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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday March 7, 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 Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, Mr. Premier and members. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day. I am hoping that before the day is out, I will have the information to provide a ruling on the Point of Order that was raised in yesterday's meeting, in Committee of the Whole.

So hopefully we'll have that the before the day is out. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 023 - 1(5): Community Economic Development and Development Corporations

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker I want to bring to the attention of this House, a community economic development project initiative by the people of Clyde River.

(interpretation ends) Two years ago the Department of Sustainable Development was asked to support the creation of a community development corporation in Clyde River.

This form of community-based business has been used only once or twice before in Nunavut and my department agreed to support the Clyde River proposal as a pilot project.

The Aaruja Development Corporation of Clyde River was incorporated in 1999. The Board established challenging but realistic goals. To quote from Aaruja business plan:

“The Corporation can be the main force for economic development within Clyde River, creating and keeping many millions of dollars that would otherwise be lost and/or never generated in the community”.

Today the Aaruja Development Corporation of Clyde River has developed a retail food store, a fast food service, successfully completed a major contract to improve the road to the airport, and the company leases and operates a hotel.

The Aaruja Development Corporation is profitable and there are plans for future expansions, including heavy equipment contracts and the establishment of a mini mall that will house other community businesses and organizations. When these plans are in place, Aaruja will create or maintain at least 24 jobs for community residents and they expect more jobs and income opportunities from future contracts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Department of Sustainable Development has been able to support this community economic development initiative and contribute to its success.

Economic development depends on partnership between community initiatives and a responsive territorial government. The progress of Aaruja Development Corporation in Clyde River over the past two years shows what can be accomplished when the community and the government work together towards a common goal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the board and staff of the Aaruja Development Corporation of Clyde River for their vision and for their ability to follow through on that vision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. If there are no further Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 081 - 1(5): Gjoa Haven to Taloyoak Sled Dog Race

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the people of my community, in particular the members of the David Kaviqatak Board of Directors.

Mr. Speaker, the David Kaviqatak Board is in place to promote the usage of husky dog teams. They will be having a race from Uqsuqtuq to Taloyoak and return. This event will be held around the Easter holidays in April 2001.

Mr. Speaker, my constituency has numerous husky dog teams and they have been used for polar bear sports hunts. But today since they are not being used for polar bear hunts

due to the recent quota reduction, the owners want to keep them active. They want to promote the proper maintenance and usage of dogs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my constituents are keeping the tradition of using husky dog teams alive. With that in mind Mr. Speaker, during question period I will be directing questions on this subject to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 082 - 1(5): Building a Solid Foundation

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say something from my own personal point of view. Firstly, I want to say that it is an honour for me to participate in this session.

During the session, I see that we are progressing very well. I would like to see our territory well planned for the future and also for our children. We were making plans for the progress of our children and ourselves.

In order to do that there has to be good communication between us. This is the way we were brought up traditionally, when we were still with our parents, and that is why we are doing well today. I was elected to represent my communities of Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay, and I would like to say thank you to the people of my constituency. I hope to see us have a solid foundation for the children of tomorrow. That is what I wanted to say, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 083 - 1(5): Igloolik Nurses Overworked

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today representing the people of my constituency of Igloolik. I was called this morning by a member of the community and was told how the nurses are being overworked.

There are only three nurses in the community of Igloolik for over one thousand residents. The person who called me this morning told me that the health centre was occasionally closed during the day because they have worked all night the previous evening.

In order to get the nurses a rest during these periods, they are only open for emergency cases. With that in mind, I will be directing questions to the Minister of Health & Social Services during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 084 - 1(5): Alookie School Letter Exchange

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about a letter that I received from the grade 5 students at Alookie School in Pangnirtung.

I will read the contents. (interpretation ends) "We the grade 5 class of Alookie School are doing a letter exchange program with a school in Clovertown, Newfoundland. While we are doing this project we were asked if you were sitting in a sealskin chair given to the Nunavut Legislature by the Province of Newfoundland".

They say this project will last until the end of March. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the receipt of this letter and say a big thank you to Gina Mary Akulukjuk, Amie Pia Alivaqtaq, Rita Susie, Patrick Naujuk, Levi N, Geela Mosesee, Geela Keenainak, Patrick Evic, Paul, Dennis, Alex and Paul Metuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 085 - 1(5): Appreciation to RCMP

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were growing up in the 1950s, 1960's we had no idea that one day some of us would become lawmakers.

There was a time then, when we first started working with the RCMP. There were some difficult times, but as community residents and legislators, we now have a much better working relationship with them and I would like to express my appreciation to them.

When we were younger, as Inuit, we were somewhat afraid of them. Perhaps we did not appreciate the fact that they were just people like ourselves. We are now working well with them today and we all hope that this continues.

In the past, we used to look at the RCMP as people that take people into jail but...(interpretation ends)...Mr. Speaker, as I was just saying in Inuktitut, when we first came in contact with the RCMP, our relationship was not always at it's best in the past.

But it's improved an awful lot over the years, to the point where I've always sort of considered them unsung heroes for doing the kind of work they do in our communities, without asking for a lot in return.

I think it's important for us to continue that very good working relationship we have with the RCMP, by making sure that they understand how profoundly sorry we are for the incident that occurred just recently.

I would just like to again reiterate as a member who, having grown up in the '50's and the '60's where our relationships were quite different and today the relationship is now very, very good with members, especially up here with our Premier the Minister of Justice.

I just want to reiterate the importance of ensuring that we continue the good work that the RCMP has been doing with the people of Nunavut as well as and in conjunction with the Nunavut Government.

I just cannot emphasize enough the need to keep that good working relationship in order to make Nunavut a better place to live. Qujannamiik.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 086 - 1(5): Cecil Clarke's Election to Nova Scotia Legislature

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a former Iqaluit resident and my 1995 campaign organizer, Cecil Clarke, won a convincing mandate in a provincial by-election in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Clarke defeated, I'm sorry to say Mr. Speaker, his Liberal opponent and the Nova Scotia NDP leader, in winning his mandate in Cape Breton North. Known as an animated and loud speaker by the Nova Scotia press, Cecil brings with him his Nunavut experience to the Nova Scotia Legislature.

On behalf of my family and Cecil's many Iqaluit friends like Hughie McLellan and Sue Coogan and many more, Mr. Speaker, we would like to wish the best for Cecil in his new role. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 087 - 1(5): William Noah's Art Exhibit in Phoenix Arizona

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Baker Lake drawings featured in the Arizona Museum - Baker Lake's William Noah builds an Inukshuk in the American Southwest".

Drawings of bannock, animals, Arctic landscapes, and Inuit traditions are currently on display at a museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

The exhibition, "Qammaniqjuaq - Where the River Widens", drawings by Baker Lake's artists is a collection of 77 drawings by Inuit artists. The Qammaniqjuaq show includes the works of William Noah, his three siblings and his mother Jessie Oonark a renowned print-maker.

Other artists for Baker Lake have their drawings featured at the Herd Museum in Phoenix as well. Noah said that he tries to reflect the Inuit way of life in his drawings. He said one drawing of a picture of bannock and a cup of tea tries to capture the friendliness and welcoming nature of Inuit.

Each drawing in the exhibit comes with a description of its history or meaning. In this way, Noah said people get a clearer image of Inuit culture and Nunavut landscapes. "I guess most people have no idea how we used to live and how we live now. It is a great privilege for me explain all this in my drawings", he said.

Noah, who concentrates on drawings and oil painting, has been heavily involved in that art scene for quite some time. For the past 5 years, he's traveled with exhibitions of Inuit art. Now he is one of curators of the Qammaniqjuaq exhibit. The drawings in the exhibit illustrate the interconnection between three elements, family, animals and the spirit world.

The Herd museum, widely known for it's native art, will feature the Baker Lake drawings. The drawings are originally from a collection at the McDonald Stuart Art Centre in Guelph Ontario. Along with the Baker Lake drawings, the museum is featuring an Inukshuk designed by Noah.

The Inukshuk, which stand about 4 meters high, is permanently installed on the grounds of the museum. Noah traveled to Phoenix early this spring to design the Inukshuk. It took two and a half days to construct. Noah said the light brown coloured rocks used for the structure came from the countryside in Arizona.

Noah supervised the project as a group of men actually drilled the rock together. Noah said he had mixed feelings about building an Inukshuk in the United States. Noah said he thinks the Inuit drawings and the Inukshuk will help cultures in other countries have an appreciation for Inuit people.

It is like closing the gap between Inuit and non-Inuit, Canadians and Americans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Congratulations to my friend William Noah. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. If there are no further Members' Statements we will move on. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize and welcome His Worship John Matthews, the mayor of the capital of Nunavut. Welcome to the legislature.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery Mr. Mayor. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 083 - 1(5): Property Tax Rebate in Inuktitut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, property tax notices have arrived in mailboxes all across Nunavut to homeowners.

As the minister is aware, senior citizens and disabled people are eligible to apply for a property tax rebate. However, I haven't seen the applications in Inuktitut. Can the minister advise me if they are in Inuktitut. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know but I could commit that if they are not, we will ensure that they are available in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good that the minister is committed to looking into that. My supplementary to that is, who can unilingual Inuktitut speaking people contact to get assistance in dealing with the paperwork for this program. Does the department have a number that people can contact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. Probably their local MLA or the offices of the local MLA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got on the phone and I did call the office and it was a unilingual English speaking person that answered the phone. I asked that exact question. They said that they would call me back about the forms.

Can the minister when he is inquiring about this really emphasize that most people that are seniors in Nunavut are unilingual speaking and that they need this Inuktitut speaking person to help in filling in the forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Minister Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a very good point. Thank you.

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

Question 084 - 1(3): Igloolik Health Centre Staffing Shortage

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. If a community has a population of over one thousand people, how many nurses are required in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there isn't a ratio as such in place saying that if a community has X number of people that they should have a certain number of nurses. It depends on each community, Mr. Speaker, on the caseload of each community and the sickness and the status of the community itself. That's the basis for nursing staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that response, I'd like to ask, in Igloolik, some of the nurses are overworked and because there is a lot of illness, would he be willing to send in an extra nurse over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the answer is yes.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When would he be sending an extra nurse over to Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, for Igloolik, we have 6 staff positions, there's 4 community health nurses, there's one supervisor of health of programs that's also a nurse and it is my understanding also Mr. Speaker, we have a regional nurse that could be based out of Igloolik.

The member raised a good point earlier in his statement about the situation of overwork of the health centre staff and I've sent a note upstairs Mr. Speaker, to check the staff to see exactly what we can do to help alleviate that situation in Igloolik, as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First he agreed to send a nurse over to Igloolik and now he is going to look into this, could he clarify his response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I just said, when I heard the member's statement, I asked the department to look at the situation right now in Igloolik, and based on operational requirements, put a nurse in there if there is a problem with stressing.

I haven't heard that. I haven't had any communications from Igloolik, no one from the department has contacted me. So Mr. Speaker, that's the first time we've heard it, if there is an operational requirement, then we will put a nurse in Igloolik. That's what we'll do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 085 - 1(3): Funding Assistance for Sled Dog Races

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier I talked about the dog team owners' organization in my community.

I would like to direct this question to the Community Government & Transportation Minister. I have not really dealt with this before and therefore do not know the history on whether they have ever received assistance.

I have been given a letter from my community to see if they can get funding to help them out with the activities I talked about in my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is an organization that represents dog team owners and we contribute funding of approximately 13 thousand 800 a year. I am aware that they raise their own funding also.

I believe we have also contributed some funds for the Rankin Inlet dog team racing organization and I think there was some money given to the Igloolik dog racing organization that are organizing the major race that one of our colleagues talked about the other day, although I'm not really sure exactly how much.

If the member wants to pursue funding for the event he talked about, we can explore that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received a fax from the dog team organization in my community and the board of directors has started their membership and they have been having dog races for quite some time now.

They have been trying to fundraise by themselves to operate their organization. They have said that they have collected some money through fundraising but that money is not going to be enough and they wanted to request some funding through me from the government.

Their goal is to raise 25 thousand dollars, they have collected some but they have not reached the amount yet. So they have requested that I ask the minister if they can get some funding before April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was chuckling a bit because when I was about sixteen or seventeen years old, I used to be involved in dog team racing, but for very short distances within a community. Today they go from one community to another, involving very long distances.

I just wanted to tell the member we feel that, events like these dog team races, are very important to us. I will check my department and I will inform the member as to where he can get some information for funding. However, I just wanted to tell the member that I feel that this kind of recreation is important to the community and we will give them information as to who to talk to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

The dog team race will be around Easter weekend and even perhaps before that. We would be very happy to receive some money from you at that time, we will jump up and down for joy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll try to make him jump up and down, just before Easter.

>> *Laughter*

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

Question 086 - 1(5): Allocation of Fuel Subsidies

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a question to the Minister of Finance and I wanted to ask him some questions yesterday but I didn't have time.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Finance. Since there has been an increase in the price of fuel oil and subsidies are being handed out to individuals, I think it would be better off that instead of subsidies to the individuals perhaps it would be better if the high cost of fuel oil was lowered instead. I wondered if there's going to be something done like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a good point and in fact the Department of Community Government and Transportation had allocated some additional funding to the municipalities in this current fiscal year and also put in their additional amounts in the upcoming budget here that we are reviewing now for increased O&M costs for municipalities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's okay to give subsidies to each community but I know that the subsidy program will no longer be in existence next year.

I know that everything is going to be increasing in price not just fuel. However, I believe that in the long run it would be better if the price of fuel were lowered instead of subsidies. I wonder if that would be agreeable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact there is in the current structure of the petroleum division, that's why we have the stabilization fund to try and mitigate any sharp increases or decreases in oil prices as we receive the fuel oil for distribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is something like that already could that stabilization fund be increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the stabilization fund hasn't been increased, in fact that was one of the reasons why we implemented some adjustments to the fuel oil prices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not seen anything in the paper that states that it's a stabilization fund that lowers the cost of fuel. I have not seen anything of that kind that has benefited the people of Nunavut. I just wondered if he could explain a little further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members know on a couple of occasions when the fuel price increase was put in effect by the government, there was great detail of discussion took place about the whole petroleum products division. The amount of subsidies, stabilization fund and all aspects of petroleum products.

I would anticipate once the Public Works budget comes forward again that there would be more discussions on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 087 - 1(5): Rent Scale Review

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. There was a housing task force that was established to look into all aspects of housing.

I think there were 15 recommendations that the housing task force produced, and they talked about the rental scale review. Has the review been done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I had a recent question about this. I responded by saying that the Nunavut Housing Corporation wrote the local housing associations in every community asking for input.

We also did a review of all types of rental housing in Canada and elsewhere. On March 19th in Rankin Inlet, we will be holding a meeting of all the local housing authorities' Chairs and our staff. In that workshop and in the conference that they are going to have they are going to be talking about the rent scales in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you have said they'll be meeting in Rankin Inlet with the Chairs of the housing associations, are you going to come up with the results after your Rankin Inlet meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to hear from the Nunavut residents as to what they think of this issue and we have to consult with them on where we are. We have to get a clear understanding from them. So after the meeting in Rankin Inlet, I will be able to share the results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps when we come back for the fall session. Is that the time that you would be tabling the minutes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be able to pass the information on to the members if we are not in session. If we are in session, my department will prepare something for the MLAs to review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 088 - 1(5): St. Theresa's Home in Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The long standing home for the disabled in Chesterfield Inlet, who is running it now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I'm going to say that, I want to thank on behalf of the people of Nunavut the service the Catholic Church has

given to the people of Chesterfield Inlet and also the people of Nunavut in the running of St. Theresa's home. In January of this year, I received communication from the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet telling me the Catholic Church as of March 31, April 1 of this year will be pulling out of running Saint Theresa's Home.

We've had ongoing discussions, are undergoing discussions with the most reverend Bishop Rouleau for the diocese about trying to get a contract extension with him for the next six months to a year, to be able to do a proper evaluation of the facility, the physical infrastructure on the ground. As well as how we can best serve the patients and that I guess, Mr. Speaker is the major concern for us, for the patients to make sure that they're treated properly and to see where we go with that.

We put approximately 900 thousand dollars, I believe Mr. Speaker, into running that facility at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that April 1 is coming very shortly, it's only about three weeks away. How are you proceeding on these negotiations, will you be extending it for another six months to a year. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there are several factors here, one being the age of the facility. It is quite an old facility and although it's structurally very sound, it is not up to code. If the Government of Nunavut, it is my understanding if the Government of Nunavut, if I go in there and take over the facility immediately and run it as a government facility then it has to be brought up to code.

It seems to be cost prohibitive, so that kind of work has to be undertaken right now by Public Works and Services. We've had discussions with Bishop Rouleau, he's favourable to the request to extend the running, the Catholic Church running the facility in the short term for at least six months.

We're trying to get some discussions ongoing to see if we could do it longer than that, to give us an opportunity, to give us that window, to actually get a better feel of logistically as well as administratively and financially, what we could do to help out the facility itself. Bishop Rouleau is very, my understanding is very open to that. Yesterday in discussions with the operational, to the Deputy of Minister, doctor Keith Best, he's been in contact with Bishop Rouleau.

Late yesterday afternoon, he was supposed to speak to him on the phone. I haven't had an update since yesterday, but the discussions to date have been favourable that indeed Bishop Rouleau will help us run the facility for at least the next six months.

We are trying to get an extension for at least a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. Since this building is very old, if it needed to be replaced and Chesterfield Inlet residents are requesting that this facility stay in the community because it creates job opportunities and that they would like to use this for training purposes.

Can the minister tell me even if you're going to replace that facility, would you be committed to leave it in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the facility is owned by the diocese. It's not owned by the government. We provide a contribution agreement to help with the running of the facility. As the member knows, we have several patients in there. It's a residential care facility for severely developmentally delayed adults and children.

I do know there's an economic impact for the community of Chesterfield Inlet, I believe there's six to eight full time positions, as well as about 300 thousand dollars that's pumped directly into Chesterfield Inlet through groceries, for buying things and so on for the facility. So it would be a major economic impact.

That's why we're requesting Bishop Rouleau to give us some extra time to be able to look at the situation on the ground to see what the best situation is to move forward. Like I said if the government takes it over, preliminary results from the Department of Public Works tells us that it would be cost prohibitive to actually renovate the facility.

I don't have any monies as the members know, in the capital plan for a new facility there. That's something that we would have to look at depending on what the evaluation is and how the discussions go with the Bishop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, quite clearly, the facility is old, so if we could get a one-year extension in the contract it would be great. We don't have the money right now to build a new one in Chesterfield Inlet. With the understanding that it has an economic impact especially through employment and grocery shopping etc., is the minister saying to me that because of these prohibitive, no financing for capital to replace it, is he saying to me that they will have to find another readily available facility now elsewhere in Nunavut. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker that's a good question. Mr. Speaker, as I've tried to explain we were only notified about six weeks ago at the end of

January, and it was actually not correspondence directly from the Bishop but from the secretary manager from the Hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet in a fax to my office that indeed they were looking at pulling out of that facility.

So in that six weeks period I've asked for an evaluation from PWS which has been done. A preliminary one. We're trying to look at the budgets, we've been in discussions with Bishop Rouleau and Mr. Speaker, again, we understand the economic impact on Chesterfield Inlet. The short answer right now is we are trying to get an extension on the contract from Bishop Rouleau for them to continue the running of the operation for at least six months.

We are hoping to try and get a year so that we can do a proper evaluation to see what the next steps are and we would be involving the member representing Chesterfield Inlet in those discussions and I will keep him up to date as we move forward. I guess the short answer Mr. Speaker, is that in the short term nothing is going to change in Chesterfield Inlet or for the patients, which is our major concern.

If we have to bring the facility to a closure and the funds weren't available and so on Mr. Speaker, then we will identify other locations for example, Baker Lake where we have a similar facility where we would be able to wrap up to take care of those patients. Again Mr. Speaker, our major concern right now is with the patients and with the operation of the facility itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Oral Questions. That was your final supplementary Mr. Arvaluk, next time. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 089- 1(5): Inuktitut Forms in Baffin Regional Hospital

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Health & Social Services.

Here at the Baffin Regional Hospital, I visit up there quite a few times and many times when I'm visiting up there they use me as their interpreter/translator. When are you going to translate the consent forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have several different types of consent forms. I wonder if the member could specifically tell me which of the consent forms that she has been dealing with have not been translated so we can get some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The majority of the patients are Inuit people. Why don't you have all the documents that have to be signed by patients translated. When do you expect to have them completed. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health & Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are several different forms. When you do the admission form Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that is translated. Mr. Speaker, when you arrive first to the hospital you meet the receptionist at the desk.

She finds your health card number and provides that information if it is a bilingual person. I myself was at the hospital two nights ago until about 12 o'clock. I had to bring my sister in law there so I am aware of that situation Mr. Speaker, and my wife was there recently.

On the ward Mr. Speaker, depending on what medication is given to the patient, if there is a medical procedure that has to be done that is communicated both verbally and in written form.

However, Mr. Speaker, the member does make a good point. If there are forms that are being used at the hospital that are not being translated at the present time Mr. Speaker, then they should be translated and we will see to that as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I think those forms should have been done a long time ago. There are the prescription forms, there are the consent forms that are used for surgery and treatment.

I think that all forms should be translated and I thank you for looking into it right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. This is the Government of Nunavut and we have been in place since 1999, and if there are forms that need to be signed by residents of Nunavut then they should be translated Mr. Speaker, into Inuktitut. We will see to that immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 090- 1(5): Term Employment on Geo-science Project

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct this question to the department of Sustainable Development Minister. (interpretation ends)

Last month he was in Kugluktuk and I want to get an update on the ladies that work at the business service centre, sorting minerals. This project is supervised by the Kitikmeot Corporation and the Geo-science project I guess.

If you recall, the Kitikmeot Corporation is heading that and they are sorting out minerals and they look for indicators that there could be gold or diamonds in the minerals. We have had about three ladies working in there for the last four years. I am wondering if the minister will assist these individuals to make sure they have enough work in that community.

The reason why I am saying this is if there is not enough work in that place, they will be unemployed within a month or two. Can the minister update me on that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for your question Mr. Havioyak. We're looking into the whole thing and we're looking at how we can offer further assistance to the people who are working at the Geo-science facility.

We're looking at how we can improve the structure and I will be talking to the prospectors, the developers, and so on, so we can find out what minerals are out there. We're working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer. This year you are reviewing the process that's here with the ladies working. How soon will we get information on those ladies working and the whole process. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We had a meeting on how we can improve the structure, Steve has already started and once he has written his report, we'll give you the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard a report being mentioned. When will that report be available and given to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't give the exact date it will be available. If I try to set a date, it might not be available by that date so when I know and when I get the report, I'll inform the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final, final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I raised this because the ladies that are employed there in the lab, they need an answer as to what the future holds for them in terms of employment. They might be looking at no employment at the end of the month. There needs to be that review soon so that they can keep on with the employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll deal with it as soon as possible because of course it's very important, and we'll have to deal with it because of course, we don't want to increase the number of people who are on unemployment. We'll work on it as soon as we can. Thank you.

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

Question 091 - 1(5): Doctor for Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and I'd like to thank him for his kind words about Baker Lake all the time.

>> *Applause*

But today, Mr. Speaker, my question to him is in regards to doctors, and what it takes to get a doctor established in your community. Three years ago, I asked the Honourable Minister if he would look at establishing a doctor in Baker Lake and I think yourself you also wanted to establish one in Arviat. You know, in the last few years it's no secret in the Kivalliq that we've had many instances of heart attack, cancer, E-coli, RSV, tuberculosis is on the rise. What is the minister's stance on putting doctors into the larger communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On a good day, the minister's stance is about 5 foot 8.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member bringing this question up. What we've tried to do is, as the member knows, is place in the regional centres a variety of different doctors. I should say Mr. Speaker, at this time the Kivalliq region, through the Northern Medical Unit out of Manitoba has indeed had quite a few doctors available, on call when we've needed them in the region and so on.

What we've tried to do Mr. Speaker is have doctors permanently placed in the larger centres in the region. We have been successful, as I have said before, in having a doctor based in Pond Inlet as an example. That was her choice because of her circumstances. We would like to Mr. Speaker, get to the point where we have more doctors in our larger communities for example, Baker Lake, Arviat and so on.

We have spent the last year and half, as you know, trying to get up to speed on our nursing situation and the recruitment and retention. I think right now we are between 80-90 % staffed in that area. So we are now trying to turn our attention to the recruitment of more physicians. And, Mr. Speaker, that includes regional operations for more physicians, where possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think 5 foot 8 inches is an exaggeration on the minister's behalf even with his cowboy boots on.

>>*Laughter*

We will leave it at that. I would like to commend the minister on getting our nursing stations up to staff as far as nurses are concerned. I know it has been a very difficult job for him and he has taken it upon his shoulders to try to help us out as much as possible, to staff the nursing stations and I know the nurses work very hard and we appreciate them fully.

But, like he said to me a year and half ago, two years ago that he would look at trying to base a nurse either in Arviat or Baker Lake because of the size of the communities. Can the minister be more direct on if he is going to try to put a nurse in Baker Lake or Arviat. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member has requested it and it has been done. The member has said twice now and I am sure the Hansard would back me up on it, that he wanted me to put a nurse Baker Lake. Indeed Mr. Speaker, there are several nurses in Baker Lake for the past 22 months.

On his issue of a doctor for Baker Lake and for Arviat, we have to realize Mr. Speaker, that every community in Nunavut would like to have a doctor. Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't

like to lie to people or lie to the members and I can't promise to put a doctor in Baker Lake today or tomorrow. What I can say Mr. Speaker, is looking at the logistics as well as the other issues surrounding the case load in each community and see where a doctor would be best suited.

For example, Mr. Speaker, we got a doctor located in Rankin Inlet. If there is a need Mr. Speaker, in Arviat for a doctor based on a caseload, then Mr. Speaker, that is something we would try and facilitate. It would be based on needs and so on. So I hope that helps answer the member's question on both the doctor and Mr. Speaker, the nurse. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will call it a draw on the nurse/doctor fumble today. But, Mr. Speaker, the reason I asked is that there is a lot of medivacs out of our communities, Arviat, Baker and generally out of the Kivalliq. The reason why I am asking for this is that it may help the government in saving some money if they can position a general practitioner to help the overworked nurses in the region. They could diagnose probably earlier and maybe be a bit safer for us.

It could alleviate a lot of anguished people having to travel to Winnipeg if it is not necessary. Can the minister be more direct on if he is going to look at this seriously and evaluate it, and place a physician in one of our communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would look forward to discussing it in the Main Estimates when we get to the Department of Health & Social Services. Because what we have here Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut is a primary health care system that relies ostensibly on the good practices of our nurse practitioners and our nurses as our first point of contact.

The nurse evaluates you and then if you have to see a doctor you could be sent out or wait till the visiting doctor comes in if it is not of an urgent nature.

We're also trying to bring forward Mr. Speaker, as you know an initiative under telehealth. We've applied for extra funding from our federal partner. Mr. Speaker we're hoping to be able to make a very good news announcement very soon, on the success on that project to help us speed that up.

For example, Mr. Speaker, we could have a telehealth centre in Baker Lake where the doctor could make diagnoses as we talked about before. So Mr. Speaker there are other options there, instead of just having a physical presence of a doctor and as I said before Mr. Speaker, I know that every community would like to have a doctor but we also have the opportunity for other initiatives like telehealth, which other jurisdictions by the way Mr. Speaker have put in place.

There is a shortage of doctors, a pandemic situation occurring not only here in northern Canada Mr. Speaker, but also across Canada, in North America with the specialists especially ENT, ear, nose and throat and so on. So Mr. Speaker the quick answer is that we'll look at it, we will review it, and we'll try and do what we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 092- 1(5): Education Program Review

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Speaker last night the minister indicated in Committee of the Whole that the department was conducting a review on, I'm not sure what the review is. But maybe, in his answer if he could refer to what exactly the review is called, whether it's a funding review or PTR review, if he could in his answer let me know what that is.

But I'd like to ask him, he indicated last night that there are two individuals co-ordinating or doing this review. I would just like to ask the minister who exactly it is that's doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We responded to that question yesterday, and our staff, I'm not sure exactly who it is but it is somebody from the legal division, and there's two people who will be co-ordinating this review. One of our staff will be from the policy division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the same answer I got last night and I still don't know exactly who is doing it. But I would like to ask the minister if he's willing to provide us with the terms of reference for this review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have the documents in front of me but I will be able to show the member a copy once I get a copy of the terms of reference from my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the minister if the results of this review, if he plans on incorporating those results into any new legislation that may be brought forward by his department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the review if there have to be changes made, it would have to be agreed to by all members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: No bonus today Mr. Speaker. I appreciate getting all my supplementaries anyway Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd like to ask the minister, he had indicated that there are two individuals who are co-ordinating this review, someone from his department and possibly someone from justice, I don't know, I look forward to finding that out.

But will the people that are co-ordinating this review be consulting with the people that this review directly affects. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about the teachers in the classrooms that have to deal with the shortfalls in the formula right now and also Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry Mr. Speaker, long Committee of the Whole yesterday, also the DEA representatives who have to administer this formula and have to work with what it gives them.

I'm just wondering if the minister can commit to seeking input from those organizations and individuals as a part of this review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I talked about the review and they are going to be reviewing it in detail and in our department, we will be reviewing their work. Mr. Speaker, we talked about how they'll be working on the process and I will invite individuals that might need to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 093- 1(5): Payment for Hall Beach Gravesite Relocations

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said yesterday that I was going to be asking the Minister of Health & Social Services some questions. Mr. Speaker, we've been working on this for a while now and I've met with the minister in his office a few times.

The grave sites that were moved, I've been informed that the individuals that were moving the graves would be paid for their services. I'm trying to find out when the payments may be available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member bringing this forward and as I stand here in this House and I think Mr. Anawak has answered some questions on this in the past and it has come up several times. I know Mr. Evaloadjuk used to bring it up in the GNWT in Yellowknife.

Now the torch has been passed to Mr. Iqittuq. He's been bringing it forward. Two weeks ago, I believe, we received a fax from the Hamlet of Hall Beach outlining the whole history of the project as well as a request form the hamlet for payment. That was our official, first real official request to my department.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping to have a written response to the hamlet and also the member in the next couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When this project was being done it's confusing, we have been working on this and the hamlet has written to the minister and with that I have approached the minister on this and the minister said that I could give him the request form for payment.

The response seems to be opposite now, I am confused as to what action he is going to take. I am just trying to find out what the contents of his letter to the Hamlet of Hall Beach will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one here in the House would deny the stress and so on as the member relayed the other day of having to dig up the bodies and then move them with the coffin falling apart. Build new coffins for them and so on.

I understand Mr. Speaker, after speaking with the Deputy Minister of our department yesterday about some of the traumatic stress that would bring in after the fact. The concern that we've had Mr. Speaker, it is safe to say is that the government is trying to find out who would be responsible for the payment.

How do you do the payment without prejudice. Mr. Speaker, the records are very murky on the issue from the federal government who, it seems in the late 60's had given the authorization and asked for this to occur. As I said before Mr. Speaker, the previous member for Amittuq used to bring it up in the Assembly. Now it has come forward to us. Mr. Speaker, sooner or later, the buck has to stop somewhere.

I am trying to get a response to the member. I just told you I would have that response to him and to the hamlet in the next two weeks, at the very latest. That is the strongest confirmation I can give at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I talked to the minister at one point he said that he had found some funds, some money to pay for this. It seems like now in his response that he has to study it further, check with the federal government and so on. What is the roadblock now, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't say I was looking for money. I am trying to be as clear as possible here. I understand that it is a very stressful situation. I know several people that are involved in this.

The letter from the hamlet clearly identified their concern. All I am saying Mr. Speaker, is, whose responsibility is it to pay the individuals. Is it the Government of Nunavut, is it the GNWT, was it the federal government.

What department should it have been; Community Government & Transportation, should it be Executive, should it be Health. That is the type of questions that we are trying to answer Mr. Speaker, at the present time. That is what we are doing. We have to be able to review what has happened in the past. Who was responsible. I am not a lawyer, Mr. Speaker, but we have to make sure in cases like that of precedent and prejudice and so on.

I've told the member in the strongest way possible today in the House, that I would have a letter to him on this subject within the next two weeks outlining the stance of the Department of Health & Social Services, the minister and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to be dreaming. He stated that he was going write to me a letter. This is the first I've heard of it. There is some money and the project was done. The information on the project is readily available.

The minister informed me that the money was there; the workers would be paid soon, before April. I am sure there was a meeting in which this was said. I am also sure that the minister I met was that same Ed Picco. Can he confirm this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member knows fully well that before anything can happen, you need a written letter in formal writing stating what the concern is, what has happened and documentation to back that up before a cheque is issued.

You just don't say "Ed can I have a cheque" and here it is. It just doesn't work that way. The member knows that. All I've said to him, we've received two weeks ago from the Hamlet of Hall Beach an explanation of what has happened, a motion from the hamlet asking for compensation for the payment of this situation that happened, I believe in 1968 or 1967.

Again we had to make sure as a government that we don't prejudice ourselves on these types of incidents, there's not a precedence. At the same time Mr. Speaker, we are compassionate, we know that there should be closure brought to the event. There's no one trying to dodge the member or not answer his question. I'm answering his question. I believe if he checks the Hansard tomorrow he'll see that I've now answered it three times.

We will try in the next two weeks, he will have his answer in the next two weeks. But we had to be cognisant, Mr. Speaker, of the rules of the different financial administration Acts and the different Acts that govern the Legislative Assembly when it comes to pay outs as the member fully knows. Hopefully at that time Mr. Speaker, the member will be happy.

I would like to add that the situation, Mr. Speaker, if I may, on his earlier questions on this situation in Igloolik. The health centre is open, there was one person there sick today, there's been several emergency situations and because of that the health centre was closed just briefly. It is open for emergencies, a point of clarification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. The member will note that question period is now up. Before we proceed to Orders of the Day, and item 7, I have just a few comments I'd like to make.

I had mentioned earlier that I hope to deal with the point of order that was raised yesterday. I just want to correct it that the point of order will be dealt with in Committee of the Whole. Again provided that we have the information by day's end.

I'll ask the members, I'm sure they won't mind, I'd like to recognize a number of individuals that have travelled here from Ottawa to spend a week in the capital of Nunavut.

They are with the internship program and they'll spend a year working in the House of Commons with various members, writing questions, statements and research. They've just returned from Belfast, Ireland where they were over there and spent some time studying the workings of that Assembly.

They are here checking the newest Assembly opened in Canada, Nunavut. Most of these students have graduated with a degree in political science, philosophy and other disciplines. They have informed me that their trip here to Nunavut is probably the most exciting to them.

>>Applause

The list of individuals here are; Maya Bevam, Jennifer Chandler, Caitlin Hayward, Carolyn West, Carrolyn Johnston, Nathalie Labonte', Alice MacLachlan from my home province of Nova Scotia, Robert Nichols, Jackie Steele, Jonathan Weir, and the director, the guy that keeps it all together, Leslie Pal. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I was just going to ask if we could go back to item 5.

Speaker: Are the members in agreement. Agreed. Proceed.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that my colleague, Minister Thompson, represents this individual in Rankin Inlet, but I would like to welcome Raymond Ningeochiak, Second Vice-President of NTL.

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery and to the other people from the public that are here visiting. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions.

Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday March 9, 2001 I shall move that Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 17. 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 with Mr. Iqaqrialu as the Chairperson.

Before we proceed, we will break for 15 minutes. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 3.04 pm and resumed at 3.29 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, we can begin again with Committee of the Whole. Before we begin, I just want the members to remember that we are going to be dealing with the Capital Estimates, so please keep your comments to the topic. Thank you.

We will be dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Manito Thompson is the Minister. I am sorry, during the Committee of the Whole, we have the Appropriations Act No. 1, 2001-2002. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is next. At this time I will ask Mr. Haviyok as to what is the wish of the committee.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to deal with the Housing Corporation capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyok. Do we agree that we will be dealing with the Housing Corporation. At this time the minister can give her opening comments. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that we won't be meeting all night like yesterday as my dog might perish and my plants might dry up. I just want the members to know that so we don't have to meet here all night.

(interpretation ends) Next year is already shaping up to look like a very busy year for the Corporation, with the implementation of many of the recommendations of the Task Force.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, our new identity logo, an igloo with a house as an entryway, represents our commitment to the future for new construction techniques and fresh approaches to housing challenges while using the proven methods and traditional knowledge of the past.

(interpretation ends) This represents what we mean with our new Mission Statement you have read in our 2001 - 2002 Business Plan. That plan, guided by the Bathurst Mandate and Inuit Qaujimaqatungit has as its long-term goals the four sections or principles of the Task Force.

The fourteen recommendations are the strategies we will be implementing, or continuing to implement during fiscal 2001 - 2002 and into the future.

As we all know the Corporation is separate, but a part of the government. Governed by the Nunavut Housing Corporation Act, the Corporation is able to maximize the use of housing funds in a way that cannot happen under the usual government accounting system.

Committee members will see the Corporation staff have worked very hard this year to change the housing reporting and planning with a view towards providing current, timely, accurate and forward-looking documents that reflect the form and function of regular Nunavut Government departments, but keep the flavour of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, committee members will note that there have been some challenges with staffing the Corporation this year. Currently we are at about eighty percent, with about fifty percent Inuit employees. In the short term we will continue to recruit the management team for headquarters, who will then build their departmental groups up from there.

Regarding capital funding set at 14 million for fiscal year 2001/2002. Housing is one of the two priorities of this government along with education. This priority can be seen through the capital allocation process, a process that puts these departments first and second for capital allocations.

We will use every cent we have been allocated for housing under the 5-year Capital Plan in a directed, effective way to ensure we deliver the product that Nunavut needs.

The Corporation is pleased that the government has seen fit to increase its operating funds for fiscal 2001-2002. Before I tell you how we are using our funding though, I need to tell you about the new method of presentation the Corporation has used this year.

This year, Corporation staff reviewed our presentation of 2000-2001 and determined that, by just showing the Government of Nunavut portion of the funding, members were not receiving as accurate a picture of Corporation activities as is possible.

For fiscal 2001-2002, the Corporation is receiving 40.6 million in O&M dollars from the Government of Nunavut. In addition, 58 million will be received from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, CMHC, to be used for social housing purposes.

The Corporation generates a further 2.5 million dollars through mortgage payments, interest earned on deposits and other sources. When capital dollars are included, the total Corporation budget for fiscal 2001-2002 is just over 115 million dollars.

These funds will be used for grants and contributions to the Local Housing Organizations of 61.6 million dollars, 22 million dollars to our district operations and 31.6 million dollars to headquarters.

The Corporation appreciates the O&M increases from the Government of Nunavut and is optimistic that they will become part of its base for the future. Mr. Chairman, we remain excited about and dedicated to housing in the territory.

The Corporation is moving forward, we are making it happen. We are implementing the Task Force recommendations; we are pulling the political forces for housing together for Nunavut and the Inuit world in a co-ordinated effort on behalf of us all, we are making positive impacts on the federal scene.

We are continuing to build new public housing units. Our team is excited about the growth of housing in fiscal 2001-2002 and we are eager to get on with the job. Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you very much for allowing me to provide my general comments. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Housing. I think that your logo is quite impressive but there is something missing and it should be added. There should be an addition to it.

The igloo is not complete. I just want to make sure that there should be another thing added to it. Opening comments. The Chairperson of the Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2001-2002 budget for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, over the past few months, the standing committee has had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation on several occasions, and have carefully reviewed their capital plan, main estimates and business plan.

The committee was pleased to hear the Minister of Finance state, during the Budget Address that "adequate and affordable housing is a priority issue for the Government of Nunavut." However, members were shocked to read, in the capital plan, that spending on social housing has been reduced by approximately 50% from 2000-2001.

This continues to be of great concern to the committee, especially when we read in the Corporation's own business plan that the potential demand for housing in Nunavut will increase by approximately 260 homes per year over the next five years.

Mr. Chairman, social housing is the area where needs are still the greatest. The committee believes that the housing corporation budget does not place enough emphasis on social housing, particularly given that the Bathurst Mandate identifies housing as one of the two core priorities of the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the commitment by the Housing Corporation, as reiterated in the Budget Address, to begin acting on the recommendations of the Minister's Task Force on Housing is encouraging. The recommendations that were made by the task force were well thought out and moving forward on them will be a positive step toward addressing the overwhelming need for housing in Nunavut.

The committee noted that the corporation is also taking on several projects in the next fiscal year to review its current programs and introduce new ones, such as a public housing rent scale review; developing new homeownership programs; creating new and improved housing designs and finalizing the Housing Needs Study.

The committee looks forward to seeing a new initiative introduced under the homeownership programs that will provide assistance to homeowners who wish to renovate their homes. Conducting all these projects is an ambitious undertaking and the committee is pleased to see that they are finally being started.

The standing committee would urge the Nunavut Housing Corporation to complete all of these projects in a timely fashion so that we can move forward on improving the current housing situation in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I wonder if the minister has witnesses to bring to the table at this time. Thank you.

Thank you, now that your officials are here, if you could introduce them.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is the President of the Housing Corporation, Pam Hine and to my left, Chris Darcy who also works with the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Does the committee agree to go to Capital Estimates for the Housing Corporation on page 12-5. Detail of expenditures.

Members can have 10 minutes each for general comments, once the general comments are completed, under 12.5 we'll be going page by page to the questions. Then on 12-6 the members can ask general questions under details of expenditures. Let's begin with 12-5. Capital Estimates.

You have 10 minutes for general comments, do you agree. Are there any general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the minister's opening comments and also the opening comments by the chair of the standing committee.

It is now evident that they will be utilizing close to 14 million dollars for capital expenditures for buildings and works and for retrofits of the public housing.

There are concerns that I have in your opening comments on page 5-5, 115 million dollars will be budgeted for 2001-2002 for the Corporation's budget but the capital programs are 14 million dollars. It's only approximately 10% of the total.

Do you not think that the money that is allocated to the Housing Corporation, 115 million dollars, that we should reconsider a better distribution of that. As she stated in her opening comments the Housing Corporation, although connected to the government, is an entity on its own and they have a president but they are also given a portion of the funding.

So maybe it's time that we start considering how we can have the Housing Corporation more efficient, so we could have more for the capital projects. I'm going to be asking that this be considered carefully. It also mentioned that the recommendations of the task force will be implemented. I think the urgency is now that the funding that is used by the Housing Corporation should be reviewed to make sure that we get the best use of our dollars. We have a better idea as to how the Housing Corporation system works but still the operations side of the Housing Corporation is very expensive.

We can't get an adequate number of houses due to the expensive cost of operations. If we can build close to the number of 115 million dollars worth of units, we can build many more units. But this 14 million dollars is good enough to build one school, if we were to build one school, I noted that when the chair of standing committee did his opening comments.

In view of that Mr. Chairman, before we go to the capital estimates, I would like to ask about Housing Corporation expenditures and expenditures of housing associations and housing corporation revenue whether it be through rent or sales not from the Nunavut government or federal government.

The ratio between your revenue and your expenditures, what is the actual ratio. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're doing general comments right now, so I will give an opportunity to the rest of the members to do their general comments before questions. I will give that opportunity to all the members. Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's encouraging to hear the minister's comments and also the chair of the standing committee's comments. Our chairman of the Standing Committee has stated that the funding has decreased or is too small for Nunavut. As I look at the funds that will be used for those who want to buy their own homes, the committee has also stated that people who are unemployed have a hard time maintaining the house that they own.

We have to find other alternatives to help and to support the homeowners, perhaps if we can think of ways to find programs to help the people who own their own homes, in terms of dollars. As we know if we don't have employment we can't own our own homes, we can't afford to own our homes. As we know we have many people who are unemployed and we have more youth coming up and coming into our work force, they will eventually look to buy their own homes.

As well, we have to take into consideration the number of people who are staying in one home. When there's overcrowding, problems arise, the other social issues, and once we can get to that situation where they start having social problems eventually the young people think about not helping themselves and some commit suicide.

Before we get into any further social problems that we deal with, we should look at trying to help our young people and the people who are unemployed, the population is increasing, as we know.

Although I have not seen it in this statement, I just want to use an example about my own community. I know there are many young people who want to own their own homes. Although they want to own their own homes, they have problems finding employment and getting in to public housing. We have to start realizing that young people who are in need are the ones that can't really help themselves. I know there are 75 people who are waiting for public housing in Kugluktuk.

We know we have to try very hard to help our young people. That's a short comment I wanted to make and to help you realize that our young people are important, therefore, we should support them in any way we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have a lot to say here and I hope that my comments aren't taken the wrong way by the minister and her department. I guess I would say that my response to the delivery of the budget address and finding out the budget allocations for housing again, to see for the second year in a row a decrease and this year it's not just a 60 thousand dollar decrease in housing and funding for the capital, it's 5 million dollars.

It really disappoints me, you know, as we've all said that housing is one of the top two priorities of this government and for two years in row to see a decrease in funding, I just, myself I don't think it's acceptable.

I know that and I'm sure that the minister and her staff tried as best they could to try and secure more funding, so that's a comment that hopefully she can take back and share with her Cabinet colleagues.

I know that as a member of the Housing Task Force and a past employee of the Housing Corporation, I won't profess to be an expert at it but have a little bit of a background in this area. The task force, one of its recommendations, I believe it's Recommendation 9, pointed out the fact that there's a need in housing dollars that were there, you know with the big prior to last year with the emphasis on homeownership.

We're not putting those dollars, not putting our housing dollars where they are most needed. And where they are most needed is Mr. Chairman, in social housing. I think that is quite clear. It's pointed out in the department's business plan.

There's a critical shortage, you know, we have within the government, we need to build quite a few just to get caught up with how far behind we are now. We're so far behind we think we're ahead almost.

I think that only now after saying that last year and that being one of the recommendations of the task force, you know, the focus should be on social housing. Seeing an emphasis for one year only on public housing and now to see more of an emphasis as we've heard you know, in the last little while, more of an emphasis is being put on homeownership. That really concerns me and I'm just amazed that just by building a hundred units all of a sudden we no longer need to make the main emphasis of housing on social housing.

I am really very disappointed and discouraged to see these numbers in that area for social housing to see the numbers of social housing units being cut in half this year. It's very discouraging, I'm sure it's discouraging for me it's discouraging for all the individuals across Nunavut that are living in overcrowded houses.

Those that are on the waiting list for sometimes up to two years to get into a social housing unit. Those are things that face every one of our communities and to me that's where we need to focus our energies on addressing or putting our housing dollars where the need is and you know, I know that sure there'll always be a small need for homeownership. But that's been the focus for the last number of years, the last six or seven years under the previous government and the social housing has been neglected.

I think, you know, we need to catch up in that area before we move onto you putting an emphasis again, a stronger emphasis on homeownership. That's it for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo, those were very interesting words that you said. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin by welcoming Pam and Chris, you can smile once in a while. Chris was in Arctic Bay working for housing so it's good to have you here. I don't think we would have thought we'd be sitting like this when we were working up in Arctic Bay.

About 40 years ago now, there were new houses being built in Arctic Bay and my mother and her age group was always very grateful for those houses. To us they were huge, huge beautiful homes, and they were furnished with beds, tables, dishes in those times. I think for a very long time, people were very, very grateful to have these houses in the communities. Now they didn't have to build qammaqs any more so I think there's a lot of good things, that way that happened.

At the same I would like to address a couple of things that we are always probably going to be thinking about that is those houses that were built around 1970's, early 70's, I think they are called NTR's. Those are very, very tiny today and they may be occupied by 9 people, which is not very good for social life in these homes. They may have a stove, a little stove, and they have to put washer and the dryer beside the stove which is not very good.

When there is a washing machine going, a dryer going and you are trying to cook and you try to put your little table in there, people have to live in these things all day but we call them three bedroom houses, and they should not be three bedroom houses. They should be maybe a one bedroom place, because people, I think, they're in a living room smaller than their sleeping area so I think living areas need to be improved and I think we're going to be talking about more of those in detail later.

When I worked as social worker, when I went into a home like that, I always said, no wonder people are doing what they are doing. Look at the place they are living in, those buildings are not very good any more and I think we still count them as three bedroom houses. I recall thinking that they're comfortable to live in because we never lived in those things before. We don't know how good they are.

And that is another thing that I'm going to be listening for and bringing forward will be for homeowners, that there is no Canadian Tire in this community or a Home Hardware store. So it is very hard to buy anything to maintain your house and I know that I've asked this in the House before and I got the answer, that some of the communities who have businesses, supplying these things, even mechanics or furnishing people that could help you but there's nothing in a lot of the communities. We will need to address that when we are thinking that we're going to put a lot more people in private homes.

When I'm thinking about that, I feel like I'm deceiving the people of Nunavut. Yes, have your own house but you need to maintain it with no training, with no place to buy pipes or anything like that. So we need to be looking at that as well. (interpretation) I'll leave it at that Mr. Chairman. I'll make other comments as we go along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and her officials. There's more and more private housing that has been built in the regions and public housing. I would like to thank you very much for providing those houses.

Even though that's the case, there are more and more people who are trying to acquire houses but there's less money that's being made available for housing even though the population is growing at the community level and there's large families. In our communities, for those of us who have many children the houses are too small. I'm sure I'm not the only who has a large family because there are large families out there. Even though we have been provided with a four-bedroom house, there are some of my children who are sleeping in the living room or in any other location that they can find.

There's also a long list of people who are waiting for housing and there's diseases, sicknesses that might come around from overcrowding. Using Repulse Bay as an example, those houses that are provided by public housing are old and not maintained well. In some, their furnaces might be a hazard, a safety hazard to the occupants and I'm sure it contributes to the sicknesses of the occupants especially the ones who are living in the older units.

When I first received a house from among the first units, it seemed much larger and it seemed it was big as this whole chamber. When I first moved into my house, I had two children, now I live in a four bedroom house and it seems like it's smaller than the middle of the chambers and I'm sure that's the same thing for other families with many children. So we'll have to think about how we can improve the conditions of the houses that we make available, how we could improve the size, according to the size of families.

We have to make every effort to look for outside sources of funds if we're to make improvements. In the future the Inuit will feel better, even today because of the poor housing and because of the poor maintenance of these houses, there's some people out there with broken hearts and people who would like to have time alone, there's some people who don't like to be around too many children.

So we have to talk about all these things, when we're talking about the shortage of housing. I'll leave it at that, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. Today we have moved to a new department, we have been dealing with the Department of Education for quite a number of days, as education is very important to all the members, and to the residents.

I hope you don't mind when I'm using the Department of Education as an example. The reason why I do this Mr. Chairman is even though we have said that education is the most important because we are building the foundation for our youth and to better educate our people, right next to it is housing which is one of the most important services within this government.

In Nunavut, we have said that these two are our priorities, we have an extreme shortage of housing and we have to talk about how we can build a number of homes that are enough to house the population of Nunavut. We have a very huge responsibility and with that in mind we have to give you support as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we will have to work together. We will have to work together; we will have to work diligently. Even though you are working hard, you will need us to work as hard as you. Because of course, we are working on behalf of the people of Nunavut and we'll have to work together on those issues.

Because of the importance of the discussion at hand there's some people who have been on the waiting list and they are getting old. I don't know how many years they have been on the waiting list. To date they still don't have a house. Why, for what reason.

It's hard to find answer to these questions. It's a growing population, there's a population explosion and the Nunavut Housing Corporation cannot keep up to par with the population explosion. In 1999/2000 I believe it was, we did a tour of the Nunavut communities as a Housing Task Force, I can't remember exactly what year, but we did go to the Nunavut communities in the three regions.

The members representing the Kitikmeot did their region and so on and there was one lady who went to make a statement to the task force and they were waiting for the Nunavut Government to do something about housing, to deal with the housing issue.

We went to a community and were on the panel and the public were in front of us and a young lady went up to the mike and what she said hurt us. She said that you as the Nunavut Government, I would like to get support from you, the Nunavut Government, there's those of us that live in two bedrooms, what she said was we live in a two bedroom house and there's twelve of us in that dwelling. Can you help us. That was one question that she posed to the panel.

The only response that we had to this person was, yes, we feel where you are coming from, and we're with you we'll see what we can do. We as elected officials have been appointed and the people are hopeful that we will resolve this problem. So we're going to be talking a lot about these issues, those are comments that were made by the people of Nunavut, which came from the heart.

One thing as the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Chairman, when we were part of the NWT we had policies that applied to both the NWT and Nunavut which at that time was part of the NWT. It is the same policies that apply whether it works for the Delta or the Mackenzie or Grise Fiord or Uqsuqtuq, Gjoa Haven.

We all used the same policies throughout the Northwest Territories and the people of Nunavut seemed to be left out when it was still the government of the NWT. They gave more support to the western portion of the NWT, be it subsidies for oil or whatever and at that time we had more hardship, more so than the people from the west.

I think that now that we have our own government and through the Housing Corporation we have to realize that we live in a unique environment and it's extremely cold. Even if you touch a knife outside in the middle of winter it burns you right away. Because of the extreme cold your first layer of skin is frozen right away. It seems like a flame to your skin, it'll burn right away. The cold does the exactly the same to you. It burns you right away.

That is the harsh environment that we live in. Mr. Chairman, I feel we are making comments that come from the heart. One of the other issues that I'd like to touch on.

Chairperson (interpretation): Your time is up. Okay. You still have a bit of time. Mr. Puqiqnak continue.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you. Just a very short comment. Mr. Chairman, I know it might be hard, but the government was able to purchase 100 units and we appreciate that even though we are still short of housing. This year there are going to be 47 units built.

I know that will not correct the problems that we are having in Nunavut, but we will work with your department. If we can we will be working with you and the federal government and see how we could build more units in Nunavut where some communities are not receiving new units this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief opening remark. In regards to the minister's opening remarks, I don't have any comments to make on that. But I was involved in the task force. There is a review being done on the rent scale and I am hoping that we could get that information, that report as soon as possible.

Also, because we are short of funds, I know that there is a lot of overcrowding in houses in Nunavut. I am just hoping that more units will be built. I know that our elders need to have a comfortable home.

In our community we don't have any elders' units. This is something that we discussed in our Housing Association board meeting. So, in the year 2001-2002 or the next year 2002-2003, this will have to be considered in my constituency because our elders need to be comfortable and live in comfortable units.

Mr. Chairman, the areas that I think need to be worked on by the Housing Corporation is that units need to be built taking into consideration the harsh environment in Nunavut. I've taken housing maintenance programs and I know that if you are going to work as a housing maintainer you have to be an oil burner mechanic. In order for an individual to apply for a job you have to be experienced as an oil burner mechanic. When an individual takes a course, it is not very hard if you are experienced at working on furnaces.

The housing associations seem to spend a lot of money making sure that their workers are trained in this field, I know that in our communities when we have housing maintainers...

Mr. Chairman, the witnesses are not paying attention. I'd like the minister and staff to listen to my comments.

A lot of our plumbers don't have that training. When we hire individuals to work as housing maintainers, some new staff or workers don't have oil burner training. We often have to send people out to take those courses and when they receive that certificate, they're able to raise their salary. I know if an individual is a housing maintainer they need to take an oil burner mechanic course, it is a must under their job description so with that we seem to spend a lot of money on training individuals.

Sometimes Housing Association members will hire an individual, train the person and after the training is done, they leave the community after receiving that, or gaining that experience. So those are the comments I wanted to make at the moment, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that all the members are hoping to get more units in their communities and the problem is there are not enough funds to provide housing to all the communities.

Quite often in communities we hear about people being evicted from units because they haven't paid their rent and some individuals end up living with families and are becoming homeless but if the federal government can support or give more assistance to Nunavut I think that would improve our housing problems.

It seems we don't get very much for housing from the federal government and I just wanted to express that, all members are working hard to get more units in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. We can go on to the capital estimates. Page 12-6. Nunavut Housing Corporation, branch summary. Total capital expenditures, 14 million. General comments are over, I don't have anybody else on my list so we're on page 12-6.

Before we go ahead I'd like to state that for more details, you could go to A-27, under Nunavut Housing Corporation, you can go to appendix A for more details.

Nunavut Housing Corporation, branch summary. The members are free to ask general questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which page are you on. Page 12-6. Just after that I would like to ask questions, I lost my page there for a minute

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on page 12-6, 14 million dollars. We don't need agreement at this time. Can you turn the page to 12-7. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeowners program is 1 million dollars to Baffin. I think that is for homeownership. I wonder how many houses that would build, that amount of 1 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. We are on Nunavut Housing Corporation. Details, branch summary. Total 620 thousand dollars under headquarters. That is where we are. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): We are on 12-7. Under 1 million dollars variance Qikiqtaaluk homeownership program. One million dollars how many houses would we be able to build with this homeownership amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We have not yet reached that one yet. We are at total headquarters region, 620 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): If we are there, 620 thousand dollars, fire damage replacement. If we were to use 620 thousand dollars how many units would this cover, just for example. Thank you.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is difficult to measure, as fires damage different parts of houses, perhaps one room, perhaps the kitchen is damaged. Sometimes the bathroom could be damaged and some of the areas of the house might not have any damage whatsoever. Or the whole house could go on fire. This is just an estimate. We can never be sure exactly of the future and what might catch on fire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that comment. Yes, it is clear. For instance, is this amount sufficient for the year. If there are not too many fires or if this is not used will this be used to build homes. This is not used if there are no fires, if we are fortunate, can we use it in other areas. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the money that we do not utilize would go into the new fiscal year. That amount of money would go into the new fiscal dollars for next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just as we talk about the capital and the homeownership programs, in the Finance Minister's budget address he talked about new types of homeownership programs. If there are any new programs, what are they. Does the department have those details finalized yet and if not when will they be forthcoming with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: That's a very good question. One of the things I wanted to say under the homeownership program, the money it's not just for homeownership, the homeownership program we have here also includes emergency repair program initiatives and home repair programs, down payment assistance programs and so on. Also homeowner repair programs.

We will be coming up with new programs. We have not finalized that yet. I would encourage the members to give me more ideas on that if they want to. But we are thinking of continuing the NDAP program and also probably a different type of homeownership program. But I will certainly keep the members updated on those. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madam Minister. What we are doing is mobile equipment and fire damage replacement. Can you stick to that topic at the moment. In the amount of 620 thousand, total headquarters region. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: There was already a request...

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In total headquarters region in the amount of, the fire damage replacement was already, the minister already explained it. That the 600 thousand dollars that will be carried in to the next fiscal.

That was already asked. If there's no fire damage replacements to be made then it goes in to the next fiscal year. Under 600 thousand, fire damage replacement, that 600 thousand, is it generating interest.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Don't wave your hands around too much. You might hit somebody. Madam Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is fire damage it could be used up right away. I would have to have a policy person answer that question, Chris Darcy. If you don't mind Mr. Chairman, I will have him answer that question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the money stays in our bank account and it earns interest. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Darcy. Any more questions on that 620 thousand, total headquarters. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Qikiqtaaluk region, 6 million 920 thousand. Here's a chance for some members to ask questions.

Questions from the members. Mr. McLean. That's new, we were at the top and now we are at the bottom of the page. Mr. Nutarak you will be given a chance but Mr. McLean, it's your turn.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I'm dealing with two chairpersons here today. I'm just trying to be fair with everybody here. Stuck in the middle of you two.

Under the homeownership program there seems more emphasis on homeownership. I'm one of the advocates because I think homeownership is a good thing if it can be afforded in Nunavut.

With the recent fuel crisis in the world, fuel prices going up, that is getting to be less and less of an attraction. I'm not going to beat that one to death but you know here we are, probably the highest heating costs in North America, highest power bills in North America. We do get a subsidy but it is still extremely high, we have the highest insurance rates, we have the highest food prices, we have the highest, I could go on for a week, about the highest in everything.

But the highest construction cost to build a house, and I don't know about our wages, they say you make a lot of money in the north but I'm beginning to think that's a fallacy when you start comparing things like go north young man, go north young woman, you'll reach your goal.

We've convinced people in the north that being a part of a homeownership program is a good thing. Outside the regional centres and with the boom in Nunavut in the last few years that you could make a dollar on your housing if it's sold but that reality now is gone and I hear it in my community that you know we can't afford these houses.

I know people have to budget better and put priorities on the table on what they have to do but the fact of the matter is we still have the highest cost of living probably in the northern hemisphere, up here and that means we stop people from getting into homeownership.

I see that there's money like 1 million dollars and 550 thousand in the Kivalliq region, and 450 thousand in the Kitikmeot region and I think people today who are getting into homeownership are a young couple who are very brave and bold. So is there going to be any change in the current homeownership program of a 15 thousand dollar down payment or is it going to be the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking at some changes right now. We have not finalized it but we may want to make it higher than 15 thousand dollars for homeownership programs, that's one of the options I'm looking at right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was one of the requests from the standing committee was to give a down payment for up to 30 thousand dollars to new home purchasers. I think that may entice people to get into homeownership programs, I know in my community it might entice people get into the homeownership program because we do have, we're one of the few communities that does have an abundance of private homes for sale on the market at all times.

The people who buy private homes there are moving from public housing into private homes so that alleviates the problem. A lot of the smaller communities, I'm not really aware of, I don't think there's a lot of homes for sale in the smaller communities. Is there any kind of incentive to the private sector there to build homes, is there some way we're trying to look forward, trying to get people to build homes in those communities rather than somebody that's interested in purchasing a house has to go out, purchase the package and build them themselves.

A lot of people don't want to get into that, of having the stress of going to an architect, going to a shipper, going to retailers to purchase all the material, setting up electrical permits, setting up all these types of hassle in purchasing a home.

Is there any way we can assist somebody that wants to purchase a home in Clyde River, Hall Beach or our communities who doesn't have an abundance of private home contractors to help them purchase a turn key operation where they could just walk into the unit and have a guarantee on it for a year or two, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the initiatives that we can look into, I know the frustrations of building a new home in a small community where there's really nobody to help you out, even to buy one, trying to get through the banks, trying to get the mortgage payments down and so on.

We can look into that. One of the other options I am looking at is selling public houses to interested people. They are built already and if you have been renting it for years and years and if you want to own we are also looking into that. Buying a public housing unit from local housing associations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: That is a very good initiative. It was done in the past but not at a very large rate. I know a couple of my people in my community purchased their old NTR and they were priced anywhere 15 hundred to 15 thousand dollars. They put it upon themselves, they were living in NTR and working for the Hamlet and paying 900 dollars a month for the NTR so they bought it and it worked out very well for them.

They didn't assume a tremendous amount of debt. They bought the home and fixed it up over a few years and now they are liveable. People who are on income now know what they want. If they want to go out and upgrade they can sell their existing house and buy a fancier one.

I applaud the minister for even thinking of that initiative. I think it is something that we forgot about. There are definitely those in my community that would purchase public housing units. Is the minister going to expand her scope on maybe selling public housing units off other than if somebody in the community bought a public housing unit and were in public housing but didn't like the existing unit they're in, could they purchase another unit that someone else is in.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we can look at that option. Of course, we would have to consult with our stakeholders out there. The LHOs. But, I am seriously considering selling some public housing units people have been renting for years. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: That is nice to see some vision again. Under the public housing, I am not just picking on the Baffin region, but 4 million 750 thousand dollars. If the municipality out there took it upon themselves to, say they wanted to build some units and rent it to the government. Negotiate with the municipality and if they went out and borrowed some money, I know the private sector could do that. But there are other communities in Nunavut like I say the smaller communities where the need seems to be the highest.

I hate to say Clyde River and I've seen their stats, they have a tremendous shortage of houses in Clyde River. If the municipality of Clyde River was in a financial situation to build public units, would the Housing Corporation consider leasing from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Or any community. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would consider leasing them from a municipality. Our problem would be that we would need to have the O&M dollars to cover the leasing of those units for the period of the lease agreement. But we would consider that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Are you finished with your questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 12-7 in regards to the 1 million dollars. I have asked this question twice. Don't you want to ask that question. Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I did not even understand what you said. Mr. Nutarak could you speak a little bit louder please.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I have already tried to ask a question in regards to the 1 million dollars twice. So, if you remember my question. Could you ask that question for me. I don't think you remember my question.

I had a question in regards to the 1 million dollars. This 1 million dollars how many units can this build. Just looking at the figure here. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. The members here can ask questions, as a Chairman I cannot ask questions. Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to estimate if a building was built for 190 thousand dollars with this figure could build five units, approximately. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This was set aside, this 1 million dollars was set aside for homeownership programs. It is geared toward homeownership programs so that the Housing Corporation can assist the people who are interested in owning their own homes.

When do you find out the number of people from Qikiqtaaluk that will apply for their own homes. Once you find out, do you find out how many or do you guess how many people or individuals will be applying to get their own homes.

That's why the figure is like that. How long do you know in advance the number of people who will apply for the homeownership program.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the homeownership program fund, part of it is used for emergency maintenance and also emergency repair programs and if the elders' facilities need repairs, they could be used for that.

So, the funding is also used for these kind of programs. For homeownership programs if they wanted to apply they start applying ahead of time but it's very hard to know if any individual would like to apply for funding because of course everybody thinks for themselves.

The applicants, when they make an application, if they earn 125 thousand dollars they are denied under NDAP. If their salary is in excess of 125 thousand they are not eligible for NDAP but we do keep their names.

But in regards to Mr. Nutarak's question and I'm sure he'll be making a supplementary, I'll have Pam Hine make a supplementary response.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madam Thompson. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, the homeownership program actually entails a lot of programs, it's not just for NDAP. We are also looking at the homeowners that we've already helped in the past, if their houses need repair then they would apply under this budget to get renovation money to help them fix their house up. If they had an emergency repair like their furnace breaks down, we can help them under this budget line itself.

But it's difficult to say how many people will actually be assisted here because we are not just talking just one program we are talking all of our homeownership programs. We have gone into partnership with the bureau of stats on the Nunavut Household Survey. There's a whole section on housing in that area and we are hoping that after we get the information on that we would have a lot of better information to answer specific questions as to who would be looking for the homeownership programs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Homeownership programs. It states here homeownership program 1 million dollars under this program. As a Member of the Legislature, I own my own home. Would I be eligible to be assisted under this program if my house needed repair. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people who got their homes under a HAP housing program, these units are getting old and they need to be maintained and repaired. Their furnaces are deteriorating because they're old. Perhaps their insulation is poor, and if they needed repair or if they needed maintenance, any individuals who own their own homes can apply to the Housing Corporation for repair funds to repair their homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Questions or comments. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I would like to ask another question regarding the 4 million 750 thousand dollars. Public housing. Can we also use those monies for the maintenance and retrofitting of public housing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we built 100 housing units. It is for those types of programs, like the 100 units that we built last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you. Part of Mr. McLean's question was about the old houses that can be sold to the public. I had a meeting when I was in Resolute Bay. Homeowners wanted to meet with me, there were about 10 of them that met with me, and some of them had these old houses, two of the people that were there. They were asking if there was a policy that the Housing Corporation had that before you buy they were supposed to bring them up to standard as if it was a new house or up to a proper functioning unit.

That didn't happen. They are still waiting for something from housing to help them with that. They are supposed to bring them back into their original state when they sold them to these individuals. I think if there is some kind of policy like that, that needs to be looked at to make sure the people are getting what they have been told.

Another one that I wanted to ask about was this 1 million dollars where you were talking about a number of programs. That the money was there under this 1 million dollars and you said it could build about 5 units and it could also be for other things like in an emergency if something happens that money could be used for that.

Maybe later on we will see the breakdowns of how these things work. It is not clear to me what other programs are there in this 1 million dollars for Baffin. Homeownership is important to my communities. Another one that I wanted to bring up and ask, there are so many HAPs, NDAPs. Are we going to keep doing this. Are we going into one program and maybe live with it for a number of years so that people could get used to it.

It seems like every time when we do a survey or something we come up with something else. When are we going to see some kind of stable programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Madam Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had quite a number of questions and I'm sure I'll be leaving some out but the first question you brought up was in regards to some of the clients who said that they bought the older units, and that they should have been brought up to code by the government.

That policy was made by the previous government. I don't know what's in that policy but what I can say is that when the units get too old and if they want to retrofit them, they can do so and if they're going to do so, there are funds available. There's the 1 million dollar pot that they can request funds from. You can apply for funding from that program.

There was a question on how many units that 1 million dollars could build and we said five if it was at 190 thousand dollars each. That's not relevant to this line. Under the homeownership programs, the 1 million dollars includes people who would like to build their own units to help put a down payment and also for people who have their own units.

If they have to replace the windows for example or do some repair work on their house and you can also ask for funds if you want to retrofit your house completely. Those are all homeownership programs, either putting a down payment on a new house or retrofitting your home or if your building gets too old and you have to do some major repair work. This is part of the money that can be accessed for those types of projects.

So there were various programs and of course, we get confused when we hear about all these different programs. Once the Nunavut Government was created, we simplified the whole thing. Under the old access program, which houses were like little square boxes that looked exactly the same all across the territories, we stopped building those and started building the 100 public housing units. What we've done, is simplified the whole thing.

We asked for funds from the federal government, but as you know there has been no social housing dollars from the federal government since 1993. If we were to look at the federal government budget there would be no funds under social housing, there would be no line item in social housing. So if we were going to be building units, it would have to come out of our own budget. There are a lot of different things to consider.

It was last year, for example, we built 100 rental units and if you wanted to build your house, there was 15 thousand dollars available as down payment assistance if your income was under 125 thousand per year. Those were the only programs that were available and we're still doing the same thing.

We will be building social housing units and if you want to build or get your own home we will be there to get give you assistance. But we do not build, we don't have any more programs where we build the units for homeowners. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): That's it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You were responding earlier to one of my colleagues, about selling the public units. That was one of the ideas that you were looking at. Just for example if you were to sell a few units today where would the revenue go. What would it be used for. Maybe you could answer that question for now. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manito Thompson: The money would be used to build a new one. If we can sell public units to an individual in the community the money that we get from that we would build a new unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your answer. Let's say if you sell a house in that community would that revenue would go to that community to build a house in that community. You sell a house in a community, let's say Kugluktuk for example, you sell a house in Kugluktuk, so you are saying you could build a house, another public housing for that community, is that how it works. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manito Thompson: That's what we are looking at. If we sold five public housing units in Kugluktuk, we would build public housing units from that money in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. If there are no further questions, I have no more names. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the others who have homes, she said that you could retrofit the homes. How old would the units have to be. Do you have a policy where one house can be considered to be too old and it would have to be retrofitted. Would that be five years, ten years, twenty years. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for anyone who is an elder and if you want me to replace the windows for example with newer models, more energy efficient homes you can apply for those funds. It's open if there has to be or if you have to change the windows or the doors and so on. It would be for those types of renovations if you were an elder with your own home.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very short question, just a while ago I heard that this 1 million dollars would be used for homeownership programs like renovating and replacement and repairs and so on. Is it for all homeowners, if I had my own home for example or if David Iqaqrialu his own home, can anybody apply for financial assistance through this program.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Yes. The first housing program, the HAP housing program, it is for those people if they wanted to renovate or repair their units they can apply for assistance from this program. Thank you.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How about other than HAP houses, is that available for individuals that live in their own home but are not HAP units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. It goes towards any kind of private home.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): So whether the unit was very old or new when they were acquired, they could get that assistance.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak. When you speak make sure your microphone is on. Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): If it is an old unit and the individual bought the unit, and it's expensive to heat the home and the homeowner wishes to maintain the house or make renovations they could request assistance from the program.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): The request forms, are they available in the communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqignak. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The forms are available at the Housing Association offices and if an individual wants assistance to repair a window or have their windows changed, they could also fill out the forms and send them to the housing office.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the same area, we are aware that the previous government sold off many staff housing units to its employees. Whether they were teachers or whatever, but a lot of them were teachers including TEP graduates, some of these units are pretty old. These old government units have a foundation that is made of timber and not the steel piling used today.

They notice that their house starts to shift because it's not on a hard foundation. When they were built, they were built on a soft foundation and there are a lot of families that own these homes. In the capital estimates, will there be money available for people that have government units to be able to upgrade their foundations.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeowners know what problems are involved and when a homeowner has a problem with their unit if it has to do the window or the furnace, they could fill out the request forms to upgrade their units.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those steel piles from Canadrill, they charge different rates, I think they go all the way up to 1800 dollars a pile requiring a number of piles in one house, especially those old government buildings, the government housing, staff housings.

Would they qualify and if so, what would be the limit for the total assistance they could receive to do that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a hypothetical question. I can't answer a question where I don't know how many applicants will be applying for piles. We're just saying we have a program for homeowners to access, to fix up their homes.

I can't tell you how many homeowners will need their foundation fixed because I really don't know. It's up to the individuals to make that request. We have the money available so it will be first come first served at this time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. I'd like to note that we're dealing with the homeownership programs, 1 million dollars on page 12-7. Just keep with the topic. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they can advise me how my question was hypothetical when I was in fact asking is there a program for the old buildings like the GNWT staff housing that were sold to staff, especially new NTEP students who have graduated and are teachers who want to purchase those staff houses that they have started living in.

They were qualified to do so, however because the old buildings have traditional foundations, the gap between the walls and the floor opens in the wintertime and closes in summer from the fluctuations in the permafrost, above the permafrost.

My question was, is there a ceiling because Canadrill charges between 1200 to 1800 a pile. Is there a limit on that program and she said there is. Is there a ceiling on requests to switch to steel piles from traditional ones. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Thompson stated earlier they are able to look into these as they come. I think with that Madam Thompson if you'd like to respond.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. My office to date has not been informed of any NTEP students who would want their piles changed or have a foundation change in their houses. That is what I am trying to say. I am not sure how many clients there are out there that have that problem.

That is what I am saying. I really don't know and I know my staff aren't aware of people requesting to get their piles or their foundation changed. It's a question that I can't answer. But with the limitations we could probably give you a better idea. I'll ask Mr. Darcy to answer that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is still under development and revision. We are expecting however, that the ceiling for applicants would probably be around 48 thousand 5 hundred. Like I say this has not gone to Cabinet yet. We are just finalizing it. But our expectation now is around 48.5 would be the maximum contribution to people who want to renovate their houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would this come from the million dollar homeownership program or will that come from other funding aside from this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would come from the 1 million dollars under the homeownership program.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Mr. Arvaluk are you done. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. McLean brought it up before, but I would just like to ask something similar but a slightly different question coming out of that. Has there been any inventory or research done by the Housing Corporation to find out what is the most efficient furnace that is now on the market.

Whether it is a boiler or forced air. Has this been communicated to LHOs to advise the homeowners about the most efficient furnace available today. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not done that. Maybe it is a good idea to do that. So, yes we can look into that and find out which furnace is the best on the market right now. We can certainly look into that and advise the LHO's so the homeowners would know there are some things available out there that are probably better than theirs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the 1 million dollar homeownership program, I'll probably have more questions afterwards but this one million dollars is it just towards Qikiqtaaluk or the whole of Nunavut. If it's geared just towards just Qikiqtaaluk, I'll have questions later when Kitikmeot comes around. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Presently we're just talking about the Qikiqtaaluk region following the notes that are in front of us under branch summary. If you have any questions at the moment, you can raise your question.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get to the Kitikmeot region, I'll raise my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Madam Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of my constituents in Resolute asked me that if they...(interpretation ends)...if they built a house, if homeowners built a house up there who would be responsible to connect them to the utilidor system. Who would pay for that cost. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Williams. Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also have a utilidor system in Rankin Inlet and I do know that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to connect to the utilidor. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Just one little question on that. Do we know how much it costs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't know either. My husband pays all the bills. I'm sorry, I don't have all the details; we could get the information for the member of different costs of utilidor connections. I would think that it would be different for each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Thompson. Any more. We're under Baffin region. Total Qikiqtaaluk region, 6 million 920 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to the next page. Total Kivalliq region, 3 million 730 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Kitikmeot region, 2 million 730 thousand. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. M&I, 457 thousand dollars that you have there. Correct me if I'm wrong there, is there enough money there to do some community projects because it seems to me that for Kugluktuk alone that figure seems to me like it might be a little bit low, maybe you could explain that to me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is only Nunavut Government money, there's also CMHC money that's not here because we're just voting on the Nunavut Government budget. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Than I guess the next question would be if this is Nunavut's share, would you have other sources of money that give us an idea to where we're at, in the total projects, for the Kitikmeot. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's about 1 million 652 thousand dollars, so it's over a million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Havioyak are you done. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under homeownership, under Kitikmeot region, this 450 thousand dollars, how many homes, how many houses would that be able to build. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we were to use that amount of 450 thousand, it would be a little over two houses, for that amount of money but it's for the homeownership program. If an elder has their own home and they have to renovate it, on an emergency basis, and otherwise, then they can request funding from that program or if they wanted to buy their own home then they would be able to ask for money from that program. It's not just for renovations to the homeowners. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. So say I wanted to get a window or renovate the interior of the house, would I be requesting some money from that fund, from that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's also public housing 1 million 710 thousand dollars. How many houses would that build. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For public housing, that 1 million 710 thousand would probably build perhaps seven or eight public houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On public housing, you mentioned seven maybe I might have missed it or where are these houses going. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Kitikmeot region, there would be eight public housing units going to Pelly Bay and Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to refer to pages 8-26 and 8-27 and 8-28. Can the minister explain to me, I know I'm getting ahead of myself here but under 2003, 2004, 2005 there is nothing under public housing in any of the regions. Is that because it hasn't been decided yet or looked at and budgeted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're a bit out of luck in that our A-26, A-27 and A-28 does have some public housing within each region with the exception of Kitikmeot in A-27, it does show up on A-28. I wouldn't say there is a lot quite frankly but there is some under public housing. Thank you..

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

Mr. McLean: I must have a different book, can you tell me what's under public housing, under the Baffin region for 2002, and 2003 because I have nothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My book on A-26 on the very last line, Qikiqtaaluk region public housing 3 million 230, 1million 710, 760, 190. 2001 Capital Estimates. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. 2001-2002, A-26, I think is where the page was. The question that Mr. McLean has is under A-26. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking under a different line for it. I see it now. Under that, there seems to be a significant drop in public housing from 2002 and 2003, to 2003 and 2004, to 2004 and 2005, and 2005 and 2006.

It seems to be non-existent. Is there a reason for that. Or is it that numbers have plunked there or is that actual figures that's going to be in public housing for those years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: The function of the design of the 5-year plan was a declining balance over the 5 years. What we've elected to do for planning purposes as the Housing Corporation, is maintain some of the specific lines that are normally maintained for example the M&I line or the homeownership line.

We reduced the balance on the public housing line with the expectation that we'll talk about it as we come closer to the proper years as the years advance to moving up the public housing construction as we are able to under the budget or under the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand that. Our base funding isn't going to change hopefully in the next five years from what we get from the federal government and by what I'm reading into this is that there may be a shift, a total shift from public housing into other programs. Is that what this is being done for. Totally away from public housing to private homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Darcy to answer the question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not at all. The money that we get from the federal government as far as capital goes is exclusively to be used on our 3,226 public housing units, so it must go to the M&I line.

However, that money comes through and has to remain on M&I for the federal government. All the rest of the money comes from the Nunavut Government, which would be factored in through the Nunavut Government capital plan.

So you see the dwindling off through the five years is being shown through the public housing line so that we can track how the current appropriations to the housing is set through the 5-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Darcy. We're on page 26. If there are no further comments let's go back to page, total Kitikmeot, on page 12-8. Going back to page 12-8. Total Kitikmeot region, 2 million 730 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total contributions, 14 million dollars. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital expenditures, 14 million dollars. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): The next page, 12-9 is information. Are there any comments on the capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Let's go back to page 12-5. Nunavut Housing Corporation program summary. Detail of expenditures. Total capital expenditures, 14 million dollars. Do you agree. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we on page 12-5.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry. I would like to get clarification under contract services. There's no contract services there. I wonder why. There's no contract services for 2001-2002. I just wanted to get clarification on page 12-5 why there's no contract services.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't understand his question. I know the construction of these units will be contracted out. I don't understand his question.

Maybe I misunderstood him. When we go to the main estimates, you'll be seeing the contract services in the main estimates. There are no contract services in the capital estimates. They are in the main estimates. The construction of the units will be contracted out, maybe I misunderstood him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Under the capital estimates, we are on capital estimates. Yes, I think his question is meaningful. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was looking at the wrong estimates. It was my mistake.

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

Mr. Havioyak: We are on 12-5, 14 million in total for all of Nunavut. It is insufficient funds. How will the 14 million increase in terms of funding from the federal government. Have they conversed with them so that it can increase. How are they talking with their federal counterparts, whether it is CMHC so that next year these amounts could increase. How are they communicating with those people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand. I think this department is the one that gives you more headaches than all the other departments. I know I am getting a headache from this. Yes, as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation to the best of my ability, I have been requesting more money from the federal government. But we all understand there is no funding for public housing so we are looking for other options and my staff are working with the federal government officials continually.

We have made them understand that this is a crisis. The housing shortage is a crisis. Paul Quassa and I are working together. Perhaps the Minister of DIAND Robert Nault will meet with us. Paul Quassa and I have been strategizing, meeting with our counterparts because we're in a very serious housing shortage here in Nunavut.

Our federal counterparts are starting to understand the crisis. We will continually work on it and we will not stop, as long as I am the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. We are page 12-5, 14 million dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps housing is the same as building the schools in terms of being subject to building codes. Because of the building codes it makes everything more expensive to build a unit.

Did your department ever consider during the planning stages as to how to try perhaps lowering the building standard so that the individuals can start constructing their own units. Have you ever considered that or is that in your planning stages. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Pam Hine to respond and the comment is very good and it is a very good question. I will ask our President to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Thompson. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: The building code is actually a national standard so we don't have any flexibility in going below the building code. However, we are working with Canada Mortgage and Housing. We are working in partnership with them. They've put out terms of reference because they are taking a look at the cost of building in the north.

From that study they are hoping to find other ways to maybe be more cost effective. So, we are working with CMHC in trying to deal with the high cost of construction in the north but the building code is a national standard, which is set by the federal government, so we don't have a lot of flexibility when it comes to that code. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Is there anything at all you can do to allow energetic people of Nunavut to be able to design and construct their own houses. Just have your National building codes in terms of electrical, plumbing and leave everything else to the homeowner that he or she would like to build.

Is there anything that you as a Housing Corporation can assist Nunavummiut to take that step. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Currently under the Nunavut down payment assistance program we do have people who have taken our downpayment assistance and have purchased the raw materials and are building their own homes under that program. So it is available if they want. They obviously would need to have the capability to do it. It is a big task to undertake but it is available now and people are doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That encourages me because some of the best built houses so far in Nunavut are the ones built by the homeowners as part of their equity and they take a lot of pride in them. Even some of them build it in a year and a half, two years. They took a lot of pride in building their own house under the HAP program. They are some of the best-built ones. I think that we should be continuing to encourage that as part of the equity. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments are well taken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. You just struck a nerve there when you talk about codes and standards. The brainiacs over in corporations, for some reason can't seem to think past copper pipe and I've had this discussion with numerous contractors in the Kivalliq.

Every where else in the world they are using plastics which are cheaper and cheaper to ship, easy to use, you burst a pipe in copper you got to dig walls out and do various other things. They've got this technology that's been in use in southern construction for the last 25 or 30 years called plastic pipes for water lines, sewer lines and various other things.

I was going to leave this alone but now I have to express it because now I have a couple more calls from contractors on the last group of supply ship and erect units. There was enough material left, and I got this from a couple of contractors, to build another house. So whoever got the material list on it which was the housing corporation again, they, it's always good to be careful but by being that careful you know, the contractors bid based on the material list from the supplier. Thinking that yes this is the standard in material.

That used to be the old GNWT that when they did housing contracts there used to be 10 or 15 or 20 % material left over after a project. Here we go we did the supply ship and erect this year and there was so much building material left over that, you know, sure the contractors supply, ship and erect, they get to keep it. But they had to pay the extra freight, they had to pay the extra material and that so they got an inventory of material that was unnecessary.

So it would be good for you to do a check and just see how much material was left. They probably won't tell you because you paid for it. If I was the contractor I'd say there was nothing left, I was actually short 10 %. So, when you talk about vision and innovation and things like that all we've done is taken the GNWT, brought it over to Nunavut erased GNWT and put Nunavut because I see the same things. I know as minister you are trying to change, I know the president is trying to change but there's the little peons down in the bowels of the bureaucracy in associations that think one way.

They've been trained to think one way and it's like the lemmings going over the edge that it's hard to stop the old thinking. I don't think we can do it. I've tried.

I've tried, in my own little workings in my community but it's the same old stuff, the same old stuff and I know you as a minister would like to change it. I know the president would like to change it. But there's too many of them out there to change at once. I'm just saying that this is two instances where I think we can initiate some change and save the government and corporation some money and make better houses for Nunavummiut.
Taima Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Those are excellent comments I'm sure they'll take it into consideration. At this time, we're on the capital expenditures, 14 million dollars page 12-5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Nunavut Housing Corporation, branch summary. Total capital expenditures, 14 million dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Nunavut Housing Corporation, detail of expenditures has been completed. What's the wish of the committee. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that we are done with the capital I'd like to report progress.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyok. All agreed. At this time, just a minute. Don't stand up yet. I would first like to thank Madam Minister and the officials for making their presentations. I'll give you time to do your closing comments.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you for this excellent progress. Of course the Members of the Legislative Assembly work very hard and I am sure it is not that I am treated like a doormat as the Minister of the Housing Corporation but I do work as hard as I can and I do know you work as hard as you can.

For that I would like to thank you for agreeing with the Capital Estimates and I know that you are not completely satisfied.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. What are we clapping about I am not sure and I have no idea what the clapping is about. Order. Order. We have to conclude. You can return to your seats and we can call in the Speaker.

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, thank you. I had forgotten to say that we are talking about country foods in the members' lounge so that you'll have something to eat after the meeting.

Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that Bill 1 is still under consideration and would like to report progress. And further, Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder. Mr. Premier. 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.

Orders of the Day for Thursday March 8, 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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 4 – 1(5) Adjournment
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 2001-2002
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Members before we adjourn I'd like to recognize that we will be attending the Memorial Service at the Cadet Hall tomorrow for the slain RCMP

Officer from Cape Dorset. The House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 8 at 2:15 pm.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*Assembly adjourned at 6:06 p.m.*

