will not be able to participate in this meeting because of unforeseen circumstances.

I have our Deputy Minister here with me, Mr. Ross Mrazek. I think this is a continuation of last week's discussion on increasing fuel prices. So I do not have any opening remarks, as that was done already last week. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman and nice to see you in the chair again after such a long absence. I am just wondering Mr. Chairman if the minister or her staff could explain in plain language the purpose of the petroleum products stabilization fund.

That is one thing that I have been trying to get my head around, how it works. It is not a very easy thing to try to do. It seems when you talk to different people you get a different answer. So I would like to ask if it can be explained in plain language for us. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** The petroleum products stabilization fund has only one purpose and that is to help control prices. It is used to keep fuel prices from jumping up and down every year. As you know we pay for fuel once a year, if you are down south the fuel prices jump up and down all year. But the stabilization fund is there to stabilize the prices.

The maximum amount that can be charged to this account is 5 million dollars as the members know already. It is just to help to maintain the prices for the year because we just buy fuel once a year. That is all it is there for, just to help control prices. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we talked about how our prices are controlled and how that fund is used to stabilize the prices of petroleum products purchased and sold in Nunavut. I am just wondering, I know the minister indicated that the maximum amount that they could charge to the fund is 5 million dollars and I am just wondering Mr. Chairman, are there any provisions, or what happens in the event where there is a deficit balance in that stabilization fund that exceeds 5 million dollars at the end of the year. What would happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Mr. Chair, if it were to go over the 5 million dollars I would have to go to the ministers, it is a debt, the bottom line is that the 5 million dollars is a debt. I would have to go to the ministers and ask for more money. We could no longer stabilize the fuel. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know over the number of days that we have discussed this issue, the minister has made it quite clear that the department and cabinet did a thorough and complete analysis in determining that this was the best option for the government to take, the 13.9 cents per litre increase.

I am just wondering if the minister could inform the House of what that increase, or the impact that the increase will have on single income families, low income families, single parents, hunters, small business owners, students, day care centres and senior citizens that are either homeowners or in public housing or other individuals that are on a fixed income. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chair. I think everybody knows that it will have an impact on everything. It will have an impact on the low income families. It will have an impact on people that are buying groceries, they will have a harder time buying the groceries because they will have to manage their money better.

So it will have an impact on all the list that the member just mentioned. But I can say that from March 2000 to September 2000, we bought the fuel, as you know, in July. The fund went up 300% because the rising fuel prices in the world market have gone up so high. So the stabilization fund went from 342 thousand in March 2000, up to September 2000, it went up to 1 million 500 thousand dollars.

That's how fast the fuel price increase went, because we had to stabilize it. We were selling the new fuel at the old price from August to September. It went up 300% and we all know that it is going to have an impact on all the consumers. On the quality of life in our communities, but we have had to put the increase up otherwise we would be going into a big deficit. If we don't increase the fuel now, we will be in a deficit of 9.7 million dollars by March 1, 2001. If we don't increase the fuel, by March 31, 2002, we will be in a deficit of 13.2 million dollars. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am assuming that the numbers that the minister is talking about, and it sure would be nice to have that type of information so that we are not guessing at wrong numbers when we are replying to it. Are those numbers she indicated if we do not raise the fuel prices at all. Is that what she is saying. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chair. That's exactly what I am saying. If we stayed at the old price and we didn't do any increases we would be in a big deficit on March 2002. We would be in a deficit of 13.2 million dollars. Just for an example, the cost to purchase fuel products has increased an average of 8 cents for diesel aviation since the government purchased its fuel in July of this year. From July because of the rising fuel prices it would have cost us 9 million dollars more today if we went to buy it now.

If we hadn't bought it in July and we bought it today it would be 9 million dollars more than in July. That's how fast the crude prices have changed, it is very unpredictable. Thank you Mr. Chair.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Manitok. I don't feel comfortable saying your last name so I will just call you Manitok or Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am glad that we bought our fuel back in July and not today. Those numbers, however they may be accurate, they are not really relevant to the discussions that we are having. The fact is we bought our fuel as the minister indicated in July, and we know how much we paid for it.

I guess the minister has indicated that they know that it will have an impact on these groups of people and organizations that I mentioned. I would like to know what, in making their decision, surely you must have looked at what those impacts would be on those groups.

I would really like to know for myself, before I approve anything, that those types of impacts that are going to be faced by those individuals are sustainable. That they can afford to do that. I would hope, or guess that in the very thorough and very complete analysis that departments did, that type of information should be available.

So I would really like to hear what the actual impacts are going to be on those various groups. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chair. The reason why I talked about the rise in fuel prices was because the member was talking about the stabilization fund when he started out his questions and that was the reasoning behind that. These are accurate numbers and Mr. Green did the analysis on this and these are the numbers that he came up with because he knows that after we purchased the fuel the average increase has been 8 cents a litre already from July. So that was why I mentioned it.

We all know that for any increase whether it is groceries, whether it is cigarettes, alcohol, fuel, we all know that it impacts on families' living costs. Is the member asking me how much it is going to cost the hunters, how much it is going to cost the mothers, how much it is going to cost the fathers, the sons and the kids. All that analysis, is that what he is asking me to put forward to him right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes exactly that. I know that other than the fact that its is going to have an impact on these groups I would certainly hope that the government would have looked at exactly what those impacts are going to be on those groups of people and whether or not those groups of people can afford that type of

an impact on them, you know the rising cost on them, for example of a pensioner that is living here in Iqaluit.

The taxi drivers are saying that they are going to have to increase their fares to get around, and already some of these people that are on pensions cannot afford to take a taxi as it is right now. To get around, some of them are ageing, that is the only way that they can get around if they do not have a vehicle. That is the only way they get around. The money that they have, the fixed income that they have, it has to pay their rent, it has to pay their power, it has to pay for their groceries, and it has to pay for taxis and transportation, for them to get around.

Has the government looked at that impact on these types of people to determine whether or not they can sustain those increases. I think before making a decision on whether we go ahead with this I think we need to find out that information because if we pass or go ahead with this it is going to, my feeling is, I am sure I am not alone, is that this increase is going to inflict undue hardships onto those individuals and those organizational groups that are struggling right now from pay cheque to pay cheque.

How are they going to be able to survive with this added increase that has been cast upon them. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is either we go into a deficit or we pass some of the costs of the fuel to the consumers. We do have programs in the government for social assistance that are being reviewed by Education to help out the low income families. We have fuel subsidies that have gone up from 9 million last year as the members know, 9.6 last year, 1998 - 99. It has gone up to 10.4 already.

We are stabilizing the fuel prices, we are subsidizing, we are giving out welfare to people, we are looking at subsidizing the harvesters and we are already subsidizing a lot to the Nunavut residents. We cannot do without the increase in fuel prices because the fuel price increase is dictated by international markets. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think an important point to make is that no one, none of us on the, none of the regular members at any point indicated that we do not want any increase in fuel costs.

The understanding is there that it is costing us more to purchase this fuel, home heating fuel and gasoline. The majority of Nunavummiut survive by finding ways to lessen the costs in those areas. Suggestions from any member of this side of the House that the minister keeps referring to "what do you want us to do not have any increase".

I do not think anyone this side of the House has said there should not be any increase. What we are saying is we want to be sure that the increase that is implemented is something that is sustainable by Nunavummiut. I would say the majority of the population in Nunavut live paycheque to paycheque to be above the poverty line.

I have told stories in the past where you do have full time indeterminate employees of the government having to go to social services for social assistance in some communities. When you consider low income, single income families. You have the factor of extended families. The income earner in the family is providing for his or her family but they are also providing for the extended family that they have as well.

I don't believe that, based on the information is provided, that the government has taken a good look at the impact that this increase will have on the people of Nunavut. The minister hit it on the head. Are we going to increase it or are we going into a deficit. I would like to know, taking a look at this, is that the factor that was taken into consideration. The fact that you are going to increase the fuel or we are going to a deficit. Or was that the rationale that was behind developing what this increase is that we are facing.

Was in fact the methodology and process that the department and government used in determining what this increase would be was exactly that, whether we are going into debt or not. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have specialized staff that look at the numbers, they look at everything. When we came up with 13.9 and we capped it at 98 cents, that was the best decision that cabinet could make on this. If we compared it to Northern Quebec communities who are in the same situation as us, low income families exactly the same situation as us, they are already paying 1.23 a litre for gas.

One dollar and twenty cents a litre or one dollar and twenty five cents a litre. We could have gone over a dollar. But we felt as cabinet, that 98 cents was what would be the best price to sell gas at this time. Otherwise we would just go into a deficit. I have talked to many Nunavut elders who do not want their new government to go into a deficit.

Even 300 thousand dollars is a lot of money for some people who have never seen 300 hundred thousand coming into their communities to fix the recreation centre, for instance.

So there was a lot of analysis. There were a lot of options looked at. It took a lot of work on behalf of the staff. I cannot provide the details of that analysis. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo, there are other members who would like to ask questions. I will give you one more opportunity and then I will let another member ask questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Looking at all the minister's comments, I would really like to know because those groups of people that I talked about are the people that are going to be calling me as an MLA, are going to be calling every single one of us as an MLA, and I want to be able to tell them.

The government realized that it was going to impact you guys in this area and they felt that was sustainable. I think we owe it, that is the largest percentage of our population that we are talking about here. We need think about that.

You know when you talk about how this is all put together by the staff and that the decision was made by the senior management and by cabinet. You know that we are looking at individuals that are making the decision that for the most part are usually in the higher income bracket range. To them this type of an increase does not have that much of an impact, they can live with it.

I am pretty confident that a lot of these other groups will not be able to and I want to know that was taken into consideration and what the impacts would be on those people before I approve or I agree. I think we owe that to them. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco did you want to make a comment.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all Mr. Tootoo just said that he wanted to make sure that the people who are under privileged and so on were taken into account when the decision was made to increase the fuel prices. We said in this House many times Mr. Chairman, for the record, that the minister had to wait until all the sealift was delivered to all communities. Then you had to weight the balance of those costs to all communities because we know exactly then what the total cost of the fuel was.

That was a factor. Then we looked Mr. Chairman, at the total cost of the fuel itself, as well as the factors that the minister has responded to several times and Mr. Chairman, for the record, we also look at the impact not only at the local level, the community level, but at the constituency level.

So if the member said that he is interested in what the constituents are saying, so am I. His constituents are my constituents and the constituents of Mr. Okalik and all the other members here. I had to pay the fuel prices and so did my family and in-laws and so on.

Mr. Chairman those decisions were taken fairly and as the minister has pointed out several times now that we have kept the price 98 cents Mr. Chairman. So I think for the record, we should point out that those types of decisions and those discussions were made, as the minister has tried to say several times and I do not appreciate the connotations that as a member of cabinet making decisions because my salary might be a



little higher or something that we were not cognisant of the fact that other people's are not. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. As I stated there are other people who would like to ask questions. After a round I will give you another opportunity. You will have another opportunity to make your comments. At this time Mr. Alakannuark. If you continue bickering about this then the others will not have a chance to pose their questions.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not sure exactly how I will pose my question but the question I want to ask is about the concerns I have regarding the hunters and how the hunters will be effected or impacted this year after the fuel price has gone up.

In my community, a hunter told me that although he wanted to go out hunting, he could not go out because he could not afford any gas. When the fuel prices go up my community will be severely impacted because the price of fuel is very high there. There are families who have a low income. My question is what kind of subsidies will hunters be entitled to, after the fuel price has gone up. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As I stated before our department is working, we have an employee named Susan Makpalu, who is reviewing the analysis on low income families and I know an elderly couple who own a home that cannot afford to keep up with the fuel prices either.

Mr. Chairman, regarding Mr. Alakannuark's question when I made my minister's statement, I stated that the price of gasoline will not go over 1 dollar a litre. I said that it will remain at 98 cents and it will remain at 98 cents all over Nunavut.

As I said we will be working closely with NTI and we have begun to do that. I heard NTI Vice-President James Eetoolook supports this stabilization fund. NTI was going to do their part in looking for areas where they can help subsidize hunters, and I said that those who will be not be able to keep up with heating fuel costs will be taken into consideration. The policy will not only be pertaining to the elders who are not able to afford the price of fuel but also for the hunters that will be affected.

Our department has looked into this issue, and they are compiling information and right now our subsidy costs have run over 10 million dollars from 9 million. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Alakannuark

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for answering my question. Now this subsidy program for hunters, when will this subsidy be available to the hunters. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Are you asking when this stabilization fund will become effective. The subsidization for hunters is under the Minister of Education's portfolio and for those who are homeowners, I don't have any answers for that question right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame minister. Before we go any further. Mr. Tootoo wanted to reply. But I want you to know that you have a limited time for your response. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be quick. I think I should apologize to the minister if she took offence. I was talking in general of the perception from the public out there. That is how they will perceive it, whether rightly or wrongly so. You know the old saying, perception is reality. I was also glad to hear the minister state that they did look at the impact on these little target groups. So you know I am just asking what those impacts that they determined would be involving those target groups. Because I want to be able to answer to my constituents what they were exactly. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not think that was a question. I think that question was already answered. I understand what Mr. Tootoo is saying and I am also a Member of the Assembly. So I feel for my constituents.

I also have parents and siblings who also have to make ends meet as well. But we became a government so we can make hard decisions on these issues. That was one of the issues that we had to face. We have to make sure that we are not overspending our funds here in Nunavut. We had a list of options in front of us and the one that was most agreeable to us was the 13.9 % increase.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alakannuark I do not think you finished your comments. Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the subsidy for elders was also mentioned. The subsidy runs from September 1 to March 31 for those elders. We will receive applications for subsidies and we provide a subsidy for those who are eligible. We work with our Finance Minister to go over these costs and look at other options. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. A question was raised regarding subsidies for hunters or hunter support programs. I was waiting for you to look my way. You did not glance my way, look around once in a while. I will now identify what programs we have or the programs that we have for subsidies. The fuel subsidy program is one of the programs that we have running. You are all aware of the hunters support program. We have an analyst working on reviewing all the programs that are made eligible to HTOs and other Hunters' Programs. I will be talking more about this later so I apologize for not being able to give you more details right now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes my question is in regards to the hunters' subsidy. I'm sorry if you cannot respond to that and I will wait for your announcement on the harvesters income program. Once you announce that program, I will have more questions and I'm sure that the people are anticipating your announcement and those programs. My next question is, when will you be announcing the new program, I know that you couldn't answer my previous question.

According to my understanding, the fuel prices are not supposed to go up again for another couple of years and I know I have the right to voice my concerns, like for example, prior to the couple of years being over, we don't know our future. For instance we don't know what we are going to be doing tomorrow or the day after.

We only find out what the day holds for us when we actually reach that particular day. For the upcoming two years that you plan to use this stabilization fund, we never know for example if there's going to be a disaster in our communities or any other communities, if we for example lose a tank of fuel, would the fuel prices go up or would they remain the same. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. As I stated before, we buy fuel once a year and purchase our fuel in July and since we purchased our fuel the cost of fuel has gone up. If we bought the fuel today it would have cost us 9 million dollars more over last year due to the fuel prices going up drastically. They have gone up 14 million dollars from last year and analyzing all these, this stabilization fund, what Mr. Tootoo was referring to, in Inuktitut called Qurvaluatailimanijuminik stabilization fund.

It has capital of 5 million dollars, if we increase it 13 cents like now, this stabilization fund could be used for a couple more years if we purchase once in every year. Down south fuel prices go up and then they go down, it fluctuates weekly, because it is transported by trucks.

In Nunavut, we purchase our fuel once a year and when we do that and we set the price, the price won't change for a whole year, but once we purchase new fuel the price would

change. Looking at the price of fuel going up in the world, going up by 13.9 cents under the stabilization fund, and it has a cap of 5 million dollars, with that we could use the stabilization fund for two years.

By putting the fuel price up by 13.9 cents we can keep up with the stabilization fund without going into a deficit. Next year when we go purchase the fuel and for example if the price went down, it would not be 13.9 cents. But after analyzing it we already understand since last March 2000 to September just the previous September, the fuel price increased dramatically. That is why this stabilization fund is used to offset the cost.

If the fuel prices went up from March to September we had 1.5 million dollars, a little over 1 million dollars it has gone up. Just in that time period. This word stabilization in Inuktitut means managing the cost for the consumers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to get a response to my question. If there was an unforeseen disaster, if we were not able to get our fuel, for example if we were not able to get the fuel we wanted prior to the two years being up, would the fuel prices remain the same with the stabilization fund. I would like to get a response to my question. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes. What I am trying to say briefly and I will try to answer your question. At this point we have increased the stabilization fund by 13.9 %. Even if we were running out of fuel when we purchase bulk fuel, it could be used a little bit over the year in some of the communities and we would purchase our fuel again this upcoming summer if there was no fuel available.

For this year we have increased the stabilization fund by 13.9 cents. OPEC sets their own prices too, and we look at the way they increase their prices. If we run out of fossil fuel in the world I am sure that we would have to find alternative means of heating fuel. But for this winter, this year we have increased it by 13.9 cents. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We are dealing with fuel prices in Nunavut. I just want you to be aware of that. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to Mr. Alakannuark's question. I will ask two questions. Are you saying that for the next two years the fuel prices are going to remain the same. It is going to be 13.9 cents. Are you saying that will be the same for the year 2001-2002. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not mind if you call me Minister Maniok. I forgot to tell you that that I do not mind being called that. Yes, for the two years, we are now on year 2000. Are we in 2000. I have lost my track of time.

Yes, I have been dealing with this for so long. Yes, we bought the fuel this summer for this year. It will be 13.9 cents and for the upcoming summer after we purchase the fuel it will be okay if we let the prices remain at 13.9 cents. I agree with the statement.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): I thought I understood that you purchased fuel last summer. What we are talking about is November 1 for the year 2000. There is only a couple of months left. We cannot call it one year now because there is only two months left out of the year.

My question is from January 1, 2001 to January 1, 2002. That is one year or January 1, 2001, December 31, 2001. Second year comes January 1, 2002. December 31, 2002, that is the second year.

If you do not use January, November 1 will it be 13.9 cents. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize if I did not give a clear answer. Yes, we all understand that we purchased our fuel in the summer of July 2000 and then the fuel price goes up in November after all the tanks are filled up. Fuel prices go up on November 1 and it will be the same November 2001 up to 2002 July. That is going to be our standard price for those couple of years. The 13.9 cent increase is to July 2002 and I know that we will be purchasing our fuel in July and the fuel prices will not go up right away. Only up until all the fuel tanks are filled up in November 2002 perhaps then. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What kind of legislation are you going to be introducing so as not to increase the 13.9 cents. As the minister knows oil prices can go down or they can go up because the price of fuel fluctuates in the stabilization fund.

I know that we might go over the 5 million dollars and we will have to amend the Act to go over the 5 million. When are you going to introduce legislation so that we could amend it to the 13.9 cents.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We do not know what is going to be happening in the future so I cannot respond or tell you what it is going to be like in the year 2002.

I think that we will be on budget in the fall of 2002. We will be working on two things. In 2002 if we went over the 5 million dollars we would be looking at three things. We would have to review the piece of legislation so that we can go over the 5 million dollars or we could be looking at other government programs to do some re-profiling. I would also talk to the other ministers and inform them we will have to go over the 5 million dollars or we would increase the fuel prices. Those are the options that we would be looking at. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Referring to Mr. Alakannuark's question about keeping the fuel prices stable for the next two years you should say that you hope to keep prices the same, it is not definite. That part I got.

Mr. Chairman to keep it brief, the people who are responsible for the distribution of the petroleum products at the community level. They are awarded a 10 year contract to distribute fuel at the community level and they are also told how much they are going to be paid. Do they get paid by the amount of fuel that they sell at the community level or are they paid at a fixed rate in their contracts. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Ross Mrazek will be responding to your question. If that is okay with you Mr. Chairperson.

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

**Mr. Mrazek**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Contractors who are delivering the fuel in the communities are paid on the commission sale. That means petroleum products is paying them money based on the quantity of fuel. There are two types of contracts by the way. One is a short term contract and one is a long term contract. The long term is usually 10 years for the different PPD contractors in the community. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Probably to the same Deputy Minister, a similar question but of a technical nature. In other words those persons who are on contract to deliver fuel in the communities will ultimately benefit from this 13.9 cent hike. Or will the minister renegotiate contracts to keep the services under control. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It would be nice if Mr. Green was here. But Mr. Mrazek can probably respond to your question. I think the contracts are expiring soon. Mr. Mrazek can respond to the member's question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I am not able to give you the correct answer as far as the amount of the commission paid per litre. I believe that doesn't have an impact on the price of the fuel to be sold. What I'm saying is that regardless of the number of litres the contractor is selling, this commission is stable. Most of the contracts are going to expire in spring 2001, and I believe some of them in 2001 in the summer. Petroleum Products has already started working on re-tendering all those contracts through Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If they are paid according to per litre on commission rather than dollars that they create through sales then ultimately according to Mr. Alakannuark, a lot of hunters will not be buying as much fuel because they will not be able to afford it. Secondly they will probably be a discouragement for homeownership because they will not be able to afford the fuel, so those contracts in the community, if they are paid per litre rather than in dollars, then they're bound to lose due to that price hike of 13.9 cents Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): We are looking at a hunters' support program and subsidies for homeowners, we are looking at these two issues, but I cannot give you details on the numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Mr. Chairman, perhaps the minister and I don't have the same pamphlets from the government, with the Government of Nunavut symbol with the polar bear on it, that has all the information in several plain language facts.

Do you know how we calculate retail prices of fuel, for example drops in the retail price of fuel contracts for delivery. Can I get a clarification from the Minister or Deputy Minister, is that per litre for example, 5 cents a litre that you pay out to the contractor or 12 percent of the retail price of fuel that you pay out to the contractor.

Can I hear from the Minister or Deputy Minister, which are they paying to the contractor. According to this government fuel facts pamphlet, I'm hearing something different. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Chairman, that document has not been tabled in this House and cannot be discussed. That should be ruled out of order. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman, I apologize, I thought that it was a public document. I thought it was sent all over the north. I guess it will not be shipped out to the communities before November 1, I doubt we have that kind of mail service.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Point of Order.

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

### **Point of Order**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Chairman. Any document that is tabled in this House can be discussed. You cannot discuss a document even though it has been published and given to all the people all over Nunavut, you cannot discuss that. Right now we are discussing my minister's statement. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. We are discussing the fuel prices for Nunavut. We are not discussing any other issue. We are dealing with the minister's statement 007-1 (4) which is the fuel price increase for Nunavut. That is the agenda item on the table. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, my apologies to the minister. Going back to the minister's statement, the last question I have actually there are 101 more, however, keeping in mind the time and the other members want to ask questions.

Have there been some discussions as to considering for example, if the minister and the cabinet would consider cutting the 13.9 cents increase in half to lessen the impact on the communities, even recognizing that Sustainable Development and other government programs like Health and Social Services, Income Support will try to ease the blow by giving them subsidy or assistance.

There will be, no doubt, some other consumers who are in the same dilemma or predicament by not being able to afford a fuel hike of that magnitude and will suffer accordingly. This will create an inequality of assistance. Some of the people will not come under any department but are barely surviving in the community. I hope we will not be creating some kind of discrepancy or some kind of discriminatory treatment of our own Nunavummiut.



Keeping that in mind, has she considered cutting the 13.9 cents in half so that we could have a set plan for our own individual economic plans for this winter because some people will have a very hard time getting their cash flow especially the new teachers and newly employed government civil servants in the decentralized communities or those who own a home. First time owners that are buying new furniture after the sealift and etc. etc.

Has she considered, or will she be considering that during or sometime before Christmas. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. I think everybody would like to ask questions. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. If the member has a recommendation I can consider that. At this time I could probably consider heating fuel because it impacts a lot of homeowners. We want to encourage homeownership. If a member has recommendations I could consider something like that just for one type of fuel and that is heating fuel. We can look at the option. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a small comment. In our community the people who would like to apply for homeowners programs. They have been trying to get a house but have been turned down. I know that this is a big problem with the fuel increase.

Everyone knows now we are affected by the world price of the oil. Even though there are people who want to buy a home, they will be having more problems right now. Some people will be saying I want to own my home but there will be a lot of bills to pay, groceries and other costs.

They will have problems keeping up with the bills. Even though they want to buy their own home they will look at other alternatives. They may be saying that renting is lower and they may say I will go for that instead. I know that is a problem especially with the fuel and also gas. I would like to ask the minister, you said social services may be able to help if they have problems and if they need a subsidy. I would like to ask the minister...

>>*Audio problem.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The interpreter apologizes for being on the wrong channel. I think that you should keep to the point. Keep your questions as brief as possible so that we can get good responses. Please keep your questions brief and to the point. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry I did not quite get the question. But I heard part of the question that was posed. I think what

you said is that homeowners will be discouraged from applying for this particular program. I just want to hear your question again.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame minister. Mr. Haviyak please keep your question to the point so everything will operate more smoothly. Mr. Haviyak.

**Mr. Haviyak:** Testing 1,2,3. Is everything okay. (interpretation) Sometimes I want to make my preamble short which is difficult to do at times so that I can be well understood. It is hard to pose the question properly.

My question is that some people are thinking that they should not buy a house because that can get a house through the Housing Association because it would be less difficult. My question is, the programs and services that are geared towards homeownership would you be working towards this so that subsidies would go towards the house for fuel or gas. Do you understand my question.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Like I said we are looking at, the Minister of Education is looking to see if they could set up benefits for homeowners. We all understand and we do want to encourage increasing the number of homeowners. There are quite a lot of people that would like to access these homeownership programs.

With that in mind we are reviewing with the Minister of Education on fuel, home heating subsidy programs. The member for Nanulik also asked if I could review these. We could look at the home owners. Thank...

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn your mike back on Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When I said thank you Mr. Chairman the microphone line went off. I thought that was the question so I responded as such. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you minister. Mr. Haviyak did you want to make a supplementary.

**Mr. Haviyak** (interpretation): You mentioned another matter on fuel earlier and I would like more clarification on this.

In July fuel was purchased and the price is set then but you think now today the price has increased. I am trying to clarify this. Maybe I did not quite hear it. If the world price goes lower before next year will our prices be reduced too. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fuel price is increasing world-wide and it is constantly under scrutiny. As I stated earlier we bought the oil in July and since that time the price has increased significantly and if I were to buy a million dollars worth today it would be higher tomorrow. If the fuel price were to increase today then we would have to review all the options that we have in front us.

We buy fuel. We supply for one year and this is not going to decrease. We buy fuel at least once a year. But say we were going to buy a re-supply in July. If the price increased before we had a chance to pay that July re-supply then we would feel the price increase by the time we were going to buy our next fuel re-supply. If the prices had gone up by the time July came around then we would pay more for the fuel. The funds that we expended for fuel in July are not going to decrease because we already paid that price. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Do you have a supplementary question. The clock is ticking away and there is someone else who wishes to comment. Mr. Haviyak.

**Mr. Haviyak** (interpretation): There is no rush, it is okay.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) So the bottom line is there is always an increase and never a decrease. Is that what you are telling me.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I will make it clear. It would be like me going to the store and buying the fuel. I go to the store in July and buy the fuel at 90 cents. I already bought it so it is going to be 90 cents whether the store keeps changing it over here because I already bought it. When I go down again in July the price might be 50 cents. So it is a different price. We just buy once a year. That is what I was trying to say. Down south you buy every week so the price goes up and down. It is all over the place every week. But in Nunavut we just do increases and decreases once a year after the tanks have been filled. The other thing Mr. Haviyak, if it did not get translated, was just to let you know, we bought the fuel at a certain price in July. If I go down there today it is 9 million dollars more already. That is what I was trying to say. It is going up so fast. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): That is good to hear that the fuel price will remain the same for the next two years. Mr. Alakannuark's question was pertaining to an emergency situation just like the Sanikiluaq power plant was an emergency situation. Of course we do not anticipate any emergencies of this type, I think Iqaluit has the largest oil tanks and

if those oil tanks were to blow up and we had to buy fuel then would we be paying the same rate or would it go higher.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Be careful with your microphones because the interpreters ears are sensitive. Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think it is hypothetical. I have difficulty with pronouncing the word hypothetical. What that means is I don't know what is going to happen to me tomorrow whether I will live or die, whether I will run out of food to eat. Hypothetical questions are a violation of House procedures here.

We are talking about the increase in fuel prices, and the stabilization fund of 5 million dollars. We will be using that 5 million dollars for this year. Every year we analyze the fluctuation of fuel prices and the re-supply of fuel to the communities. The purchase and re-supply of fuel would be under the review of the Cabinet.

I just want to remind the member that when a question is out of order it does not require an answer or response. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you. I received the response to my question, I just wanted a clarification as the response to that question when posed earlier was not quite correct. Thank you.

The 13.9 cents is the rate of increase and there's nothing we can do about it for the next two years, and the fuel price will be 98 cents per litre. Now the 13.9 cents does sound better than 14 cents so is that why those numbers were chosen. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak, we are dealing with fuel increases, now sometimes we stray off this subject and bring something new in all together, like you brought up exploding tanks. With the emergency that you mentioned, that was out of order and nobody can answer that now. We are trying to deal with fuel price increases and the stabilization fund. Thank you.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand the question that Mr. Nutarak has posed to me, and that's a good question. If a litre was at 20 cents and that price is increased by 13.9 cents, we don't want to see that 13.9 cent increase we want to keep the litre below a dollar. We don't want to see the price go beyond a dollar per litre. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Although I have asked this question, this 98 cents will it be a cap for all Nunavut communities. In the high arctic the price of fuel is usually more than the more southern communities.

I was asking if we are going to be using this 98 cents per litre for all the communities of Nunavut. Is that what the price is going to be for the upcoming two years. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I forgot to respond to you. Yes, that is what we are saying. If we put a cap on of 98 cents a litre, providing we can remain within the 5 million dollars we can do so, the legislation states that the stabilization fund is there and it could be used and yes, I agree with it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): My very last question. So the price of fuel in Nunavut is going to be the same price per litre for all Nunavut communities. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): You may already understand this because you have received correspondence in regards to what we are debating in the House now. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is the cap of 98 cents and I am sure that some communities, if we did not put a cap it, some communities might be charging over one dollar a litre and some communities might be over by three cents or more but we put a cap on at 98 cents. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will keep my questions brief and to the point. The minister indicated that there is going to be a cap of 98 cents roughly per litre. Are there any communities in Nunavut that are paying more than that right now on petroleum products. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We have a different varieties of fuel. I think we have 9 types of fuel so they are all different. But there are communities that are paying over a dollar that were paying, that would have been paying. I know that Resolute Bay, Coral Harbour, there is a list but there are nine products we sell. It is too much detail to talk about right now. I would have to table it or give it to the members. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess, Mr. Chairman, I just want assurance that any of the products that the minister has indicated that the cap will apply to in some communities I believe are you know my understanding there are some communities and some of these, more than one product is over that cap. So those communities will see a reduction in the cost of what they are paying for it right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Chairman, as I said, we capped at 98 cents and there is some fuel that we did not cap. There were some communities that would have been paying a lot more but we capped it at 98 cents. Av-gas is one of the gases that we did not cap. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the minister keeps referring to the stabilization fund, in her opening comments I think, it was her statement she indicated that currently her balance left in that stabilization fund is 1.5 million.

I'm wondering does that take into consideration the 13.9 cent increase to date and also does that take into consideration the roughly the 2.2 million that was carried over from April 1 of 1999, as part of that fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think I'll have Mrazek give you the status on that, but I do know that in the Rankin session we had 2.2 million, now the bottom line is, if we increase by 13.9, there's been quite a few other changes in here.

Our projected fund will be at 432 thousand as of November 2000. So we have room in there but, Mr. Mrazek may have more details for the member. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The member is totally correct that during the Rankin session, the accumulated balance was 2.2 million dollars in the stabilization fund. Now, according to the instructions which the government received from the Auditor General the stabilization fund has been changed in view of division between the GNWT and the Government of Nunavut.

Therefore the stabilization fund was reduced drastically down to 475 thousand. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman is that the balance of the fund, is that under half a million or is that how far a deficit balance of the fund, really there's still 1 and a half million dollars in that fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. As of September 2000 the fund was 1 million 5 hundred thousand dollars in deficit, and if we increase the price 13.9 cents, by March 2001 the fund is projected at a 432 thousand balance.

The other thing the members should remember is that after March 2000, it was after the Auditor General removed the 2.2 million dollars it was down to 342 thousand, but because of the new fuel, we subsidized the new fuel because not all communities were full and the price was increasing and we had to swallow that quite a bit.

That's why in September it went up to 1 million 5 hundred thousand dollars in a very short time, because we didn't increase the fuel price, so the bottom line is by September, 1 million 5 hundred thousand dollars if we increase it by 13.9.

We're projecting 432 thousand dollars in the stabilization fund deficit. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Since we're running out of time. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, according to the Act itself, it says that not in any one year can the fund have more than a 5 million dollar deficit amount.

What I am hearing now is, if I am correct, as of this year and with this increase, it is only going to have, a top end of 1.5 million dollars negative balance. So really there is still for this year it can have up to 3.5 million dollars of leeway in there.

At the end of the year, Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding of how the fund works, if there is an effect, the only time it effects the budget is just an area to keep track of the profits and losses of the revolving fund. It really has no impact at all. It is just a number that is there and it does not have any impact. I am glad to hear that. Mr. Chairman, maybe I can ask...

**Chairperson** (interpretation): At this time, are you going to request to extend the sitting hours or are we going to remain that way. I give the floor back to Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have more questions but looking at the clock I would like to move that we report progress at this time and continue on tomorrow with this. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I will report progress so we will see you again tomorrow. Thank you. I am sorry, I forgot to thank you Madame Minister and your witness.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's statement 007-1(4). I would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. To the motion. Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. It is carried. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 21. Third reading of bills. Third reading of bills. Back to the orders of the day. Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, November 1, 2000;

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1
  - Bill 7



- Minister's Statement 6-1(4)
- Minister's Statement 7-1(4)
- Minister's Statement 8-1(4)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** : Thank you Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 1, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

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



