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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 2, 2001**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would ask Ms. Thompson to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ublakkuut, Mr. Premier, members, people in the gallery. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 015 - 1(5): Akitsiraq Law School

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise members of exciting times for Nunavummiut. After many years of lobbying and hard work, a Nunavut Law School will be officially opening its doors in Nunavut in September 2001.

The Akitsiraq Law School has been established to address the pressing need for Inuit lawyers in all levels of public service, industry and for the private practice of law.

Mr. Speaker, students completing the 4 year program will earn a Bachelor of Laws Degree as I have. (interpretation ends) They will have exactly the same credentials as students graduating from southern law schools.

Nunavut Arctic College will play an important role in the program, providing expertise in the delivery of education in the north, as well as administrative and student support services.

Mr. Speaker, the Akitsiraq Law School Society which is made up of Nunavut community members and legal professionals, has worked very hard for many years to bring about the dream of a law school in Nunavut. The Society will remain an active partner by ensuring that the law school reflects the realities of the North. The society will be active in providing direction and leadership during the term of the law school.

(interpretation) The program that will be offered at the law school has been specially designed to meet the needs and interests of Nunavummiut. In addition to the courses normally offered at law schools, particular emphasis will be placed on incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit throughout the curriculum and using elders to assist in teaching.

Mr. Speaker, it is recognized that many applicants to this program will not have the same formal academic background as students regularly admitted to law schools. Admission criteria will therefore be broader ranging and more individualized than in typical southern law school programs.

(interpretation ends) Student recruitment is currently underway across Nunavut and candidates have until March 30th to submit their applications.

A public information meeting was held in Iqaluit on February 15th and further information meetings will be held shortly in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Information about the program is being posted and distributed in all learning centres in Nunavut communities. A great deal of interest has been shown.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut through the Departments of Justice and Human Resources as well as the Government of Canada and Nunavut Arctic College are providing funding for the program.

Qikiqtaaluk Corporation has agreed to provide student sponsorship. The Akitsiraq Law School Society recently made a presentation to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated at its Board meeting in Arctic Bay and members of the board expressed their support for the program.

Mr. Speaker, the Akitsiraq Law School Society will continue its fundraising efforts with other public organizations, Designated Inuit Organizations and private foundations.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the importance of a learning institution in the area of law in Nunavut cannot be underestimated. Nunavummiut need to prepare for the challenges ahead if we are to reach our full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 016 - 1(5): Nunavut Tourism Strategy

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning colleagues. (interpretation ends)

I am very pleased to inform members that Nunavut Tourism and the Department of Sustainable Development have initiated work on Nunavut's first tourism strategy.

Background research began this month and the strategy is expected to be released in May.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I come from a community whose economy has benefited a great deal from tourist visitation over the years. Prior to being elected to this Legislature, I worked for the Hamlet of Cape Dorset in community economic development and a good deal of my time was spent developing Cape Dorset into a tourist destination. I know that to develop this industry we need to make strategic investments in attractions, exhibits, in our accommodations, in product development, in marketing and in the training and development of our labour force. The question is how and where to make these key investments.

I know that many of our communities in Nunavut are blessed with spectacular scenery, world-class fishing and wildlife viewing and heritage sites that tell the story of our remarkable journey through history. I believe we are one of Canada's most unique tourism destinations and it is my intention to build on this economic opportunity.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased therefore to be working with Nunavut Tourism, along with an experienced team of tourism planning experts in developing Nunavut's Tourism Strategy that will take our industry to a new level of performance.

For this tourism strategy to mean something to our operators who have pioneered this industry and to mean something to our community leaders who want to develop their communities as tourism destinations, our strategy will seek their opinions and advice. Meetings are being planned in various communities throughout Nunavut. We will also examine the tourism development successes of other jurisdictions that have challenges similar to ours.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that it will take key public investments to build our tourism industry. To convince our federal partners of the value of these investments, we must demonstrate a strong foundation exists in this economic sector, what great potential there is and demonstrate our commitment to its growth. The Nunavut Tourism Strategy will do this.

Mr. Speaker, I know all Members of this House have an interest in the development of Nunavut's tourism industry, so I will ensure that members are provided with progress reports on this important initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 017 – 1(5): Grants and Contribution Programming

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a statement on my department's Grants and Contributions programming.

(interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, as a service department committed to providing funding and services to Nunavummiut, is very concerned that our programs reflect our mandate and properly address the needs of the public. Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is dedicated to protecting, promoting and preserving the language, culture and heritage of Nunavummiut.

Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's programs reflect the needs of healthy communities and support their self-reliance by funding community based initiatives.

This supports the Government of Nunavut's priorities as set out in Pinasuaqtavut.

- Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has awarded over 2 million dollars towards community based initiatives.
- Culture, Language, Elders & Youth awarded money to projects in the following categories: Cultural and Heritage, Language, Communications, Status of Women, Arts, and People with Disabilities. We emphasize youth and elders' projects in each of these categories.

Mr. Speaker, another program area, the Culture and Heritage program funding area exists to promote, protect and preserve Nunavut's culture and heritage. Funding is awarded to community based culture and heritage initiatives.

The Bathurst Mandate cites Inuktitut language development as one of the focuses of the Government of Nunavut. The priorities for healthy communities and self-reliance are supported through Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's community based Grants and Contributions initiatives. Language is one of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's top priorities.

The language program in the department exists to preserve and promote Inuktitut language use with funding that is awarded to community based language initiatives.

Another programming area where Culture, Language, Elders & Youth's money has been allocated is the Status of Women's Grants and Contributions program. The Status of Women's Grants and Contribution program exists to support various women's initiatives and family support projects.

Mr. Speaker, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is also involved in the Arts. The Nunavut Art Council works co-operatively with the department to review and fund proposals submitted by artists for arts projects and performances. Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has committed funding for the artistic community to promote and develop community based arts initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, a total of 2.14 million dollars of funding has been awarded to 24 Nunavut communities in over 120 projects. This represents over one third of our budget. I am very proud that we have awarded so much of our budget to community based Culture, Language, Elders & Youth initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 064 - 1(5): Post Secondary Students' Allowances

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to congratulate the Premier and the Cabinet for starting up the Akitsiraq Law School.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we have for many years under the NWT system, treated our secondary students with less importance, as far as living allowances and living conditions are concerned.

I know that this is the norm for southern Canada and we followed that norm. I hope Mr. Speaker, that living allowances and living conditions will be one of the top priorities for success in the Nunavut Law School and for the other students in TEP Programs, Nursing and other professional training initiatives.

(interpretation) We will be reviewing this properly to make sure that it's successful and we will make sure that our students are able to go into higher education, so that life in the communities is better and that the people, our young people are able to get those jobs in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 065 - 1(5): Time Zone Change

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice is not very good this morning, so excuse my voice.

It is just past 10 o'clock, the sun is now up, here on Baffin Island. Mr. Speaker, there is one sun in Nunavut, or is it possible that there are three suns, one for the Baffin, one for Kivalliq and one for Kitikmeot. Does the earth revolve around the sun or is it the other way around. Actually it doesn't matter which one is revolving, as long as our time zone is finally resolved on April 1, 2001.

I would like to thank the Premier for finally concluding this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 066 - 1(5): Vegetarians

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before making my statement, I wanted to say that I was in Coral Harbour just recently and I would like to thank the people there for their hospitality. We lost a brother-in-law there and I send my condolences to the entire family. I also want to thank Mr. Zebedee Nungak who was also there showing his support and sympathy.

Today, I rise to talk about the fact that I am a meat eater, a real meat eater. As an Inuk, I don't have much use for rabbit food, in other words plants and vegetables.

Yesterday I read an article, which I find funny, to me it's just laughable and I will pass this to other members. It talks about a Canadian organization that is encouraging people to believe that Jesus did not eat meat and he only ate vegetables. This is from a group that want people to eat only vegetables and no meat.

When you think about this in Nunavut there are people who go to different Christian churches whether they are Catholic, Anglican or other denominations. They all believe in Jesus and I don't think they will be very happy to hear that Jesus did not eat meat and therefore they must become vegetarians also.

I think it is just people that are acting immaturely and are using Jesus for their own purposes. It can be somewhat humorous but I think some people do go overboard.

What this reminded me of was when the reports of contaminants were being broadcast up here I heard an Inuk on the radio, I cannot recall the name. But he said that even if they contaminated his food whether it is polar bear, walrus, caribou, fish or seals he would keep on eating meat. He said that even if his skin were peeling off from the contamination, he would not stop eating his traditional food.

As a fellow meat eater, I make this statement in support of him and to show how ridiculous some of these groups are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Irgittuq.

Member's Statement 067 - 1(5): History of Time Zone Change

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as today is Friday, I rise today to talk about something that we worked very hard towards achieving. I am going to talk about the time zone.

During question period, we often raised questions about the time zone and we tried to drag it out. We tried to raise a lot of questions about this. I know myself, Olayuk Akasuk, Peter Kattuk, and David Iqaqrialu and Jobie Nutarak were raising a lot of questions.

We felt good when the session was over before the issue was resolved as we thought we had delayed the time zone change. We went to the lobby to celebrate our victory. Soon John Quirke approached us and told that the regulation to change the time would be implemented anyway.

>>*Laughter*

After that we became very sad and even angry but today we can laugh about it. We had agreed to the change without realizing it, except for Olayuk Akasuk. I just wanted to make that statement. Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 068 - 1(5): Time Zone Change Effects in Nattilik

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk on behalf of my constituency of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I'd like to thank the Premier for his statement yesterday on behalf of my constituency.

In our region when daylight savings time was to occur, we didn't move our clocks. When the times were changed, our community stayed dark for a long time, even though we knew that during that hour it should have been light out.

For example, I went out hunting with a few friends in January and in the late evening we were trying to stay awake because we knew it was going to stay dark until about 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning. We were trying to stay up late so that the night would be shorter.

I am happy after yesterday's minister's statement outlining the decision to go back to the old time system. As you know my community signed a petition asking to have our Mountain Time back. I'd like to thank the Premier for the minister's statement yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 069 - 1(5): Kugluktuk Happy with Time Zone Change

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too am very pleased to hear about the time zone change. Talking to the mayor of Kugluktuk, the residents are very happy to hear about the time zone change as well.

The Premier has said that we will be going back to three time zones again and in the community of Kugluktuk the residents have always stated that they wanted to keep the Mountain Time zone because it is suitable for our daily lives in terms of the businesses and how we operate, that's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 070 - 1(5): Questionitus Disease

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. I don't wish to discuss time at this time. Mr. Speaker I arrive with sense of some urgency to discuss a current situation here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these past few weeks, we have heard on the radio, we have read in the newspaper, and indeed Mr. Speaker and we have seen it on TV, the terrible affliction facing the United Kingdom, and now Europe with outbreaks of mad cow disease and now the dreaded foot and mouth disease. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that all Members in this House wish the farmers and the people dealing with that situation the best.

However, Mr. Speaker, here in Nunavut, here in Iqaluit, here in this Legislative Assembly with the budget and the Main Estimates now before the House, the dreaded Questionitus, has resurfaced.

Mr. Speaker, this affliction, which appears on an annual basis, around budget time, is characterized by much vociferous protestation in questioning in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I would recommend that all members, staff, visitors and witnesses to the Legislative Assembly drink plenty of water, which is available at our desks and also through local retailers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco for those inspiring words. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 071 - 1(5): Consideration of Social Issues

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that when I was working for the government we were spending a lot of time dealing with the time zone issue as a government along with the communities.

I felt that Inumariit do not have much to do with watching the clock, we only use it to measure the brightness of the day. As a staff member, when the government was spending a lot of time on the time issue, we were wondering why it took the government so long deal with the time zones. Today I understand that Members of the Legislative Assembly can work together co-operatively and that they can represent their communities when we deal with the time zone issue.

Mr. Speaker, in the communities in Nunavut there are a lot of social issues, for example suicide, alcohol and drug abuse along with family violence. I expect now that the time zone is out of the way we can deal with these issues and we can talk about these issues with the same vigour as was done with the time zone.

I'm sure that my colleagues and the rest of the communities will want us to work diligently on programs and services because we worked very hard to resolve the time zone issue, so I expect that programs and services will have the same attention.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to say again, that some of these issues that I just spoke about, I want the members to know that I will be directing questions about them to the Health and Social Services Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Premier I'd like to recognize seated behind Mr. McLean, Mr. Mike Sheridan who is the Assistant Chief Statistician for Statistics Canada and accompanying him is our own Nunavut Chief Statistician, Mr. Jack Hikes. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: I would like to recognize some visitors in the gallery from Manitoba. Jack Wilson with Manitoba Hydro, Harold Westall, Chairperson of the Communities' Economic Development Fund. Ross Thompson, Tony Woodward and Bruce Andrews with Amatrack Corporation. Welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an individual from my riding, from the community of Taloyoak. David Totalik and Larry Umingmak. I'd like to recognize them for being here and would also like to thank them for being here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Ma'na Uqaqti. I would like to recognize the staff who have been working hard all week. I would recognize, since this is their last day as pages, my daughter Saimaiyuk Akesuk and my nephew Makitutak Salomonie who have been pages for the week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my younger brother who's in Iqaluit for a training course. He is taking the x-ray technicians course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the Manitoba delegation that is here to discuss co-operation issues between Manitoba and Nunavut.

Speaker: I just wanted to make a correction. It is Tom Woodburt, CEO of the Regional Health Authority in Churchill, welcome. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 059 - 1(5): Vending Machine for Tamartirvik

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. The people from Parnaivik buy pop and order snacks to be delivered. I was wondering if he could come up with a vending machine in Parnaivik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the translation said Parnaivik, I believe what the Member is referring to Tamartirvik, which is the hospital boarding home in Iqaluit. Maybe if I could get some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize it was my mistake, I was supposed to say Tamartirvik which is the boarding home. I took the wrong note, I'm sorry. I apologize Mr. Speaker.

At the Tamartirvik boarding home, I was trying to speak to the Tamartirvik boarding home and I'm sure he understood my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Tamartirvik boarding home, under contract, provides three meals a day for all the people that are staying there.

In most cases, those are escorts and patients that are going to the referral services at the Baffin Hospital. They also provide, Mr. Speaker, in the morning a snack as well in the afternoon.

If there is a requirement being brought forward by some of the constituents of the member that they would like to have a vending machine available on site, Mr. Speaker, that's something I can approach the management of the boarding home about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 - 1(5): Labour Market Development Agreement

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. There was an agreement between the Federal Government and Nunavut Government called the Labour Market Development Agreement.

It will be implemented so that Nunavut can take on that responsibility more. When are you going to implement the agreement and what will the impact on the communities be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to his question on the Labour Market Development Agreement, it has already been implemented.

The communities are now starting to be aware of that and we have three officers in the communities that deal with this issue, one in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Yes, this agreement is now in use, it's mainly geared towards Inuit who want to take on trade skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard that Community Government and Transportation could help the hamlets get projects together along with Sustainable Department under the Community Initiatives Program.

Using the agreement, can the Department of Education, with the direction of the minister, help communities to initiate these projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Using the application process under the Nunavut Government, using these three departments, we can help the communities apply to this program for partnership programs in the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the minister for answering my question clearly. Can the communities and the hamlets apply to this program directly to the Department of Education or to one the three offices in Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they don't know how to do the application form properly, there is assistance available from the three offices.

I encourage applications to this program that can be used for training in different fields through the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 061 - 1(3): Social Workers for Arctic Bay & Nanisivik

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. Are you aware or have plans to deal with the shortage of social workers in our communities, in particular the two communities in my riding that do not have social workers. There are foster children that require the assistance of a social worker in those communities.

I'd like to know if there is a plan to supply social workers to these communities of Arctic Bay & Nanisivik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me thank the member for raising this topic. In the previous sessions in this House, one member

continually hammered away at the Minister of Health & Social Services on social worker positions. That was my colleague, Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Speaker, as we have said over the past year and a half it is safe to say that our major focus for the Department of Health & Social Services has been to trying to retain and recruit health service staff in all areas including social workers and nurses.

I guess the focus has been on nurses. At the present time we have 50 social worker positions in Nunavut. Of that Mr. Speaker, 35 positions are filled, 15 are vacant, with an employment rate of 70 percent. So we are 70 percent staffed with our social workers.

What we are going to do Mr. Speaker, this year coming up when we have an opportunity to discuss the budget of the Department of Health & Social Services is do a program review of social services and social service workers.

As well, Mr. Speaker, we have set up a practice unit in Kugluktuk that I have had a chance to talk to his House about. They will be reviewing not only the work and direction of social workers but also to see what makes up a classification of a social worker and how we can bring more Inuit into that job training field. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not ask him how many social workers there are in the whole of Nunavut. But my two communities, I was concerned mostly with my two communities.

While you are doing your studies there are piles of cases that require help, while we're waiting for these positions to be filled, is there a way of alleviating some of the numbers of faces waiting to be looked after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in general Mr. Speaker, hearing the question I tried to answer to given the overview of what we are trying to do and I've said Mr. Speaker, that we don't have enough social workers in place in Nunavut.

We're at 70% and we'd like to be at 90% or 100%. That's where we are trying to get to in the Department of Health and Social Services. In one of the communities that the member represents, Arctic Bay, and I've had the opportunity to discuss it with her, the position has been vacant for quite a long time.

Mr. Speaker, we're trying to fill that position. My understanding is that the social worker left quite some time ago. As for, Mr. Speaker, the issue of foster children, foster care, if the social worker is not in the community, what we've tried to do, Mr. Speaker, and I understand in the member's community, like in other cases, we provide a social worker from the regional office that actually goes in to do some of the social work that needs it.

For example on foster care and so on. That is not acceptable Mr. Speaker. As Minister for Health and Social Services, I would be the first person to say that. What we need to be able to do is get more social workers in the communities like we've been trying to do with the nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: I will ask the question in English. I would like to know, until they assess the work or the responsibility of the social worker in Kugluktuk, could the minister tell me what immediate arrangements he will make for this community that has no social worker. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, where there is no social worker presently in the community, then the regional office for that region, for example, the Baffin region, in Iqaluit, for example would make sure that on a regular basis, a social worker is brought in to that community to do the case load that is in the community.

That's what is occurring, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier that is not acceptable, we need to be able to get full time employees into this department and into that job in specific communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have, in Arctic Bay, two nurses, and two RCMP officers and we would like to have two social workers in the community. Maybe that could be worked out with Health and Social Services because the social worker will provide services to Nanisivik and Arctic Bay. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's comment about the staffing in the community and the recommendation to put an extra social worker into Arctic Bay. Again, Mr. Speaker the position numbers, the staff, depends on the caseload in each community.

That's something the department will have to review to see if the need warrants it, to see if we could put in an extra position in the community. Maybe join in the discussion in the Main Estimates in Committee of the Whole to see exactly when we look at our budget, for example, if we can entertain the suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 062 - 1(3): Student Financial Assistance Rates

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. For people who are taking the teachers education program. I was told by one of the students it's very difficult to live with the amount of assistance they receive even though they are provided with housing and a food allowance.

But the amount of money that they can use for personal purposes is only 170 dollars for the whole month. What kind of policies do you use to decide on the formula to give the students this assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the first time that we have heard the amount of funding is inadequate for teacher education program students.

They've always had a hard time making a living out of this assistance because of the cost of living rising. There are examples of where students who are going through a hard time financially have received assistance from income support after their need was assessed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Arctic College board of directors know about this situation and can they be directed by the minister to provide support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work closely with the Arctic College and also with the students. But since they are under school services, possibly what I can do is give you an overview of the program in regards to the student allowances.

I'll use an example. When student programs, student support services were provided by Yellowknife they were given one cheque per month. But today they have been able to get two cheques per month and the students pay for their rent through income deductions, through their financial assistance.

For the information of the member, Mr. Speaker, we work very closely with Arctic College and we will keep working closely together. We haven't fixed all our problems but we are working on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to give you some information and I'm sure if I'm going out of line Mr. Speaker will discipline me. I was told by some of the students that they all have the ambition to keep going to school but because of the small student financial assistance, they give up hope and want to go home.

Of course, we want to have adequate money to feed our family and stuff like that. Could I ask the minister if he could look into this student financial assistance program prior to the end of the school year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the question, we have been working on it on an ongoing basis. But because of the budget, we have to follow through with the rates that we currently have.

Mr. Speaker, it's not only the Department of Education, we are working closely with the Federal Government and also Inuit organizations to provide additional assistance to students, which is very good to see. But there are problems that have not been alleviated to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he's working closely with the federal government and also Inuit organizations. When are you going to be having the next meeting with your counterparts and the Inuit organizations. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Department of Education took on the student financial assistance program, we are working on it continuously. I can't tell you today when we are going to be having our next meeting but these people work together closely at the administrative level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 063 - 1(5): Capital Contributions for Heritage Centres

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today will be for the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Speaker, last fall, during the last session, I had asked the minister what type of a response they received for their contributions and grants programs for heritage centres.

I haven't heard any response and I'd like to ask the minister is there an update as to how that program was responded to and the number of applicants that were received and approved under that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the member's question, for the past year we had money available but it wasn't accessed. That's the only response I can give the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the minister indicating that no one applied for any of that funding that, under that program, the heritage centre capital grants and contributions. That the department received no applications for that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were some applications that were submitted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I asked before, one, were there any applications that were approved under this funding. If so, where and how much they were for. Would the minister commit to providing that information to this House for members to review.

I know it was an issue that the members were concerned about last fall. I have been patiently awaiting this type of information. Would the minister be willing to provide the information on people that have applied, the number of people that applied to the program, the number of applications that were approved.

How much was approved and where was it approved. Also, the ones that weren't approved as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I learned last time I got the same response to commit that information without the time frame. Maybe if I could ask the minister if he could be more specific as to when that information will be provided because Mr. Speaker, I asked the same question in October and still haven't got the answer.

So I'd like to ask the minister if he could give us a specific date as to when that information could be provided to members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can provide that information before this session is over. I don't have specific dates, but it could be before we finish this sitting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 064 - 1(5): Positions Filled in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. I want to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Health & Social Services. They have an office in Kugluktuk now and an ADM office slated for 14 positions there. Can you update me as to what is happening there. How many positions are filled. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the decentralization plan as the Member for Baker Lake will attest to, is probably showing that decentralization is working, it is a good model to follow. What will be done in Kugluktuk will be like what we did with the Power Corporation in Baker Lake. We held a job fair. We had over 38 people from Kugluktuk who are interested in applying to work with the Department of Health & Social Services.

We have 14 positions that we are trying to fill in there. I believe over half of them will be filled from the people of Kugluktuk. At the present time we require 2-3 individuals from the community. I don't have that information right in front of me. I know we've transferred another three professional positions like the Director for the Social Services Operation Unit that we talked about earlier in the question period.

Telehealth, we'll bring a doctor into Kugluktuk to look after Telehealth and some other operational issues. So Mr. Speaker, the operation in Kugluktuk is moving forward. Again the ADM, Dr. Keith Best who is with me here to join in the Main Estimates has also now moved to Kugluktuk. So that is moving ahead quite well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad it is moving along. You mentioned about half of the positions will be filled by locals. The other half will be I guess professional positions.

Does he have a plan in place where he can have trainee positions in management that he mentioned. So will there be trainee positions in Kugluktuk for those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question. What we did in Baker Lake is we actually ran a training program. We had 16 people on that training program and as soon as the program was over those 16 people went directly to a job. They are working right now for the Power Corporation.

In Kugluktuk, it is a little bit different because we are looking at putting different medical professionals in there. As I talked about earlier Mr. Speaker, we have a doctor that will be going in there to coordinate our Telehealth program.

For the other positions, Mr. Speaker, we are looking at some opportunities for OJT, or On the Job Training, to maximize the potential of working and actually hiring people from Kugluktuk. As the Premier has said Mr. Speaker, the idea is not to take X people from Iqaluit and plant them in Arviat, plant them in Kugluktuk. The idea of decentralization, Mr. Speaker, is to take a job and be able to transfer a position so that someone in the home community can get that job. Whether it be Mr. Tootoo who is over there, or Mr. Akesuk, who is next to me.

Whoever that person is Mr. Speaker, so that they have an opportunity for employment. Not moving a body, but moving a job. That is what we are trying to do in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister was in Kugluktuk last fall I believe, I can't remember exactly. He said to me and to the Mayor that he expected to be fully staffed by, I can't remember the exact month but probably January or February.

Can I get an update as to when he expects to be fully staffed in Kugluktuk. Koanna.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we just held, as I said earlier, the job fair, which was delayed. I want to point out Mr. Speaker, that job fair that we held and the work that we are doing in Kugluktuk, is being co-ordinated through the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Health & Social Services, as well as Nunavut Arctic College.

That job fair was held about two weeks ago, so Mr. Speaker, we would hope that in the next six to eight weeks, that we would actually have the positions in place. For example, one of the positions that I am quite excited about is the position of a specialist in Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit, that will be based in Kugluktuk and that will be a hire from there, that would be helping us with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the Department of Health & Social Services.

So I would fully expect Mr. Speaker, given the timelines to advertise the jobs, given the time to have them in the newspapers and so on, giving people the opportunity to apply for jobs that we would be able to close within six to eight weeks. I understand from some of the information from Kugluktuk and talking to the member, I believe that we have already hired six people already that are moving in transition to Kugluktuk or that are already there for the office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members before we proceed, I would like to recognize a well-known gentleman from Pond Inlet and a former Member of the NWT Legislative Assembly, Elijah Erkloo. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 065 - 1(5): Medical Transportation Contract

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health & Social Services. Mr. Speaker, in the past when we were still under the GNWT, under the Kitikmeot Health Board, patients that were travelling to another area for health reasons, were able to be driven to the airport.

I think it was done through a contract. They were driven from their home to the airport. I would just like to find out how it is set up now.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member might remember that a year ago, Mr. McLean had been asking about, in Baker Lake, an ambulance for Baker Lake and transportation and we had a discussion then about the transportation from a health centre to the airport.

In some cases, Mr. Speaker, and each hamlet is different and each community is different, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, the previous health board had entered into contracts with the hamlets to provide transportation to the airport for patients. In some communities, Mr. Speaker, the health centre has a vehicle and they actually transport the patients themselves.

In other communities Mr. Speaker, there's actually a contract with a private operator in the community to take patients from the health centre where needed to the airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that there is transportation available in the communities. Is that available in the communities. Is that the response I am receiving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the response I am trying to give is that each community is different. I'm not fully aware, I've been in Gjoa Haven, I was there to open up the health centre as the member knows, what the situation in that community is.

But I do know it depends if the health centre doesn't have a vehicle then they usually contract out to either the hamlet, in some cases it's a private contract with a taxi operator for example, or with other vehicles. In some cases they actually transport patients themselves and it depends on each individual circumstance.

If there's a concern Mr. Speaker, in Gjoa Haven that there's no transportation being provided through the health centre and patients are being ill treated because of that Mr. Speaker, then the member could let me know that and I'll look into that specific incident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you for that response. Thank you for clarifying that. The concern, the problem we have in our community is, I have received correspondence from my community and if you could look into this I would appreciate it.

In my community it doesn't seem to be working very well. When a patient is going to be travelling outside of the community, the patient is not taken to the airport or there are no vehicles available to take the individual to the airport.

In the winter it's very hard, especially when you have to bring elders. I appreciate that the minister will look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear a question but I will, Mr. Speaker, confirm that I have staff right now in the building, I'm sure, seconded away in some room listening to these questions and so on.

On the break, Mr. Speaker, I will confer with them and make sure that the information requested goes to them and to the Kitikmeot, and to Gjoa Haven. We'll have the answer Mr. Speaker on Monday at 1.30 p.m. for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 066 - 1(5): Review of Student Financial Assistance

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my question today is to the Minister of Education. Uqaqti, April 1 is coming up pretty soon.

It's the second anniversary of Nunavut. But what I'm getting to here is student financial assistance in Nunavut. Over the last 4-6 months I have been getting e-mails and calls regarding SFA in Nunavut. I have some calls from Inuit students in southern institutions that are having a difficult time making connections and getting help.

I know the minister is committed to helping students because when I call him he gets right back to me. My question to the minister today is, has the minister considered doing a whole overview or doing some consultations with students about restructuring SFA to make it easier. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister for Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact Mr. Speaker, we now have established a student financial assistance team with student representatives and this committee works together in resolving issues relating to students from Nunavut experiencing either difficulties or inconveniences regarding SFA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, restructuring and making things easier for the students and being responsive won't cost the government additional dollars. Is there going to be a review to make it easier for students to inquire about SFA because in the last 3-4 months I had calls from people from the south saying they are having a hard time contacting and getting their applications approved. Is the minister going to review this to make it better. Thank you

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as a matter of fact, that is what the department has been doing with the advisory group and the department has also done extensive consultation to date regarding the need for improvements to the program.

I'll say within the next 6 months you will continue to see improvements made as a result of recommendations by the working group. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 067 - 1(5): Certificate Diploma Program Review

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Education. The education system needs to be improved. There are a lot of dropouts in Nunavut. There are students that are receiving financial assistance that is not enough to keep them going. Mr. Speaker, we encourage people to take on jobs. We have been encouraging bilingual people to apply for positions in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, is the Department of Education going to be conducting a review of this. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member for his question. The Department of Education is working on reviewing the certificate and diploma programs and this has been done for a while now, since January 2000. There's a panel that is working on reviewing the certificates and diploma programs, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the committee has provided recommendations to the minister, will his plan involve the Inuit Employment Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be dealing with this in the Committee of the Whole. If the member does not mind, I could respond to those questions during the Committee of the Whole, if it's okay with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak

Question 068 - 1(3): Akitsiraq Law School Name Change

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Justice regarding an earlier statement. I asked the question at an earlier date regarding what Akitsiraq means, it's the law school that is called Akitsiraq law school.

Perhaps I was just misunderstanding the meaning. I think the title should be changed so that the people of Nunavut are able to understand the meaning because I find it very hard to understand the meaning of Akitsiraq. Are you willing to change it to something else that everyone can understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Nunavut know the title or the name of the law school. They are able to understand, I think if we just leave it the way it is, people will eventually understand what it means. It means an area near Cape Dorset, where a group of elders would get together and deal with disputes and pass judgement on offenders. That's what it means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The word Akitsiraq, I think it's a written error. Akitsiraq, I think they were trying to say Atsiraq. Akitsiraq, doesn't make sense. I think there's a typing error or an error in the written version of the title. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I change it now Mr. Speaker, I think people will get confused because it is recognized now as a title or the name of the law school. I am not going to change it now but later on in the year we can look at it again, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Communities like Kugaaruk which used to be Pelly Bay for many years and Qikiqtarjuaq used to be Broughton Island, now they will have their real names back.

I think, regarding the term that I just talked about, it'll be easier to change it now before too many people get used to that term. That is why I asked this question. The minister has said that he'll be looking into this some time in the future. I will wait for that time and then I will be in support of it. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is no question, just a comment. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 069 - 1(3): Inuit Traditional Regions

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My time finally came. I will direct my question to the Premier regarding the training programs for job placement due to decentralization.

I was wondering if he can consider if it is hard to transfer staff to another community especially when they are taking their training courses, have you ever considered using traditional Inuit regions. For example the Aivilik region includes Repulse Bay, Igloolik and Hall Beach.

When they are saying these communities are part of the Baffin region, it does not make sense. It doesn't reflect the other communities we have, in Inuit terms we have Nattilik. Yes, we do have Kitikmeot but the Nattilik region in a traditional sense is separate.

I was wondering if government could start using these Inuit regions for staffing, for decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are representing all the communities of Nunavut, and these job opportunities have to be available to all the Nunavut regions. We would like to see individuals from those decentralized communities hired but the job opportunities are made available and open to all the Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are in support of keeping job opportunities available to all the Nunavut residents. That wasn't my question. That wasn't what my concern is.

My question is, some people would like to work in a different community but they are strange to the community and they don't know anybody. I was wondering if the government ever considered these aspects for that very reason. What I'm trying to say is that rather than using the government regions, I was wondering if we can utilize the Inuit regions like Tunnuniqusiurmiut, Igloodikmiut, and also Amittuqmiut and Ivalikmiut.

I was wondering if you could consider these regions for training purposes and job opportunities if you can start using these Inuit regions for decentralized jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you can remember it was in Pond Inlet, that we enjoyed very much, Elijah Erkloo who is sitting over there has been very instrumental in working on decentralization and they welcome the decentralized programs.

The communities are in support of that and they will welcome workers from other communities and regions. We're very pleased to see that and we would like to see that happen again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Just a reminder to the members again that first question you preamble. Your sups, get to the question. We have three minutes left and we have members that are just chomping at the bit to get into questioning. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if they can respond to my question. What I'm trying to say is that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit knowledge like the Inuit regions that are adjacent to each other, in the past there were traditional regions, where Inuit of similar cultures, dialects were in a particular region. My question is, can you take that into consideration for job opportunities and training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I hear you. Although we have regions in Nunavut we also have relatives. I have relatives in the High Arctic and Cape Dorset and Taloyoak. Even though we may come from different communities, we do have relations in other regions.

We have not looked at the regions in view of job opportunities and training, especially in the decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 070 - 1(5): Meetings Regarding Manitoba Power Grid

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, I'm pleased to hear the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation make numerous references to Baker Lake about employment opportunities. One of the facts that he wasn't aware of or he might have been aware of is there are fifteen jobs that were filled in Baker Lake by local people.

There were over a hundred and seven applicants and they were good applicants. I know there is a housing crisis in Iqaluit, and if they can't staff positions here I'd be only too happy to accept another fifty or sixty or a hundred jobs in Baker Lake from the capital.

So, my question today Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. We have Mr. Jack Wilkes and a representative from Manitoba Hydro here and I was talking to him last night, but getting straight to the question here.

Has the minister set up any meetings between himself, Minister Salinger, and Minister Friezen in Manitoba to discuss extending the power grid into the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no. I have not had an opportunity to schedule a meeting with the Minister Responsible, Mr. Salinger. I did speak to Jack last night on this topic. It's something that we are planning to do in the upcoming weeks.

I had hoped Mr. Speaker, by way of clarification, they were supposed to be having a trade mission to Nunavut this week by the Manitoba Government. My understanding was I would have an opportunity then to speak to the minister responsible. That has not taken place, I believe it was cancelled, we need to schedule another meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to know, I know we're all under time constraints, we're all very busy in our constituency travelling and he has a large portfolio. Can the minister commit to arranging or setting up a meeting with these individuals from Manitoba in the immediate future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it depends on your definition of what the immediate future is. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker that we're in the middle of our budget session. I'll be here like all the rest of the members. I won't be going anywhere for the next three weeks, I will be home, here while doing the budget.

I would suggest Mr. Speaker probably early April that we would have the opportunity to schedule some meetings, for the minister responsible and myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great, on that, I hate to impose myself but could the minister invite myself and maybe some other Kivalliq MLAs along for this meeting if we can keep our interests all together on this one. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think protocol dictates usually when you are having ministerial meetings, that they specifically be with the minister responsible. However, Mr. Speaker there have been exceptions on one occasion last year, I actually took some of the homeless people with me and Minister Thompson when we met with the Federal Minister responsible. I believe yourself, Mr. Speaker, that you were in that meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I would be interested in having some people from the Keewatin, including Mr. Anawak, Mr. Arvaluk, Ms. Thompson, and of course Mr. McLean. I know the Speaker would want to attend but we have to look at his busy schedule too. I can't speak for him but I would be interested inviting members again, if the Manitoba people would concur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco, for the invite. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's what I like to hear from the minister, that he's prepared to share the information and invite everyone with him. I'm happy to hear that, I would also hope that he would invite the other interested members especially Mr. Arvaluk that represents Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to give the impression that it's going to be some travelling road show. Again, Mr. Speaker, any type of invitation that is made or meetings that are scheduled depend on the good will of both parties. In this case Mr. Speaker, I believe that was the member's final supplementary, question period is over.

Mr. Speaker, I will have an opportunity to review and revisit with the Manitoba people who they would like to see, if it's okay to bring X number of people, I would be open to that. I'm sure Mr. Speaker, that the members would be open to an invitation, and Mr. Speaker you're correct, the member is correct I did forget the member representing Repulse Bay and of course he would be invited too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is on the same subject, when he is going to initiate this meeting and we all show up and I'm sure the minister is going to lead this contingent, that he would also bring up the prospect of alternate sources of energy, hydro, wind, solar and stuff like that and discuss that with his counterpart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. I believe that was your final supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I never said that we would actually travel somewhere. I mean if I had a meeting I would probably invite the minister here to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and have him come here to the capital of Nunavut to discuss things.

Maybe Mr. Speaker I would ask to go to Rankin and meet there in that region. Wherever Mr. Speaker, I will inform the members of that meeting. At the same time Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that I spoke to Jack about last night from Manitoba Hydro, was alternative energy sources, specifically hydroelectric power and the opportunity to export the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. You'll notice that question period is now over. Just before we proceed, on behalf of Mr. Kilabuk, I would like to recognize him, I missed him earlier, Mr. Tommy Evic, a former member of the divisional health board and a resident of Pangnirtung. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker: Continuing with the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 008 - 1(5): Pension Administration Report

Speaker: I have a document that I would like to table. The Pension Administration Report for the year ending March 31, 2000, which is pursuant to the Nunavut Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act.

Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 Appropriation Act 2001-2002. In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 002-1(5), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Mr. Iqaqrialu will be in the chair. Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, members will take a 15 minute break. Lunch will be served upstairs in the Tuktu Room. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>Assembly recessed at 11.49 a.m. and resumed at 12.45 p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you, we have a quorum now and we can go back to Committee of the Whole. I open the floor to the Committee of the Whole.

We were on page 9-8, for the capital spending in the Kitikmeot. Who wants to start. Mr. Havioyak. One moment please. Can you continue with your speech Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to continue with the Education Capital items. That is where we left off yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The member wishes to continue with the Appropriations Act 1, 2001-2002. We are under the Department of Education, Capital Estimates on page 9-8. I would like the committee members to know that under the information items for each of the government departments behind the Capital estimates are the appendices in 20.

You can take a look and see before we go on to the capital estimates. Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk you can move to the witness stand. Thank you, first of all as we are Chairpeople we have our own rules so you should recognize the Chairperson when you speak. Can you introduce your witnesses, Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister, Mr. Moody will not be able to attend the Committee today. He could not change his travel plans. In his place on my left is Ian Rose, who works on legislation in the Department of Education. Further to my left, who has been here with me since the other day is Mr. Levy, who is looking after our capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you want to go clause by clause on these Capital Estimates on 9-8. Kitikmeot, total 7 million 785 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total buildings and works, 29 million 70 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Equipment and acquisitions. Any comments or questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we have gone on to equipment and acquisitions here. I just want to, for my information I guess, ask if there is a policy or guideline that was followed to get to this point. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask him to be more specific. Does he have two questions on the last part on the school busses for two communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: I guess in general on this page. Just for my information, I would like to know if there was a policy in place before these were put into this capital. Koanna.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't understand exactly what he was talking about. For the two school buses we have a policy and we were questioned previously in the Legislative Assembly about whether or not we had a policy to back up these acquisitions. We have a policy on acquisitions for transportation. We always have money set aside in the Education department for school buses.

These buses are designed for kindergarten to grade 12 and will be used for transporting them from home to the school. The policy that is used to acquire these school buses depends on the student ratio to figure out whether those communities do need a school bus. Those were taken care of by the district regional education boards.

They identified their needs so it is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Education. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are speaking to the 29 million 70 thousand dollars. Mr. Havioyak do you have any further questions for the Minister.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You mentioned the student ratio. Could I get information on that one. What you meant by ratios. What's the ratio, I guess, in general.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The factors that I gave in my response, current funding is based on the average school size and the community distance between home and the school factor. Attached to that there is also a student dollar amount, a per student dollar amount in the formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dollar amounts. Students. Are you saying there's a dollar and then you divide by the number of students. Is that what you meant. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the formula that we use to determine if a community qualifies to acquire these assets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: I'm not sure if I'm getting the answer. Maybe just for example to make it clearer. Let's say one student per, and you got so many dollars is that, I'm not sure I'm

getting the message. Maybe it's me not getting it but I'm just saying for one student you have so many dollars. I'm not getting it clear. I'm sorry Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said yesterday, the formula used for the acquisition of equipment, it's very difficult to understand exactly. If it's okay with you Mr. Chairman I'd like to have my staff member answer this question.

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

Mr. Levy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The formula as the minister has mentioned is complicated. It has a combination of factors in it. One of them is the number of kindergarten to grade 12 students in the community. Another is the average school size, meaning there's, depending on the numbers, it is designated as a small or a medium or a large school.

There's also a community distance factor which means the distance between the school and what's considered the outskirts of town and, as the minister also mentioned, there's a per dollar student figure. But all of those are measured together and depending on the combination of those four factors, you may or may not get a contribution for busing.

For example, I was asked for an example. A small community like Grise Fiord, because of the small size that would cancel out continuing with the formula and adding up the number of students and using that per dollar figure. So, all of those factors together are considered and that is what is then contributed to the region for re-distribution for busing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Levy. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you for the answer. Maybe I should leave it here. Maybe we can discuss it further in your business plan. It was just brought to my attention, but maybe we'll go into more details then from there so I will leave it at that. Just for clarification too I guess. Are these new budgets for the community or are they for replacements.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are to replace the old buses, these two buses are too old and they're going to be replaced because of their age. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to sound like I am against these projects, I am for it. I am just trying to get information here. Just a comment I guess. The two communities already have buses, whereas the other communities don't have any

buses at all at this point. I guess I'm just trying to say there are also other communities that are requesting buses and here we are replacing the two in those communities, but which is okay.

But in the future I'm, just for the record, for you to think about, maybe go to every community first before you go getting a replacement. Koanna.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the member's comment. We are just replacing two old buses and I understand his comment. We'll keep that in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. We got the funding formulas for Nunavut K-12 students' transportation. Regular busing includes and it includes school busing. In my community, it's a private contract providing the service and he provided excellent service to date. There was always an issue, like safety, temperature extremes, hours of daylight and the hazards such as rabid foxes, wolves, you know and things like that.

Is the formula equal in every community in Nunavut, this policy, is every community in Nunavut treated equally according to this formula. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we treat all the communities the same when we're setting up the formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, we'll probably be discussing buses for a bit. You said earlier that it depends on how many students there are. So how many students would the school need to have before a school gets a bus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Just to clarify. We look at the school, the size of the school, the distance from the school to the general area of population, and the student ratio is what we look at Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Seven million 785 thousand dollars was approved under Kitikmeot region and then we went onto equipment acquisition. We are under total buildings and works, 29 million 70 thousand dollars.

We need to approve it before we go on. Is it agreed. We have a couple of people that would like to say something. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity. The money that will be spent on equipment. Is that money allocated from the capital estimates. Where does that money come from.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is from the surplus. The money comes from the surplus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on total buildings and works, 29 million 70 thousand. That is what we are dealing with. If you have any questions regarding the total buildings and works. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): The 29 million 320 thousand dollars. Total capital expenditures. I would like to ask a question under that item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Seven million 785 thousand was approved. We were moving on to the next area. If you want to be clear about where we are at, please stay in the House. Total buildings and works, 29 million 70 thousand dollars. Do you agree with the 29 million 70 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Okay. Equipment acquisition. Total 250 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you were just asking if we, was it 9-5. I apologize Mr. Chairman. Under 9-8 you were asking about 29 million. Do I understand clearly that needs to be approved before we move on.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total buildings and works, 29 million 70 thousand. The total capital expenditures are 29 million 320 but we're not there yet, so we're now on equipment acquisitions. Total equipment acquisitions, 250 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turn the page, 9.9. Are there any questions, we'll go back to 9.5. Education Program summary, detail of expenditures. Total capital expenditures, 29 million 320 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Capital Estimates for Education. Department of Education for 2001-2002. It's completed. Do you agree to start the main estimates. Main Estimates 2001-2002 on page 9-5. Details of expenditures. We'll move onto 9-6. Education Branch summary, total operations and maintenance, 736 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any questions or comments. James.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I'm going to be asking a question under this item. Maybe I should ask under 9.10 but if I make a mistake, you could correct me.

During the opening remarks the minister did not talk about income support. The Income Support program, when they work through the hamlets, I think they provide 75% under the CIP with the Department of Sustainable Development. Has there been a review under Department of Education to assist students, to have student summer programs, has there been a review done on having students working instead of just getting income support.

Chairperson (interpretation): It would be best to ask those questions, when we get to that area. So if you have a question, when we get to that area, please raise it. I think your question would fall on page 9-10.

You could bring that question up when we get to that area. We are on 9-6, total operations and maintenance, 736 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 736 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under contract services there's no money allocated for contract services. Why would that be, Mr. Chairman, that's my question.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract services aren't provided under this department or under this area. So that's why it wouldn't be included. It's done in a different area. You'll be able to see it on a different page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Kilabuk. We are now 9-6, 736 thousand has been approved. Turn the page. Education branch summary. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 905 thousand dollars. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the year 2001-2002, under contract services. There's a figure of 154 thousand dollars. I was wondering Mr. Chairman, if I could ask a question.

For the communities that don't have school busing for the students, if the private businesses in the communities have a vehicle available would your department be able to lease from these private people. We could use their vehicles for school busing. Would you allow that in the communities where there are no busing services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if we can look further under contract services, I don't think it's in this category, the member is asking a question which is not under this category. When we reach that category if he can ask that question then and I'll answer him.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Are you done. Yes, we're on total operations and maintenance, 1 million 905 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Expenditures, 1 million 905 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): This page 9-8 is an information item. Any comments or questions on page 9-8. Just a minute. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think we are finished the capital items. I wonder if I could have my other officials here at the witness table for operations and maintenance.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Kilabuk. I give you my permission. At this time we will take a 5 minute break. So that he can get his other officials prepared and come to the witness table. Five minute break.

>>*Short recess*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We can start now. We now have a quorum. At this time Minister Kilabuk, you now have new officials at the witness table. Could you introduce them to us please.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. Just this winter in the year 2000, we hired a Manager of Financial Planning. Since he has been hired, he has helped us tremendously with the finances. Bob Loehr is on my left hand side and he'll be assisting us, replacing Lorne Levy. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. At this time we are on page 9-8. Information item. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are going on to the next page. Education branch summary. Corporate services. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 671 thousand dollars. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I just wondered, is this where we can bring some issues up on the community libraries or the school libraries.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): If we are on page 9-9, on the previous page 9-8, grants and contributions, the library services were under grants and contributions on the previous page. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Your question was on page 9-8 on the previous page. Would you like to make another comment Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: No, I'll get back to it. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): In order to proceed properly, please pay attention to the pages or else we'll go back and forth. When we do go back and forth the meeting goes longer and longer. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Education branch summary. Corporate services on page 9-9. I am going to ask a question on this page. How do you do your planning. Specifically, how you do budget for the department. I was wondering if the minister could respond to that. I am seeking more information. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We review what happened in the previous year and estimate expenditures for the next.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where it says project management. (interpretation ends) It is not really on a dollar figure but the planning and the management itself.

The reason I'm asking this question is when we were going through the capital items earlier on, I noticed some of the things that were brought to your department for example, maybe it's the same thing with the other departments. When I look at the 5-year Capital Plan, it seems to me that when the item is not there, it seems to me to you put it aside as if you are not going to see it again. Like we talked yesterday, the planning and the management, I guess I'm just saying how does that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak, although I did not quite understand your question I'll allow Minister Kilabuk to respond. I'm sure he understood your question. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we had discussed this yesterday, I can try and elaborate on it further if that is what you want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Havioyak do you have any further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: When you are planning, I just want to make sure that any items that are brought to your attention from any communities are there. Are they in fact there in your planning. When I say management, I'm sure you have some items in your file saying these are the things that were brought up by that community and I just don't want you to forget that part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said yesterday, every time new things come up we put them in our new database. All the requests and future requests are not going to be just set aside. They will be put into the database. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Kilabuk. On the top of your pages there's detailed information and you could look at that and we will proceed more smoothly. It usually states up at the top what it's going to be used for. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 671 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under information technology, perhaps if I could ask a question. The schools now have computers available. If I could ask that question, how many schools in Nunavut have email in their computers. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, James. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the schools now have computers, some of us, for example, sometimes they have problems connecting outside of their communities but they all do have email. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the schools now have computers I think we now understand that the majority of the smaller communities now have their own satellite dishes in their homes. Has your department considered working together with the internet providers to see if we can get communities connected to the government e-mail, for example by using Northwestel's satellite dish.

Have you discussed this matter with all the communities, so they can have Internet access. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to your question, the Nunavut Government has worked together with the Department of Public Works to make sure that the schools in Nunavut have the required technology.

Some of the communities do have problems because some of them cannot get access and some the problem areas are because they don't have the required technical support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I understand that, thank you for your response. My question is, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Works or the hamlet councils, are they working together so that the schools can get connected to the information highway, not only for schools but for the public. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have a plan but I cannot go through it in detail at this point and I apologize to the member. There will be nothing available until all the planning has been completed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know whether this is a question or not but it's partially that the computers for example if you're from Iqaluit the access to the Internet is very good for the students. You can also get hooked up through television.

We look for activities that the youth can access in order to keep them busy. For example, we build arenas or community halls and we also know that having access to the Internet is one thing that youth are very interested in.

The government has realized that, so is your department going to work harder so that all the Nunavut communities can have access to the Internet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to have you think that we are going to have everything available, but I can use as an example, the Gates Foundation were here recently and they said they wanted to provide support.

We asked the Gates Foundation just recently to see if we can get computers into the communities. We are waiting for a response and once we get a response we will inform the members. This is just one of the things that we are trying to do so that communities will have access to this information technology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 671 thousand dollars. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: It went up a little over 200 thousand. Just curious, are you hiring more staff in that area. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a slight increase in income and benefits and an increase in the number of employees because of a transfer. I think there are two permanent employees in Rankin Inlet and also a finance person in Arviat and one in human resources in Iqaluit and also in the finance department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question on your organizational chart. Are you saying that they were not hired last year but you are hiring them this year. If you look at your organizational chart, was it there before or is this an addition to your organization chart. I am just curious. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a decrease in 2000-2001 and this has been added back on to this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Okay, added on, so what you are saying, it was not in your organizational chart last year. Is that what you are saying. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, my finance director will give you details on this issue. If that's okay with you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. That's it. I apologize, I didn't hear you. Mr. Loehr.

Mr. Loehr: Mr. Chairperson, the three positions added to Corporate Services were removed last year, they were not funded last year. They were in the organization chart, but not funded and we replaced them this year.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 671 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this Corporate Services area, I am looking at the definition of what it does. From looking at it and guessing, or if you ask the minister, some of the areas that are covered off in this branch of the department, are they some of the functions that were previously provided by the divisional education councils. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Corporate Services, they did not come from the previous divisional educational councils. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wasn't inquiring as to if any of the people came from the divisional education councils. I was just wondering if some of the functions performed under that division were functions previously carried out by the divisional education councils. I hope that makes it a little clearer for the minister and his staff to be able to answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I didn't understand your question. Some of the programs have been taken on from the previous divisional education councils. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm wondering, I don't know if you can do it just in one area but overall, you know, the rationale behind the dissolution of the Boards was to be able to create some savings for the department, you know and being able to use that money to put into the classrooms where it's needed.

I am just wondering, of how many PYs the department had prior to the divisional boards being dissolved compared to the number of PYs that it has now. You know has there been a significant decrease in the number of people, have you realized those savings as a result of decreased staff or if you can just, if a lot of those functions fall in this area, I would guess that's where those savings were. I was just wondering, when you see the numbers going up, I was just wondering where the savings were being realized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Myself and my officials, at this time we do not have the information that you are requesting but I will agree to have it researched and then available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to seeing that analysis of the savings and if it could show exactly what we had, what we have now, this is where we saved money. I'd love to see that and hopefully I won't have to wait till next session. Final question, Mr. Haviyok briefly kind of touched on it, it was under the compensation and benefits, is that figure that's there, the budgeted amount, based on that being 100% staffed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be completing them, and expect them to be ready in the next month. Going back briefly one of the member's comments regarding the dissolution of the divisional education boards and the savings that were forecast. The other point for doing it was to have a closer linkage to the communities. I just wanted to remind the member about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I realize that also one of the other goals of the dissolution of the boards was to be able to have the ability to transfer more authority, responsibility, to the community to the local DEAs to assist more directly with the department in being able to run the schools in their communities.

But I'd still like to ask the minister to answer whether the 1 million 76 thousand dollars under compensation and benefits, if that amount, if the budgeted amount is based on 100% staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the budget we're basing that on 100% occupancy.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can the minister indicate at what percentage of capacity they are at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my expert in that area to speak to that, if it's okay with the chair. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Which one. Mr. Loehr.

Mr. Loehr: Mr. Chairman, we have 11 positions, we have 9 staffed right now. We expect to staff two new positions in April with the approval of the budget.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Loehr. Any further questions. If there are no further questions. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 601. James.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's 2 o'clock. I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is 2 o'clock and the motion is not debatable. You can go get the Speaker now. I would like to thank you very much Minister of Education, we have not completed your department and we will see you again, shortly. Thank you very much Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you because there's not much choice here, and I would also like to thank my officials for being here with me, and also the other staff that were here with us in previous days. We have heard your questions and it reminds us again of our responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. You can go get the Speaker now.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report Bill 1 is still under consideration and would like to report progress. And, Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Mr. Nutarak. Seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on Monday at 9 o'clock in the morning.

Orders of the Day for Monday March 5, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 2001-2002
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. That concludes the business for the day, the House will adjourn until March 5 at 1:30. I'd like to wish all the members good luck in the hockey game against the Junior Girls. The game is at 5:30.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*Assembly adjourned at 2.06 p.m.*

