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Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday March 8, 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 Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Deputy Speaker (Mr. Puqiqnak): I would like to ask Ms. Williams to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Rebekah. Good afternoon Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly and visitors. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 024 - 1(5): International Women's Day

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start off by expressing my support for all the women of Nunavut on International Women's Day.

(interpretation ends) By raising their voices and their concerns collectively, and by taking action together, Canadian women, in all their diversity, have been successful in effecting positive change in their communities, removing the barriers they face in our society and around the world.

Despite the gains of the past decades, Canadian women continue to face many challenges before they reach full equality in our society. All of us have a role to play in reaching this goal. Every voice and every action counts. Therefore, I invite all Nunavummiut to take the opportunity during International Women's Day to reflect on those struggles and to take action.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, today I also would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues and the public that our department is assisting communities to celebrate this very important day.

(interpretation ends) Locally here in Iqaluit, Mr. Speaker, there will be a public exhibition at the Nunatta Sunakkutangit Museum at 7 pm tonight. The theme of this exhibition will be titled "The taste of northern women photography" thanks to Kerry McClusky who volunteered and made it possible.

Another celebration will be taking place at the Elders' Facility between 4 and 6 pm; the theme for this event will be "Celebrating Women's Traditional Knowledge". There will be entertainment and performances during the evening. I would like to acknowledge Elisapee Davidee and officials in my department for facilitating and sponsoring this celebration.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker in conclusion, I invite my colleagues and all Nunavummiut to take the time to appreciate and acknowledge our grandmothers, our mothers, our daughters, sisters, wives and the vital role those people have in our lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Before we get back to Ministers' Statements, I forgot to mention that Members of the Legislative Assembly attended the RCMP memorial service for Constable Seewald at the Cadet Hall this afternoon. I truly appreciate that and on behalf of the Assembly, I would like to pass on our deepest condolences to the family and the friends of the fallen RCMP officer.

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 025 - 1(5): Assistance to Communities for O&M

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Community Government and Transportation will assist the municipalities to meet operating and maintenance costs.

All Nunavummiut have felt the impact of rising costs, but municipalities particularly so because the funding formulas used to calculate operating and maintenance costs have not been adjusted for some years. This formula is presently being reviewed but help is needed now if communities are to continue to deliver services to their residents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department has distributed an additional 2 million dollars to municipalities in this fiscal year. Three hundred and eight thousand dollars is targeted directly towards reducing the impact of high fuel costs. One hundred and twenty four thousand dollars is for increased costs of the Diesel Fuel Stabilization Rider Subsidy.

Three hundred and ten thousand dollars is directed toward the cost of delivering water and sewage services, and over one and a quarter million dollars is directed to core funding, through the Municipal Operating Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 026 - 1(5): Skills Canada NWT / Nunavut

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to tell you about an initiative from the Nunavut Government that will aid in increasing trades awareness across Nunavut. The Department of Education has recently made a 20 thousand dollar financial contribution to Skills Canada NWT / Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Skills Canada is a territorial not-for-profit organization that promotes skilled trades and technology as a first choice career option to young Northerners. Skills Canada holds competitions across Canada, which allows young Canadians to challenge themselves by competing against people of the same discipline, at the same level.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Kim Smith, a career development officer for the Department of Education in Cambridge Bay is on the board of Skills Canada NWT/Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Smith will be working closely with the apprentice officers across Nunavut, as well as all of the schools and Nunavut Arctic College to actively recruit people to enter into the Trades Skills competition to be held in Fort Smith and Yellowknife in April and May.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, we sent eight Nunavummiut to the competition. This year efforts are being made to double this amount.

Some of the competitions include carpentry, cooking, heavy equipment mechanics, heavy equipment operators, plumbing, welding, electrical, ladies' hair styling, restaurant services, small powered equipment, TV and video production and women's apparel design.

Mr. Speaker, it is through awareness and partnerships like these that Nunavummiut will continue to choose trades as a viable career option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 027 - 1(5): Status of Women Council

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is pleased to announce the appointment of the new Status of Women Council.

(interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders & Youth recognizes the current issues affecting women in Nunavut and as a government department, we are proud to support action on those issues.

After reviewing applications received from a public call for nominations, I have appointed nine members to the Status of Women Council. Let me introduce to you the names of the new members.

Martha Hickes from Rankin Inlet, Madeleine Qumuatuq from Pangnirtung, Maureen Doherty from Iqaluit, Annie Napajuk from Whale Cove, Rhoda Nanook from Taloyoak, Leah Qaqasiq from Arctic Bay, Annie Tatty from Rankin Inlet, Rhoda Arreak from Pond Inlet and this one very well known individual from Cambridge Bay, Helen Maksagak.

>> *Applause*

The selection process was not easy. All nominations were impressive and I would like to thank all nominees for offering their time to this very important work.

The new Status of Women Advisor, Rhoda Ungalaq, will join the department on March 12. She will work closely with the new Council to continue on the solid foundation built by the interim Council.

I believe the new Council members and the new Status of Women Advisor have the right combination of experience, understanding and dedication. I feel we have the best people representing Nunavummiut on current issues of interest to women. Issues that affect all Nunavummiut.

Please join me in welcoming them to their appointments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kattuk. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 088 - 1(5): Death of RCMP Officer Jurgen Seewald

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week, my home community of Cape Dorset experienced an event that no community ever wants to face. In the early hours on Monday morning, Constable Jurgen Seewald, a 25-year veteran for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police was fatally wounded responding to a call for help.

Mr. Speaker, I know words cannot begin to ease the pain and suffering that Mr. Seewald's family, friends and colleagues are experiencing in these dark days following his death. I have had great difficulty this week finding my own words to understand this terrible tragedy.

As the representative of the Legislative Assembly for Cape Dorset, I want to express my very deepest condolences to Mr. Seewald's family in Nova Scotia for the loss of their son, husband and father.

On behalf of the people of Cape Dorset, I want to express my sympathy to the colleagues of Mr. Seewald who serve proudly throughout all of our Nunavut communities. Mr. Seewald's death reminded us of the great risks, and in this case, terrible sacrifices that are made in doing your job.

Finally I want to say to the people of Cape Dorset and the family of Mr. Jaw in these difficult days following Mr. Seewald's death, we must begin the process of healing.

On Friday Mr. Speaker, I will travel to Antigonish, Nova Scotia to attend Mr. Seewald's funeral. I will also take with me the deepest sympathies of the people of Cape Dorset and Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 089 - 1(5): Kitikmeot Economic Development

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise some concerns about economic development in the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, as the members are aware there are a number of exciting mining developments going forward in West Kitikmeot.

The Lupin and Jericco projects offer a promise of significant economic gains for Nunavut. The Izoc copper zinc deposit also offers much potential. Mr. Speaker, my community of Kugluktuk has been proactive in getting involved with efforts to develop an all weather road and port.

Without such vital such development, Mr. Speaker, it'll be extremely difficult to realize our full potential. Mr. Speaker, an advisory committee has been struck in recent months. Representatives from the GN, the mining companies, and the Kitikmeot Development Corporation, sit on this body.

I am pleased that the Hamlet of Kugluktuk has been able to secure additional representation on this body. Kugluktuk is on record as supporting an all weather road from the community to Yellowknife but located further to the west than what is currently being proposed.

The community is concerned that the route not impact negatively on the Bathurst caribou herd. Kugluktuk wants to ensure that the views of the people in Bathurst Inlet and Bay Chimo are fully considered. Concerns have also been raised over the safety of ship traffic within Bathurst Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Nunavut Association of Municipalities recently carried a motion in support of Kugluktuk on these issues. I look forward to progress being made in this sector of the economy. Progress that takes into account the interests and concerns of the communities most affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. Member for Quttiktuq. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 090 - 1(5): International Women's Day

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is hard to see our timers, so I will be speaking all day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honoured to have the opportunity to rise today and recognize, along with many other people around the world, International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, women have been making important contributions to their families, to their communities, and to society as a whole for generations. Historically in Inuit culture, the role of the women and men were of equal importance. We both had an essential role to play and the duties of one complemented the other. For example, the man caught the seal and the woman would prepare it. (interpretation ends) The family would not be able to eat without the efforts of both.

I am proud to say that women are breaking down barriers and are making their marks in many fields; it is more common to see women in leadership roles throughout our government and private sector.

This being said Mr. Speaker; in too many other countries, women are denied fundamental equal rights with men.

There are still too many countries where women face extreme oppression and unspeakable forms of torture and even death. Even in our own communities, Mr. Speaker, violence against women and children is often too common.

As Members of this Legislative Assembly, we must speak with one voice against such violence. We need to work together to eliminate violence against women and children. Mr. Speaker today is the day that reminds us of how far we have come. It is also a day that reminds us of how far we have yet to go.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to join this journey along with so many others as we celebrate International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 091 - 1(5): Interpretation at Memorial Service

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the memorial that just took place. It was extremely emotional; we've all gone through difficult journeys in our lives. I send my sympathies to the family of Mr. Seewald.

Since today is International Women's Day, I was extremely proud of our interpreters Blandina Tulugarjuk and Mary Nashook. Even though they had a very difficult job, they did an extremely good job of interpreting during the ceremony. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 092 - 1(5): Women Photographers Exhibit

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister Kattuk and Member Williams have said and stated, today is International Women's Day.

Tonight here in Iqaluit, a local resident and a constituent of mine, Kerry McClusky has been the catalyst, Mr. Speaker, to bring together the work of women photographers from across Nunavut and the NWT to present their work at a display tonight at the museum here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, this exhibition entitled "Femme Fatale" is in celebration of our northern women photographers and International Women's Day.

The exhibition starts at 7:00 pm and refreshments will be served. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry for her work in bringing this event to Iqaluit residents. I invite all residents and members of this House to hopefully join Kerry tonight at the museum for this unique way to celebrate International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank my wife Oopa who has been home quite sick for the past week and although this House has been sitting as the members continually state, me included Mr. Speaker, our families come first.

Although we have been sitting late and this morning I left the house at 7:30, a woman's work is never done, she has to stay home and continue to take care of the children and cook and everything else that a woman has to do.

So on this special day for women I would like to take the opportunity to thank my wife for the work she has done in supporting me and my family over the last several years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Member for Sanikiluaq. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 093 - 1(5): Graduation Ceremonies at Sanikiluaq

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my wife who has taken very good care of me. I would like to recognize my wife on International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make a statement about a meeting that took place in Sanikiluaq in the fall. There were four students that graduated, but the minister couldn't make it down to the community because of the weather. As a result, he wasn't able to attend the ceremony. The Premier also wanted to go, but did not for the same reason.

The names of the graduates, Lucie Mary Kavik and her brother Elijah Kavik, Elain Arragutainaq, Willie Arragutainaq, Brenda Kavik, Nancy Kittosuk and Christine Iqaluk. I would like to congratulate these students for their graduation and for their hard work in completing their high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 094 – 1(5): Spouses of Elected Officials

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the only day but it would be very good if it were Women's Day every day.

I would like to talk about this issue. There are 19 of us sitting around this table and all of us have spouses and we never realize how our spouses are more hurt than ourselves during the campaigns or if we lose an election. I don't think that we even begin to understand how they feel for us and how they support us. When we are going through hard times for example, we get noticed and the media says a lot of negative things about us. I think it is our spouses who get hurt a lot more with those sharp words that are directed towards us.

We can never fully understand how they feel, and I think that we should be a little bit more sensitive towards our spouses, especially today, and with the kind of campaigns that

we have when we run for hamlet council or for the Legislative Assembly. No one ever seems to mention the spouses who go through harder times than we do. Through experience, I know that my wife goes through very hard times and I would like to urge members to be more sensitive.

We hear a lot today about Jack Anawak saying something, or Glenn McLean or Peter Kilabuk. But our spouses who are our solid foundation, our support I know these things hurt them more.

(interpretation ends) I just wanted to make the point that our spouses, for those of us who are in elected situations, probably hurt just as much if not more than we do and I think it is time that we give them the recognition that they deserve. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 095 - 1(5): Working Relationship with RCMP

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti and cousin, I'd also like to recognize International Women's Day and I also would like to reiterate what my colleague Mr. Anawak said. We do take some sharp criticism from the public out there.

Our spouses take it too because it is such a small territory that something said a thousand miles away, our spouses hear about it too. So I would like to reiterate what Mr. Anawak said.

Uqaqti today has mixed feelings for me as one of happiness and one of great sadness. Happiness that finally Baker Lake, after 10 years of lobbying both the GNWT and the Government of Nunavut on the old Jonah Amitnaaq School that today is the oldest school in Nunavut, full of asbestos, is finally being replaced and the community is very happy that finally their voice is being heard by the Government of Nunavut.

Thank you, Government of Nunavut you are listening to the people of Baker Lake. The sadness today is that I, like all of Nunavut have a feeling of tragedy today for the RCMP officer that lost his life in Cape Dorset.

I know we have a sorry past with the RCMP but they are here to assist in keeping our communities safe and friendly. I plead that the Minister of Justice helps keep our working relationship strong and secure with the RCMP in our communities. In a lot of the communities, we only have one RCMP officer in them.

This could also place existing officers in one community in greater danger and lower public safety for all involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, cousin. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 096 - 1(5): Baker Lake Caucus Retreat Communiqué

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the passage of time and how fast time goes by when we are having fun. Mr. Speaker, almost two years ago all Members of this House gathered in beautiful Baker Lake to begin the process of identifying priorities for us as a government during our term in office.

I was recently re-reading the statement that caucus issued at the conclusion of the retreat. At that time, we identified a number of areas that required concerted attention and effort.

These included strengthening our education system, addressing the gaps in our housing, and community infrastructure, decentralization and ensuring a consultative and accountable government. Mr. Speaker, I do believe we are making good progress in the area of investing in education. I do believe that it was entirely appropriate for members to have spent a number of days scrutinizing in detail the 175 million dollar budget that makes up the single largest departmental budget in the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I recall comments that were made last year in some quarters to the affect that we were approving millions of budget dollars in a matter of minutes. That kind of observation doesn't reflect well on us, on any of us. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Federal Minister complimented us this morning on good fiscal management. I would add that an important component of good management includes a legislature that carefully considers every dollar that the executive proposes to spend.

Mr. Speaker, it won't be too long before spring is upon us and it may already be there in some jurisdictions within Nunavut. We will be approaching the halfway point of our first term of office later this year.

I look forward to us having the opportunity at that time to fulfill our caucus commitment to reviewing the performance of the executive. Given the emphasis that the opening address from the budget speech placed on government-wide program review over the coming months, I would think we ourselves should be looking at such issues as the size and structure of our committees and other bodies in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements.

Member for Rankin Inlet South / Whale Cove, Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 097 – 1(5): Women's Day Celebrations in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the organizers of the International Women's Day in Rankin Inlet that is being held to celebrate this special day. Before I say that, I think Picco should do more in his house.

>> *Laughter*

The luncheon started today at noon and it was a first come, first served basis with room to accommodate a hundred people. This was organized by the Katauyak Society in partnership with Pularvik Publoo Friendship Centre and the community learning centre.

Today's purpose was to recognize the work women have done to improve their living conditions, raise community awareness regarding women's issues and celebrate the achievements and victories of women.

It is also a day for women to speak out on issues affecting them and celebrate both their strength and wisdom. At this time, I would like to recognize my mother Kanayuk Bruce today on Women's Day. I have four sisters. Two older sisters and two younger sisters, I'm right in the middle. In my mom's day it wasn't very popular to have daughters as everybody can understand in our culture.

We do have a brother and some other brothers that my mom and dad have adopted into the family. When I was running for MLA and my sister Kathy Towntongie had just run for NTI president, my mom made a comment that when we were born, she used to be let down because she would have this pregnancy and then she would have the baby and it would turn out to be another girl, another girl, another girl, another girl.

She didn't realize that when we grew up we would all want to be leaders and tell everybody what to do. So I would just like to recognize her and I don't know what her strategy is but it worked and I know a woman can do this job just as well as anybody else. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' Statements. Member for Tunnuniq. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 098 - 1(5): Status of Women Council Appointments

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge and thank the Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The department asked us to nominate individuals to the Status of Women Council. Thank you for appointing the person that I nominated, the person for Pond Inlet. I thank you for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 099 - 1(5): Tribute to Mother & Spouse on Women's Day

Minister Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today during International Women's Day, I want to acknowledge my mother in Pangnirtung and I want her to know that I am grateful to her.

I would also like to thank my wife. My wife's the only one here out of all the other members' spouses. Mr. Speaker, women take care of and feed our children, they welcome people into our homes. So we should be thanking women more for all the work that they do. I know that when my colleagues go to my house she makes them feel welcome and feeds them.

I would like to thank my wife and acknowledge her hard work. Mr. Speaker, if I were allowed to kiss here I would, but I don't think that is allowed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 100 – 1(5): Families Affected by Cape Dorset Shooting

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my voice is still hoarse, I don't think women like my voice any more. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say on this special day that I have a very good bond with my wife and my children and my mother. Especially when I have been away from my family, I really miss my family and I get very moody when I have been away from home for too long.

I also wanted to mention the incident in Cape Dorset where the RCMP member was killed. All the people of Nunavut have been touched by this tragedy. The family of the deceased, the family of the accused all deserve our sympathies. All the people of Nunavut feel this tragedy and we send our condolences and sympathies to all the families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 101 – 1(5): Respect for All Things

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, my voice is a bit hoarse too, maybe there is something going around.

>>*Laughter*

I also would like to thank my wife for raising all our kids and all the children that we raised are adults now. She has raised our children for 22 years, and ever since she has been young she has been on her own when I have been travelling on the road. She is very patient and she never changes and her behaviour is always stable. I think we are all aware that our spouses are very good to us so I would like to thank her for that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to make a statement using Inuit Traditional Knowledge. We have to respect other Inuit people as well as all animals and birds whether on land or sea. We were taught not to abuse them and not to kill them if we are not going to eat them. This is true for insects or even flowers as well, we are not supposed to abuse them.

When I was a young child, even the bones were not allowed to be thrown on to the ground. Mr. Speaker, there is much Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that can be incorporated and used in Nunavut. Through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit people had traditional laws and we can use them to plan for the future and our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, it is rare that I have a constituents here from Cambridge Bay, so thank you for the opportunity. I have two Public Works employees from Cambridge Bay, Brent Boddy the regional superintendent, in charge of Public Works and Joanne Apsimik of Cambridge Bay. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the legislature. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I already talked about my wife but I would like to recognize my wife Rosie and welcome her here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as some of the members know I really don't like watching myself on TV, most nights.

A Member: Yeah, right.

>>*Laughter*

My wife Oopa, said that Eddie you are not smiling very much on TV and I was thinking about that. It is hard to smile when you are answering questions on Health & Social Services.

But Mr. Speaker I looked around the Assembly today and I noticed one of the reasons why I wasn't smiling was because I miss my good colleague Mr. John Ningark. He's been in Yellowknife and he always sends me these little drawings, these little funny cartoons and I miss them. I'd like to take an opportunity to welcome to the Assembly a former MLA working now for the Member for Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay, Mr. John Ningark to the Assembly.

>>*Applause*

He is quite a drawer, Mr. Ningark. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome a person that we mentioned earlier in the statement naming the Status of Women Council and that person is Maureen Doherty. Maureen is well known by many people here in Iqaluit.

Maureen was also with me 14 years ago when I was the President of the Baffin Adult Education Society and we worked together on a project at that time to translate the child sexual abuse material kit into Inuktitut. She has always been a community activist and so on. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome her to the gallery also.

>>*Applause*

I just noticed Brent in the back there, Kelvin had introduced him. Brent was a long time resident of Iqaluit. He had a boat and used to do a lot of hunting with a good friend of ours Mr. Cody Kenneally. I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Brent back to Iqaluit and to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. It is not very often that I recognize people from my home community. But today I have two. Thanks to the beloved Minister of the Power Corporation for hiring them and bringing them to Iqaluit to train them.

Today I'd like to recognize Rosie Iyago of the Power Corporation and Carmen Ikuutaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an elder who is visiting in the House and he used to live in the Kivalliq region. Celestine Erkijuk. He is a resident of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not had a chance to recognize many people. Today I would like to recognize an individual. My mother passed away in 1962 and my daughter is named after her so I would like to recognize Annie my daughter. I also want to recognize one of the new Women's Council appointees, Rhoda Ungalaq, who is sitting over there.

>>Applause

Also, Maureen Doherty, also a new council member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Orders of the Day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an old classmate I went to school with in Churchill, Manitoba. I would like to recognize Rhoda Ungalaq.

I would also like to recognize my daughter who is one of the pages here in the Assembly. When I asked her what the Members of the Legislative Assembly were doing, her understanding was that they are talking about millions and millions of dollars for a long, long time and that they agree with each other. She feels that they are very good at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize an individual in the gallery. I would like to recognize my daughter Angela Nutarak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that has been with the church in Cape Dorset for quite some time and a very good friend, Daniel Aupaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know Mr. Ng already recognized my staff, but I would also like to recognize and appreciate Brent Boddy who has done a very good job for the Public Works Department in the Kitikmeot Region.

Also Joanne Apsimik who is also one of my staff, they are very good support for me in that area. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 094 - 1(5): Ublivik Contract

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health & Social Services. He said during question period recently that he thought the contractors of Ublivik Boarding Home had been changed. Has it indeed been changed and who are the contractors now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the contractors who run the boarding home in Winnipeg have changed ownership in that 51%

of the company running the contract, has bought the full shares of the contract from the previous winner of the contract.

That new owner is Nunasi Corporation in partnership with the Regional Inuit Organizations, development organizations in the Keewatin, Sakku Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this following the government rules or policies, is it okay to be able to do that without the involvement of the government. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed Mr. Speaker in business, for example, it could be a boarding home or it could be a contract. If you changed ownership the contractors in place still continue, and there's many examples of that in business, in hockey for example if you get traded from one team to another if you have a contract it doesn't matter about the ownership of the team, the contracts are still valid.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, the contract to run the boarding home, the ownership has changed but the contract is still valid, for the period of time the award was made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can he tell me who owns the 49% of the business remaining. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if my memory serves me, I believe it's TC Enterprises, that has the 49%. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Will there be a new building or are there plans to replace the building, it's an old building and the patients that travel to Winnipeg have concerns about the service that is provided there. Is the minister aware of those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are aware of several concerns with the current boarding home itself, not the operation of the boarding home but the

actual physical infrastructure that we are using. That's a property that we have been using, we've been using that for quite a long time, previous to the Government of Nunavut in the NWT government.

Mr. Speaker, I have been approached by different organizations and groups, in the process of trying to identify if we should have a new building on the ground. At the same time we would want to point out that our patients, escorts that are travelling to Winnipeg, deserve the best treatment possible. That includes the physical infrastructure they are in, and that's something we are looking at right now as a department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean. Member for Baker Lake.

Question 095 - 1(3): Change of Ownership for Government Contracts

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Is it the policy of this government and I want to follow up my colleague, Mr. Arvaluk's question on contracts, that if ownership of a company changes, does the contract automatically go to the change of ownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not an expert on government contracts, I believe that's held by a different minister and portfolio. But I can say in this case the contract portion of the ownership was bought out, and therefore there was nothing wrong with the contract being held by that same party.

The contract is to run the facility, the contract wasn't awarded on the basis of the owners. I think that has to be key here, Mr. Speaker, I think that is the point that the member was trying to make. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I say I want to follow up on my colleague Mr. Arvaluk's concerns. The minister is absolutely right on that facility. I brought it up in the Legislature I think in the last sitting, about the vermin problem we had in that building, the state of it.

I myself visited that facility and really was not happy with the overall physical and operational, the physical side of the building. Is the minister going to replace that building within the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that facility is not owned by the Government of Nunavut. That facility is leased by the contract holders. As I said earlier I have been approached by a Regional Inuit Organization to say look this facility is not up to snuff, we would like to have a better facility for our clientele and for our patients to travel to. Would you be interested in looking at that.

So that is where we are right now Mr. Speaker, reviewing that proposal. For example, Mr. Speaker, we were just in Edmonton, some of the members and myself when we opened up the new boarding home for the hospital patients that come from the Kitikmeot Region. We also opened up a new boarding home in Ottawa run by the Larga organization for the patients from the Baffin.

It is my understanding that is the oldest facility that we have right now on the ground. We don't own it but we have an opportunity to look at other alternatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I hope that the Honourable Minister will invite me to the opening of the new boarding home in Winnipeg when he gives me an answer when he is going to build it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will he tell me when he is going to build it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am still trying to build some hospitals and Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I don't build the facilities or boarding homes, the Government of Nunavut doesn't build the boarding homes. In these cases we are leasing, the last facility that I believe that the government owns and I stand to be corrected, was the old Baffin House in Montreal. That was the last stand alone facility that we actually physically owned, to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

But I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that when a contract is awarded, a contract is awarded on the basis of the facility itself, what facility is being used and so on. In this case, I have said, after hearing the members in this House, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. McLean, have articulated very well that there are concerns with the facility in Winnipeg and I as minister have directed my officials and staff to look at the possibility of how we can find, if possible, find a better facility.

We are aggressively approaching that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be doing some written questions on the facility tomorrow to the minister's delight, but my final question here is,

if he decides to lease a new facility for the residents of the Kivalliq, will he do it through a tender process or an RFP process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. McLean has fantastic hearing ability and maybe I am not getting through in the way I am articulating and explaining this answer. The Government of Nunavut, we don't lease the building, okay. There is no O&M budget line saying that I lease that building in Winnipeg.

It is operated through the contract that the successful proponents have brought forward. Now the successful proponents are on the ground, they have come forward and they have said, Mr. Picco, this facility is not up to snuff, what can we do about it, and I had the same concerns as they do.

So, I am approaching it based on the proposal that they've sent. We'd probably go to an RFP or another open tender contract, following the guidelines and criteria that are set out by the Government of Nunavut. I think that would please Mr. McLean.

And I want to assure you Mr. Speaker that we have done two reviews on the boarding home in Winnipeg. We've done questionnaires with their clients, client satisfaction questionnaires. We haven't had concerns about like I said before on management. We've had concerns about the physical facility and I think the member tried to say that there was some vermin in there. I believe he was trying to say some varmints. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Item 6 on the Orders of the Day. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 096 - 1(5): Environmental Groups

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. I have been noticing that wildlife management seems to be working well with the government. But I'd like to know how well they work with other organizations such as the Water Board, the Impact Review Board and others.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As mandated by the land claim agreement, we appoint members to those different organizations and I believe it is two members each to the two boards that he mentioned. We do work with them but they do not report to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his response and appreciate it. As Nunavummiut, we are part of those groups and we deal with these groups. Mr. Speaker, we need to support those organizations and work closely with them. Would we be able to work more closely with environment, wildlife and those kinds of boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently, we appoint members to those boards and we keep close contact and work closely with them. When issues come up that we need to work on with them, then that's what we do. We live in the same territory, have the same concerns so, yes, we do work closely together. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 097 - 1(3): Staff Housing Rental Rates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Public Works. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that this department is responsible for the staff housing of government employees. I'd like to ask the minister if she could explain a little on how the rental rates for staff housing are set. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just looking at the policy here and I'm having a difficult time understanding the policy. I've got the whole policy in front of me. I couldn't tell the member how the rates are set.

It seems to be a little bit complicated but I can certainly give this to the member or table the staff housing policy that was approved in principle by cabinet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the minister's answer and I can guess that it wouldn't be a simple calculation. But Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if she's looking into it and I would appreciate it if she would provide that information to me or the rest of the members.

I'm wondering in calculating or in the formula, I guess if it is a formula, are things like the age of the unit and the condition of the unit taken into account. I know for example here in Iqaluit you can look at the extremes from probably some of the oldest staff housing within our territory to some of the newest.

I'm just wondering if the same formula is used on those you know old units that's used on the new units if the age and condition of the unit is taken into account in assessing the rents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also aware of very old units that are being used by our teaching staff in the territory in a lot of our communities.

Then there are newer buildings that are also being used by the same teaching staff in other communities with the same salary and stuff. What I could do is take this as notice and get more information to the member after I've got the staff to prepare it for the House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Taken as notice. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 098 - 1(5): Midwifery in the Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. Midwifery was a hot topic in the past and we were told that there was going to be midwifery introduced to the communities.

Which communities have taken on the midwifery programs. Which communities are they in now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health & Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to begin my answer by thanking the member for his support, he's the chairman for the Standing Committee on Health and has been quite an advocate for health concerns in Nunavut and he's to be commended for that.

Mr. Speaker, we've been talking about traditional birthing practices and midwifery and indeed when I was in Pond Inlet with the member there were some questions raised about having more children, more babies being born at the local level instead of having to bring mothers out, sending them to Iqaluit or sending them to Winnipeg or Yellowknife or even Edmonton.

A project began a few years ago sponsored, I should add, by the well known Finance Minister for the Government of Nunavut when he was the Health Minister. It seems to be a long time ago for him, I believe.

He started the birthing centre in Rankin Inlet, which was a terrific idea. That birthing centre has moved forward, it has expanded its practice and indeed, we have employed and trained Inuit midwives in the community and it was a success. At the present time, Mr. Speaker, that is the only community in Nunavut to my knowledge that is actually practicing midwifery in Nunavut at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The communities would like to see midwifery practiced in their communities because of course pregnant women have to be out of the community for a whole month before they give birth and return to their communities.

It has been the wish of the communities to practice midwifery at the community level. Are you going to be setting up midwifery programs in the communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's a good question. Ideally, I think that is where we would like to be in a few years time. However, Mr. Speaker, it seems to us and if you look at the incidence of birth over the past several years, our birth mothers are getting a lot younger. More mothers are smoking during pregnancy and therefore the birth weights of the children are quite, quite smaller and we have tracked that.

Thirty years ago, it would be safe to say Mr. Speaker that mothers seemed to be healthier, they had a different lifestyle. Today the majority of mothers are younger and they smoke. So what we want to make sure of Mr. Speaker, is that if we are going to put traditional midwifery and traditional birthing practices at the community level, then not only is it safe for the mother, but it is also safe for the child. That is the type of thing we are working on.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, when we get the new regional facilities, for example in the Kitikmeot region, we won't have to send every mother outside of the community to have a baby in Yellowknife or Edmonton. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, it would be the same case in the Keewatin Region. We have talked about before Mr. Speaker, that I think almost a quarter of our total budget is spent on pregnancy and bringing women out of their communities, which is not acceptable. So we are trying to move in that direction where possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to urge all members to come straight to the point when you are asking your questions or making your responses and allow other members to ask questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the women want to bear their children in their communities. Is it possible to do that if it has the approval of the

nurse. Could the women have the option of staying in their community or going to the regional centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time at the health centres we are only set up in case of an emergency, where a lady went into early stages of labour and we had to deliver. If a person wanted to stay in their community to have their baby they would have to have the visiting doctor to okay it and we would also have to make sure that we had the staff at the health centre to do it, that we had the incubator if that was needed and so on.

It is something Mr. Speaker that we are looking at in the Department of Health, to see if there is an opportunity at the community level to have more births. But that is quite a ways off at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 099 - 1(3): Elders Teaching Midwifery

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask further questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services on the issue of midwifery, and bearing children in the community.

I was taught about how traditional midwifery went on a long time ago, and I'm astonished about the skills known through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Is it possible to set up some kind of a traditional midwifery course because they know so much, is it possible to set up those kinds of programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are doing that right now in Rankin as I said, we have three registered midwives, and we also have two maternity workers in Rankin.

The statistics show me that of the births in Rankin, sixteen over the past several months have actually come from outside of Rankin, so we're actually doing that. I think what the member would like to see is, what the member of Pond Inlet has asked is, can we have more deliveries at the community levels, for example in Clyde or in Pond.

And as I said earlier, it depends on a number of factors Mr. Speaker, do we have the staff in place on the ground and do we have trained midwives or registered midwives, and at the same time, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that it's not a high risk pregnancy and that's something that we're looking at.

We are also looking at what type of mechanism we could put in place to make sure, liabilities issues and so on, so it's not just a clear cut case of saying yes or no. That's something that we are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Rankin Inlet birthing centre is okay but I'm asking about the other communities. The communities are very far from one and other, and I do believe there are women out there who know about traditional midwifery.

Is it possible to set up some courses through Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and can we set aside some money so that the interested people can learn about traditional midwifery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member makes a good point and that's something that the department would like to do is move in that direction, to actually train more women to be professional and registered midwives. So that's actually something we can look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you talking about traditional midwifery or modern midwifery.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we're talking about a mix of both. That's what we've been doing successfully in Rankin since 1993. We had to make sure Mr. Speaker, that we're looking at foetal care as well postnatal and prenatal care of the mother and also of the child that is born. That is what we are looking at, Mr. Speaker, so we would be interested to see if there is an opportunity to train other women in Nunavut who would like an opportunity to be trained as midwives.

I see this as complimentary Mr. Speaker, to our staff at the health centre that we have other trained people, other trained professionals on the ground who could help out in the case of a delivery. So I think it is a good suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 100 - 1(5): Igloolik Health Centre Staff

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during question period I asked the Minister for Health & Social Services some questions about the Igloolik health centre and closures.

When I asked him, Mr. Speaker, if he could send a nurse to the community, he agreed to that. I will be asking him again if he will be sending the nurse over to the community or will he be just be reviewing it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Health & Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member has to review the Hansard and he will see I said if operational requirements dictated that we needed to send another staff person there. I explained late yesterday and it is in the Hansard that when we contacted the Igloolik health centre yesterday, there had been several emergencies in Igloolik in the last few days.

There are four nurses on the ground in Igloolik. One of the nurses was sick and therefore Mr. Speaker, the nursing station was closed for well baby clinics and so on. The nursing station was closed for those types of events. It was open for emergencies and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it normal practice to have a health centre closed during working hours. Is it okay to do that or is there a problem with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a good question. What usually happens Mr. Speaker, is the nurse in charge in each of our community health centres, if they believe at that time, at that moment in time that the health centre would be better serviced, that the staff are tired, that they need a break.

Then the nurse in charge could make that decision that the centre would be closed except for emergencies only to give the staff an opportunity to rest. As the member knows and as the members of this House know I mean the nursing staff in the community health centres are on call 24 hours a day.

In most cases they actually live in the building itself. So we don't see that as a request that should not be granted. So it is based on the operational requirements of the centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to ask him if closing the health centre during the working hours is proper practice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no it is not a normal routine. It is based on the operational requirements. In the case if the staff are tired, like I said, if they've been overworked. In this case, they've had several emergencies and so on, the nurse in charge decided, one of the nurses was sick and there were only three of them working, that they would close the centre for those optional healthy well baby clinic, maybe public health information things.

If there had been another emergency or whatever that someone needed to be seen, then the staff would have been working. I hope that clarifies the situation there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For that reason, yes, the nurses get overworked and they get stressed out. That is indeed the case in my community. It becomes evident that the number of nurses is inadequate because the health centres have to be open and available to everybody, every day. Does he agree that we have a shortage of nurses.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct it's not acceptable to have nurses in the community overworked. We have been successful over the last several months. We are up to about 80 or 90% right now staffing in our stations, one of the best rates that we have had. It's still not acceptable. In the member's community as an example, when I first went there, 18 or 19 years ago there were two nurses, today there's still 2.5 nurses and the population has more than doubled.

He's right. So we need to be able to fund more positions for community health nurses, not only in the member's community but in other members' communities here in this Legislative Assembly.

That will be an opportunity for the members when we get to the Department of Health & Social Services budget, maybe that's a recommendation that he would like to make to increase the staffing at the local level. That would be something that I would welcome, the support of these members with the budget of Health & Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 101 - 1(5): Administrative Duties for Nurses

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Health & Social Services. I think this is his day.

I would like to ask, for the social workers in the communities there's a process there where they have to apply for leave from work, they give this paperwork to the nurses. Have you given more responsibilities to these nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge we haven't changed the job description or the responsibilities of those staff. We do try and continue professional development, where possible, for all staff. The Government of Nunavut itself tries to do that. The Department of Health & Social Services is no different in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to ask my question in English maybe I was not clear.

My question is have the nurses been given more responsibility for doing administration work for the social workers, their leave forms and other administrative duties that need to be done. Is that the nurses' responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in every community there's always someone who's acknowledged as the chief government bureaucrat for that department. In some communities for example, if it is social workers, you have an area supervisor let's say for north Baffin, if the social worker was going to be leaving for maternity leave or annual leave or whatever, then they would have the authorization from their direct supervisor.

At the community level, if the person was leaving for a day or needed a leave form done for sickness then another member would have to check it off. That could be the nurse, if the nurse for example was sick, it would be one of the other staff people on the ground that would be given that opportunity.

What we've tried to do Mr. Speaker, is limit the amount of administration for our nurses and we've come up with a new plan Mr. Speaker, where we've made a centre manager in each of the, in each of the communities.

We've started testing if for example in Cambridge Bay where we have a health centre manager and that nurse does most of the administration, paperwork and so on and then that allows the other nurses to be able to concentrate on nursing. So that's a model that we'd like to try to implement in some of the other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will ask then the minister, we've just heard that there's a shortage of nurses in these communities. How can we as a government make sure that they don't take any more responsibility, and I would also like to know what the organizational chart is like for the reporting or the administration work for the nurses with social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there were two questions, two excellent questions. Mr. Speaker, on the first question the member is correct. We don't want to be putting more, especially administrative tasks, on to our health centre staff, on to our nursing staff. They have enough work to do at the present time.

In this region, for example, Mr. Speaker, with the deal that was cut by the Regional Health Boards, they had the nurses at one point writing all the tickets in the community. Actually writing up the tickets for people who had to go out for medical travel. That wasn't acceptable and we changed that.

Mr. Speaker, on the second part, an organizational chart is a living, breathing thing. When we incorporated the three Regional Health Boards, we had to change the whole structure of Health & Social Services, including the organizational chart. In most cases, Mr. Speaker, we have a person on the organizational chart that the other staff in the department report to, like any other organization.

In most cases, Mr. Speaker, it is the Nurse in Charge who fills that supervisory role for the organizational chart. In fact and probably in practice, Mr. Speaker, in most cases there would not be that direct reporting linkage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Final supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I visited my constituents' communities, this was a concern and that is why I brought it up. Also having worked as a social worker before, I think this organizational chart needs to be reviewed, and it was not acceptable to the nurses that I spoke to in those communities.

They did not take part in the designing of the organizational chart so I think we need to look at that. I know it was passed in each hamlet as the minister told me before. I would just ask to have this organizational chart reviewed again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an organizational chart is a snapshot in time of where the department is and in most cases, an organizational chart shows where the department would want to go. For logistic reasons, Mr. Speaker, for administrative reasons you show a hierarchy within the organizational chart where people have to report or the reporting structures.

That's what the organizational chart does, it shows you the number of bodies that you have, the number of positions as well as the organizational flow and reporting structures of the department. In this case, Mr. Speaker, we have had concerns and the member is correct, I have heard concerns myself about the reporting structure as shown on the organizational chart. However, Mr. Speaker, I have not had any correspondence, writing or otherwise saying that they have had problems with the way it was working. They didn't like the way it looked on paper, even though it was actually in place for over a year before we actually got it massaged enough and got it approved.

That is the reporting structure that we have used since April 1, 2000 when we assumed the health boards. But the member is correct that it's something we need to take the opportunity to review and update the organizational chart. That is something, Mr. Speaker that we will do. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 102 - 1(5): Language Bureau Staffing

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. I have a question for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The positions for his department in Kugluktuk, the interpreters and translators, are they fully staffed now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could answer him by saying that when we were in Kugluktuk we learned that some of the positions are not filled at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I just want him to clarify who and what positions still need to be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Kugluktuk there are nine positions that have to be filled by my department and right now there are seven filled. They are with language services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I just want clarification. When these people are hired, are they responsible for all of Nunavut. Will there be trainees under these people so they can train to be interpreters and translators. Can these positions be available once these people are hired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct when he said that these people are working for the whole of Nunavut. We will consider his suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Last supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I didn't get the answer that I wanted. (interpretation ends) I think you have filled seven positions, that is correct. Those positions that you filled now, are you planning to have trainees along with the people that are hired today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is asking whether some positions will be for trainees. I am not really sure. We will look at your question and we will get back to you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 103 - 1(5): Number of Nursing Students

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is to the Minister of Health & Social Services. Uqaqti it is a known fact that there is a nursing shortage in Nunavut, and I know the minister is trying very hard to recruit nurses for Nunavut.

I have to give him credit, he is doing a good job. Two years ago, he made a major announcement opening a nursing course here in Iqaluit. Could the minister update me or the House as to how many students have applied and how many are currently in the course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for asking about the nursing program. As you know Mr. Speaker, it is one of the cornerstones that the Nunavut government advance Inuit employment opportunities in non-traditional occupations in Nunavut for Inuit.

I don't have the number of people who have applied with me but it is my understanding that we have seven students in the first year program and we have three students who are in the second year program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those are good numbers, there's three in the second year. Can the minister explain and tell me how many started. How many started in the first year, that are now in the second year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I always pride myself on not taking any questions as notice I try to have that information in my head. So Mr. Speaker, yes, to answer his question for Mr. McLean, how many students, I forget the question. Mr. Speaker, what was that question.

How many students started, that's a good question, I don't know how many students started the program, I believe the attrition rate has been about 80%. That is high Mr. Speaker, the attrition rate, in that type of program, like the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, when we first started off was quite high. That's why we've got the access year running.

So I believe, Mr. Speaker, the attrition rate is about that high. I think we started off at 11 students originally, I think we have three right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The attrition rate of 80% is far too high. It's probably various reasons why these students drop out, is his department working with the Department of Education or Arctic College, to ensure these students who go into the program are upgraded and given the skills necessary to complete the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker. That's the whole reason behind the access year program. It is to bring not only the academic opportunities forward, but to orient students towards a career as a nurse, or in the health field in general. So the access year does what Mr. McLean has asked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The access program is there to make sure that it doesn't happen again. Does he foresee that the seven students that are in the first year will complete the first year, and will want to proceed to the second year with this access program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the access year of the nursing program is, like I said before, Mr. Speaker, to make sure that the students who want to go into the first year nursing program have the science, have the math, have the academics to be able to be successful in the first year, second year and so on in succeeding years of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I can't guarantee if you start off with seven, people will drop out of programs for X number of reasons. I believe three of the women dropped out because of pregnancies for example, some of them had to go back to their home communities. There's always a high attrition rate in different college programs.

The program here has a high attrition rate, that is to be accepted and expected, Mr. Speaker, in this type of field. If I was to suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, we can graduate one, two or even three nurses, than we've been successful because that's three we did not have before we started the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 104- 1(5): Support for Nursing Students

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I will continue on with a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services because he's doing a fine job answering questions today.

Mr. Speaker, my honourable colleague from Baker Lake was talking about the nursing students. Does the minister or is his department doing any specific support to ensure that these students that enter into the program are given every opportunity to successfully complete the program.

If, as he had indicated, the attrition rate is so high, have they identified some of the problems that need to be overcome in causing that attrition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to make sure that I clarify that. When Mr. McLean asked the original question on the number, I was just thinking up something off the top of my head and that was the number I gave you. It may be less than 80% but it's a very high attrition number.

It is a concern for us Mr. Speaker, and there has been student support given by Arctic College at the campus here. There are people on the ground at the Arctic College that provide student support services and so on. At the same time Mr. Speaker, as recently as last week I had our Deputy Minister of Health meet with the head of the campus here, Mr. Ludlow, specifically on the nursing program to see if there's any other support that we can put in place.

We've also had, Mr. Speaker, a review of the program itself and it passed with flying colours from the Dalhousie Medical School. So there are support programs in place and there are student support programs in place but as the member said we might have to ramp up more if we see that the attrition rate is increasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of the number of students that have been dropping out of the program, does the department do any questioning as to finding out or ask them why they are dropping out. I'm just wondering if there is any statistical information that the department keeps on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program is being run by Arctic College. It's to train health professionals so I guess in the strictest sense it's not a health program it's being run by the Department of Education and so on.

They do exit exams and so on, on programs on a regular basis. As I said before through personal reasons, family considerations and that, that seems to be the biggest indicator that we have for the attrition rate. It's a tough program. It's academically challenging, it's professionally challenging, it means work training and so on.

It's a challenging program to take so I would recommend at this time Mr. Speaker, if there were any Nunavummiut that would like to take this program it would be a great and worthwhile experience. We need more people in Nunavut to apply to be nurses and Mr. Speaker, as you know to train as nurses for our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly understand having gone to a southern college and taken a course where the nursing program was offered and a number of friends that went through such a program and acknowledged the fact that it is a very challenging program. It's very difficult.

One of the things that I've also had raised to me by some students, Mr. Speaker, that live in my riding and I'm sure it's not just students that live in my riding but one of the problems, challenges that they all face. On top of a very challenging course is the challenge of being able to survive financially if they have to move their family away from their home community and come here to Iqaluit, to take the course.

They're finding that it costs too much for them and they are not being funded enough to take these programs. I'm just wondering Mr. Speaker, if that's one of the concerns that has been raised and if the minister is looking at working with the Minister of Education in trying to find some solutions to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member makes a good point. We know that Iqaluit is a very expensive place to live and we have had that concern brought forward many times by students. I believe when Premier Okalik was the Minister of Education he initiated an opportunity within that department to review Student Financial Assistance. Through his dedicated leadership being carried out now by Minister Kilabuk, indeed Student Financial Assistance or SFA, is being reviewed.

Hopefully, there will be some positive outcomes for students. The Premier as you know Mr. Speaker, having gone through his own situation being a professional student, and...

>>*Laughter*

... sorry, having completed his own professional studies, knows the effect of that. That's something that we are trying to look at with the help of our Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Last supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it sounds better to hear last supplementary instead of final. Final sounds so final. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, if one of the other reasons, and I know that again, raised by some of the students that I talked to a concern that they had was the accommodations.

I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, is that lack of and cost of accommodations one of the other concerns raised by any of the students that left the program or are presently in the program and if the minister is looking at working towards solving that problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier and I actually had an opportunity to go and visit the students at the college this past fall. At that time we did

hear some concerns about housing, especially with the students that are here with their families.

I know there has been a plan by the college for the college to look at possibly the housing for students in Iqaluit but also for their other campus locations like Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. My understanding is Mr. Speaker, that is being looked at by the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is over. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing & Special Committees. Reports of Standing & Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 010 – 1(5): Response to Petitions 1 – 1(5) & 002 - 1(5)

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents. Response to Petition 1 – 1(5) and Petition 2 – 1(5). Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 004 – 1(5): Adjournment

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when the House adjourns on March 4, 2001, it shall be adjourned until March 15, 2001 at 1.30 p.m. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Havioyak, would you like to read the motion again please.

Mr. Havioyak: Did I say 4. Sorry I will try that again. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that, notwithstanding standing Rule 4, when the House adjourns on March 9, 2001, it shall be adjourned until March 15, 2001 at 1.30 p.m. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was very clear. Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. There is a motion on the floor. All in favour of the motion. Against. The motion is carried.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills & Other Matters.

Bill 1, Appropriations Act 2001-2002. According to the authority vested in me by Motion 002 – 1(5) the committee shall stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Irqittuq in the Chair. We will take a fifteen-minute break.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*The House recessed at 4.41 p.m. and resumed at 5.07 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We will be going into Committee of the Whole. Welcome. Yesterday, we concluded the Capital Estimates for the Housing Corporation. Is it the wish of the members to continue with the Housing Corporation Main Estimates. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to go to Bill 1 Appropriation Act 2001-2002 Main Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 1 Appropriation Act 2001-2002 Housing Corporation Main Estimates. We will be starting on page 12-5. Would Ms. Thompson please approach the witness table. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I am on my way and I will bring my officials.

Chairperson (interpretation): Sergeant-At-Arms please bring in the officials. Thank you, Madam Minister. Please introduce your witnesses Ms. Thompson.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I would like to draw members' attention to the information item starting on page 12-6. When members are discussing page 12-5 they can refer to the information items. The only page that needs to be approved by the House, is on page 12-5. Prior to approving 12-5 questions may be asked on the information items. Do the members have any questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know which page it is exactly but reading through 12-5, the public housing renovations and so on. My question

is if it includes the architectural and engineering, in that line item, or whether it's on a different page. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did you direct that question to me.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I directed that question to the minister. Is the architectural and engineering included on page 12-5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm on page 12-5, it says Nunavut Housing Corporation. In response to the question just posed, the architectural and engineering are in the Capital Estimates, which was approved yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We are referring to page 12-5. The only page that needs to be approved by the House is on page 12-5 and prior to approving page 12-5 questions may be asked on the information items. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the main estimates, probably it is only talking about the regular employees for example the Housing Corporation employees, do you have architects and engineers as employees in the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to your question I will redirect that question to Ms. Hine.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a technical division and one position is Manager, Design and Development, and in our organizational chart we also have a position that is an architect position. However, that position is vacant at this time. We haven't staffed that position yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: So, you don't have the actual PY filled for the architect. Do you, I assume there are some at Public Works. What do you use at the moment to do your designing and

you design plans. Do you contract this out or do you borrow some from public works, what's the set up right now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the designs that we are using now are designs that we have received from the NWT Housing Corporation and any revisions to those designs that are required, we've been using their staff at this time until we are staffed up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems that the Canadian code seems to be operating like a fad of some new style and goes away and changes. Are these designs from the GNWT still valid and up to code. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any one of the witnesses. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We use the designs from the NWT Housing Corporation and we do make revisions to the drawings as necessary. But in order to be clearer I'll direct that question to Ms. Hine.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Go ahead.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The designs that we are currently using are up to date. Some of them may have to have some revisions but they are up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked the other day in the capital area if you would be looking for the most economical or most efficient equipment or I don't know what you call them, facilities like furnaces or water pumps and anything else that homeowners and rental housing could be using. Is this search for that kind of most efficient household item included in this page. The minister has stated that she'll be looking into this kind of thing. Will you be using this fund to search for these kinds of things. Thank you.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you get this position filled will you be using one architect for all Nunavut to design or find the right design that is affordable and the most heat efficient for the public housing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although we only have one architect on our organizational chart we have other technical staff, including the manager of design and development so the task of finding efficient designs will be taken on by the whole technical service division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that it Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do you invite well-known companies to give you, not a proposal necessarily, but information as to what kind of housing designs they have that you may be interested in introducing for Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been in conversations with Canada Mortgage and Housing. They have a large research and design development division. They also export a lot of housing technologies to Russia and other circumpolar areas. I have asked them to assist us in the search for the most economic designs and technologies that are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last one on this page. Do you know that in Yellowknife there is a builder who claims that his building designs where the corners do not meet and insulation is made of Styrofoam he said he could put it up in 3 days or 5 working days. Complete. With that in mind, do you have a catalogue of these companies who they say can do those kinds of things for Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we don't have them in our offices, we can certainly ask for them and get those copies from Yellowknife. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Supplementary to that. You don't have anything at all, some kind of a cataloguing system from different companies that may be interested in designing and building efficient homes for Nunavut. Do you have anything at all at hand that you can use them for reference or comparisons. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was made aware that we do have some publications in this area in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here, it mentions 40 million, grants and contributions and it states in the program summary, that they will be using that for elders' facilities. What kind of elders' facilities do we have in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, when we dealt with the Capital Estimates we discussed it. There used to be elders' facilities such as row housing, they have bigger washrooms. These are elders' facilities and we do have those facilities in the communities. I am not too sure which communities they're in. But for the elders we supply housing for elders who are capable, who are able bodied. We do have those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For elders' facilities, do you have any plans to review the communities that don't have elders' facilities so that they can have access to elders' facilities in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can review it. But the funding that you approved yesterday was geared towards Capital buildings in the communities. If they're going to supply units to the communities, you can have the option of changing it to elders' facilities instead of public units.

But we don't have any budgets for elders' facilities at this time but it's up to you as to whether you want to change that unit to an elders' facility from public housing. If the funding is adequate and you want to get an elders' facility, and the designs are up to date. We can review it at this time and I guess this is a bit of urgent case right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Your response is very interesting and it's very nice to hear. But for people who have physical difficulties they don't seem to be mentioned here because I don't see one. I'm sure it should be included in this or under this 40 million line. I was wondering why they're not included in this line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for operations and maintenance. We are supposed to be dealing with the Main Estimates, the operations and maintenance and we have already approved the capital estimates. So we are now on the operations and maintenance part of it. I can speak to that issue although it's not on this page, if they were physically disabled people they can renovate the homes so these physically disabled people can have access to the house. That is in the capital estimates, we're on operations and maintenance. Maybe I don't understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. We approved the capital estimates yesterday and I just want to remind the members at this time we are on operations and maintenance. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we completed those yesterday, but according to the way the program summary is written that's why I'm asking these questions they're in the main estimates. If I'm correct, main estimates, they're in there and I'm asking a question in regards to that. I hope you can understand me. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on the main estimates, page 12-5. If you have any questions on this page, you may ask your questions. You can go on and look at the information items. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me read it. Nunavut Housing Corporation provides public rental housing, homeownership renovation programs and related services to residents of Nunavut and to the elders with the assistance of our partners the local housing organizations. The contributions to the corporation are the Government of Nunavut's share. That's where I'm asking this question. It's under line item 40 million dollars. Under this program summary in the Inuktitut version, it mentions here the elders' facilities. That is my question, do we have to pay for elders' facilities from this line item.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank Mr. Iqaqrialu. I didn't exactly know where, but in Inuktitut, it says Inakurvik Elders' Facility but in English, there's no elders' facility. So that's where the confusion came. In the English version it says the residents of Nunavut.

Part of the funding, these are elders' facilities and we give them subsidies for oil and power and the energy use. So that is what it's trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's ok now I understand.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned the other day the youth of whom many are searching for their own homes. They want to begin to get their own housing. When there are too many within the household, it becomes a problem. In the future for instance, even though this is not the Housing Corporation, in Taloyoak they are looking for a youth centre even though it is not through the Housing Corporation. If there were more of these available throughout Nunavut even though the Housing Corporation doesn't build those units, maybe the private companies can do those and they can be leased. Is this is a place where funding can flow from. This is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are all aware the young people in communities are increasing in population and even when they want to move out of their parent's home they have no place to move into even though they want to live on their own. I am sure the number of young people is increasing and this is understandable. But the funding that was approved yesterday for the Capital Estimates was geared towards the construction of housing units. I understand you, if the community or a private company wanted to build a unit could we lease it. I understand your question. Once we construct a unit, the mortgage has to be paid for a long time and the operations and maintenance of the units have to be paid for.

I know the young people need to find their own homes. Perhaps within the coming four years we will have to review it and find out how we can accommodate the young people. For youth issues there is a department that deals with the youth, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I don't know what the programs are for that department. Perhaps work with them and reconsider this and deal with this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for your response. It is becoming clear in the future, we have to think about those things I just mentioned. I believe it is in Taloyoak there is a youth centre, it might not be your building. It is a private project where you lease it. This is utilized by youth. For the future, we need to co-operate and work with each other to make this thing run. It is not so much a question but to look in the future to see that it runs well with the co-operation of those involved. These comments are geared to youth centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Taloyoak, I know that they did a pilot project where they have a youth centre. I'm sure that they did not just get our funding and they had other sources of funding and they did fundraising and that's how they got that youth centre. It's understandable that we need places for young people. When they get a spouse, there's hardly any room left. Yes we can consider this in the future when we start dealing with the Capital Estimates again as we have to approve these Capital Estimates annually for the Housing Corporation.

Yes, we take into consideration the recommendations and suggestions we get from the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that it. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a question a little while ago by one of the members. Do we have any catalogues where we could order houses, are they in your office Madam Minister, or in the local communities' Housing Associations.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thomson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are in the local Housing Authorities, and the local Housing Authorities can get them from our department. If anybody wants to get a home then they can take a look at the catalogue of companies that provide housing. So if anybody needs one or wants to look at one, they can get them from the Arviat office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say something that I never said yesterday is welcome to the minister and her staff to the Assembly. I'm sorry I missed doing that yesterday. Mr. Chairman, under 12-5 there's over 40 million dollars in grants and contributions. Are those contributions that the corporation makes to LHOs for the operations and maintenance of the public housing inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Ms. Hine to answer that question. I was looking at something else and I will get Ms. Hine to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 40 million that's showing here is the total contribution provided to us from the Government of Nunavut. So it includes all our O&M including the money that we give to the LHOs, plus the money that we have for our staff.

So it's the total O&M for the corporation that we receive from the Government of Nunavut. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is showing roughly, rounded off, roughly a 4 million dollar increase over the previous year. I'm just wondering if the minister or her staff could indicate where those increases are going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you. I'm just pushing ahead here. The increase to the LHOs is 2.1 million for new units and 1.5 million dollars for fuel costs. However they have also been reduced by 1.3 million dollars, excuse me Mr. Chairman, I'm sorry, we are only talking about the Government of Nunavut dollars.

To be honest it's a little bit difficult dealing with just the Government of Nunavut dollars in that we've added the 58 million dollars from CMHC also to come up to a better number.

The actual increase in Government of Nunavut dollars comes from our forced growth requests for staffing of about 800 thousand dollars. About 2.1 million and 1 million and five-ish for the fuel increase. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1.5 million dollar increase to the LHO funding as a result of the fuel increase, is that adequate, will that offset the total impact on the LHOs or will they have to basically eat a little bit each on their own and if so how much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We based our projections on the whole year and covering off the whole of the fuel cost. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Qujannamiik Itsivautaq. Last year in the main estimates there was an increase of 600 thousand dollars to assist the LHOs with the 5-cent increase.

I'm just wondering why we saw only a 600 thousand dollar increase and I believe that was only for a partial year. Now that we are seeing a 14-cent increase then there's only 1.5 million dollars. I'm just wondering, if the 600 thousand was for a 5-cent increase why are we only seeing a 1.5 million increase for a 14-cent increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no knowledge about where the 600 thousand came from but we do know that we used actual consumptions in our 25 communities to calculate the 1.5 and 2.1 that we used for next year. Also we used that for our increase for this fiscal year of 913 thousand. That was the most empirical or the most specific information that we could use and we think that it is accurate. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Darcy had also indicated the, and I believe, I'm guessing that it's probably in the CMHC funding that there's been a decrease of 1.3 million dollars.

I'm just wondering if that 1.3 decrease that he referred to was a decrease in the funding from CMHC and is this the first part of what I understand is the new agreement, the social housing agreement that we signed with CMHC which the federal government has declining funding over the next 30 years basically to nothing.

If this is the first in a number, what are we looking at over the next few years as far as decreased funding from CMHC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it is not a reduction from CMHC funding. It hasn't started to drop off yet. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am wondering about that 1.3 million dollar reduction, where are we seeing that. Where is that reduction being made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount was transferred in the last fiscal year from the modernization and improvement capital line over to O&M for the local housing organizations. The previous management team had made that decision. This year we transferred it back where it would normally belong into the M&I program. We saw that in the capital yesterday in fact.

So all of that money has gone back or will go back to the LHOs. So it is not lost. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The questions that are being asked are on page 12-7. We'll get to that in a few minutes. The question that the member is asking will be on page 12-7.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I am not sure if it the right place to ask right now. I should have asked earlier but you can cut me off if you want to. But I just wanted to mention it.

During the federal throne speech there is some mention of the aboriginal housing money across Canada. I can't remember the exact title but you may know what I am referring to. Can some of that money be used in this area or maybe are we trying to access that money. I believe it was over 680 million dollars across Canada. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that my staff have been working hard with the officials of the federal government on that recent announcement. It is not very flexible at all for us. So we are just working on that just to make sure that it is more flexible so that we can have access to those funds. My staff are working with the federal government on that along with the other provinces in Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. If there are no further questions on that page. Other information items, 12-7. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I wanted to ask on 12-6 about the 38 million. I know we talked about M&I projects. I wanted to make sure that each community has enough money to do their M&I projects. Is this here in Headquarters not in the regional level.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are talking O&M budget. M&I was already approved in the capital section of the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, just to let the members know that 12-5 is the one we have to agree on. For pages 12-6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, you can ask questions on them, we just have to approve the total O&M. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: That's ok.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the same line as my colleague, the member for Kugluktuk, he asked why is this distribution of 38 million 823 thousand to the three regions. Do I understand then the 38 million 823 thousand, why is this not split up like the rest of the money that is being spread out in other regions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Say “thank you” so we can move along better. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you go to 12-9, it explains the distribution of the 38 million.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: If that’s the case, I’m still missing something like 10 million dollars, so where is that 10 million dollars, on what page. I guess what I’m getting at here is the distribution of budget, and 12-9 debt repayment, why are they on two pages, and where is that 10 million, on what page. I find it very confusing here. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Ms. Hine to respond to his question and that’s a really good question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 12-6 is just, again goes out to the GN portion, it makes it difficult, we are a Corporation and we’re trying desperately to fit into the government’s format in preparing this budget, and to provide the members as much detail as possible.

It makes it a bit confusing because on several pages we are showing the GN portion, some we’re showing the additional money that we are receiving from Canada Mortgage and Housing as well and it does make a little bit of confusion.

Now a lot of the money shown in the headquarters of 38 million would be money that’s actually going to be the money that’s going out to the local housing associations and funding them for the operation and maintenance of our public housing units. As we go through the information pages, you will see where it breaks down in a lot more detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we should actually skip the 12-6 and use the innards, gizzards, whatever you want to call them.

From the 12-6, I understand the GN portion of the distribution of budget, and 12-6 is actually the rest of the pages like the minister says. If that's the case Mr. Chairman, then I'll wait until we get to the proper pages. Thank you.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We agree with his suggestion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): You can turn the page to 12-7. Are there any questions. Corporate summary. Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been raising my hand and I think it's kind of late but now that you noticed me, I wanted to ask a supplementary question to Donald's question. The minister was saying that her staff is working very hard and they are going to be lobbying the federal government for more funds. I want to ask the minister if she herself will go to Ottawa and lobby for more funds.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I've been to Ottawa three times and have met with the federal minister and yesterday I said that we are still planning to go down with Paul Quassa, the NTI president.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to clarify because it is a little confusing that one page only showing the Government of Nunavut portion and the rest of it showing the combined one. This corporate summary on this page is basically a total overall picture. It shows the Government of Nunavut funding and the CMHC funding total.

Is this just basically the other half, like 12-5 shows the Government of Nunavut portion and this 12-7 shows the Government of Nunavut and the CMHC portion. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that 115 million shows everybody, Government of Nunavut and CMHC funding on this page. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I notice that for 12-7 and 12-9 there was a debt reduction of 29 million 3 and you have other expenses 28 million 294 thousand. Why is it called other expenses when almost all of it is a big debt reduction, repayment. Thank you.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Sorry, Mr. Chairperson. I will ask Mr. Darcy to answer that question. We do know that other expenses includes 28 million in debt repayment to CMHC for amortization. I'll give it to Mr. Darcy to answer or elaborate more on that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's simply a formatting thing so that the Corporation can fit better within the Government of Nunavut and we have fewer lines to look at when we are looking at the main estimates. So this was the first year that we included all of the CMHC portions of the funding and because of that we've made a decision to put it with other expenses and add a new page called debt repayment.

If that is not working for the members, we'll change it over the course of the year as we reformat the main estimates for next year. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): If you are going to raise a question, just raise your hand right away. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have ample time to ask questions here. On the overall picture here, there has been as you indicated, there's a slight increase in O&M from the Government of Nunavut. Was there any increase or decrease from the CMHC or did it stay the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It stayed the same, the money that we get from CMHC. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'll put my hand up higher. I'm sorry. I know we have a declining funding scale with CMHC but when are we going to see a decrease in that CMHC funding. Is that going to be, if we don't see anything this year will it be next year or the year after. I am just wondering when we are going to start seeing the decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the buildings are paid off between 2003-2037, this amount will be going down and that's when it starts to decline. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated once the mortgages basically fall off the books I think you indicated that we would no longer be receiving any funding for these buildings. My colleague pointed out that right now we get I think it is roughly 60 million dollars right now from CMHC.

They give us a check in one hand of 60 million dollars and we have to give them another check back for 28 million dollars and as the payments drop so basically does the funding drop. I am just wondering if they're going to keep helping us operate and maintain our public housing inventory. As long as those mortgages are on the books where is the funding going to come from to operate those units once we no longer we get that funding from CMHC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: The funding would have to come from our government here in Nunavut. What the member is talking about is on page 12-9. That is where the debt repayments are. On page 12-9. I know it is a little bit confusing because we have 28 million dollars here on 12-7. But for that specific question that is on page 12-9.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, roughly then if you look at what we receive and what we have to give back to CMHC, the contribution that we do get basically you know is roughly about 32 million dollars a year that we get to operate and maintain our inventory. Is that correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo do you have any more questions. Page 12-7. Any other questions. Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Haviyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On compensation and benefits, I might have missed it somewhere. Are you close to 100% staffing with this figure. Koanna.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you. This 12-9 is for all of the staff we have. The question is, are we staffed fully now, no we are not fully staffed yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Havioyak: At least give me an idea I guess. With this number what percent are staffed. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are at 78% right now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: That is all at headquarters or across Nunavut. Koanna.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Yes. That is for everybody in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Nunavut Housing Corporation information item, 12-7. Are there any other questions. We'll turn to 12-8. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is quite a substantial increase in the compensation and benefits. I am wondering if the minister could indicate how many PYs there were there last year and how many are here in the budget for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you. This represents the 11 additional staff authorized for headquarters. Four at the Directorate in Iqaluit, which is the President, Director of Policy, Executive Secretary and Policy Analyst and 18 at the headquarters group in Arviat. That includes the Chief Financial Officer who is currently in Iqaluit on a casual basis right now.

Other additional staff from the original 11 in 1999 as part of Community Government & Transportation, are the revenue clerk, data entry, control clerk, manager of financial services, manager design and development, contract co-ordinator, maintenance co-ordinator, architect. That is the breakdown of compensation and benefits. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I heard there are 11 new positions. As I remember reading and I can't remember if it was in business plan or where, hearing that there were approximately 20 new positions in the Corporation.

I am wondering if this increase in Headquarters covers that off, like the total number Corporation wide. Was it 11 more or 20 more and where are those positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we first started as a government, housing was with Community Government & Transportation and then Housing became part of Public Works. Those 11 positions were transferred to the housing corporation that was technical staff. Those are the 11 positions I am talking about. However, for additional information on the 22 or 20, one of my staff might have that information. Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Mr. Darcy to elaborate more on those numbers.

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

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Corporation, pre-division, went through a couple of changes post-division where some staff were amalgamated over into CGHT and some staff weren't. Then after the first three months we were not divorced but changed back to a stand alone Corporation.

Through that mess, through that interesting time I should say, excuse me Mr. Chairman, the main estimates for the corporation had to be developed and 36 PYs were put in as the actual number. I have to tell you that we don't know where those 36 PYs came from. But what we generally did was we took the ones back from Community Government and Transportation and then did a re-org to come up to the number of staff that we thought we could possibly use, I should say the minimum staff complement that we could possibly use to run the Corporation and that rounded out at 58.

So we went from 36 on paper to the 58 that we have now. Which would also translate to now 11 PYs in the Kitikmeot, 11 PYs in the Kivalliq, and 14 in the Baffin added to the 22 headquarters staff will bring us up to the 58. Thank you sir.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just looking at the regional numbers of PYs that are there. I know, you know, everyone knows that the Baffin is roughly twice the size of the other two districts. I'm wondering if you take a look at the numbers they have 11 in each of the other two regions, why are there only 14 in the Baffin.

I'm just wondering if there is a cross over with headquarters, it just seems odd when you know, just looking at the numbers when you know that one region is twice the size as the others and yet there are only three more staff to run the whole region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a situation that we are monitoring really closely and I think that the members could understand our position as Mr. Darcy has said

originally we've gone through quite a bit of transition before we ever reached the stand alone Corporation and we're trying to operate as streamlined as possible without a lot of duplication.

We do have our headquarters now located in Arviat in this territory. Mr. Tootoo would remember in the days of the old housing corporation we had our headquarters in Yellowknife doing the whole GNWT. So we are hoping that we can streamline a little bit. We are also putting a lot of emphasis on our local housing organizations as well and that's one way that we are able to keep our numbers down.

But we are monitoring the situation closely and it may be necessary to increase our staff complement. Again, we have to have at least a good year of operations under our belt before we can look at making a case for additional staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't have anybody else on my list. We're on headquarters 12-8. Turn to 12-9, debt repayment. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: What is the outstanding mortgage now after the 28 million debt repayment. What's the total outstanding mortgage now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: We still would have to pay 215 million dollars to CMHC for those public housing units. That's 28 million dollars per year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a long way to go, Mr. Chairman, how much interest do we pay in this one. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: We're paying about 22.8 million per year in interest. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Come again. Mr. Chairman, are we just paying the interest, not paying the principal of the mortgage at all. Is that what the minister's saying. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of March 31 2000, the loan amount was 215 million. We're paying about 5 million per year on the principal amount,

and we're paying about 22.8 million interest. As the years go by we will be paying more on the principal and that interest until that debt is zero. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I will allude to Ms. William's question earlier, that, is there anything that the Corporation or the government can do to have this forgiven so that at least this new government and territory could, you know have a more positive note. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can look into the request, to the Feds not to charge the amortization but this would mean that we would have to go back to our agreement. If we do that, if CMHC would do it for our territory then all the other people that they agreed with, would have to be done the same. Then it would set a precedent for everybody else that has an agreement with CMHC. We don't know if the CMHC would agree to this approach but we can certainly pursue the options to see if there are any alternatives for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman. I understand that, I mean, I'm open for other suggestions, it is really too bad we had a clear-cut here, we have no more forest but other jurisdictions across Canada have forests. If Nunavut had a forest, we would probably never have been asking the CMHC for any kind of wood. I could never understand you know, all the Inuit would be building their own houses, never mind buying them, the forest would build it themselves, and it would be probably be a lot easier than trying to live in an igloo year round.

Mr. Chairman, I'm puzzled that since we've been in existence for two years, we have not yet been able to try to convince the federal government and CMHC, that we have a crisis, a housing crisis in Nunavut, I think we are in worst shape than the other jurisdictions as far as housing crisis are concerned. We have no options except to import and fly in or transport by sealift and not compare that to other jurisdictions that the minister's talking about. I really hope that the minister will try to have her federal counterparts understand we are in a very unique situation, we are in crisis. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did do a very good presentation to Minister Gagliano, who is the Housing Minister for the feds and I know that ITC has also had a meeting in regards to the crisis we have up here. We have been working with the feds, we have been telling them that and I know they have been hearing it. But it doesn't seem to be a very easy thing to do, just to hand us some money.

That's why my officials have been working with the CMHC officials to see if the funds that are for aboriginal housing as was mentioned in the throne speech could be more flexible because we are in a unique territory up here. I can understand the member's frustration because we are just as frustrated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are in Canada and we are very eager to assist other countries in crisis. We have a very good history of contributing to disasters in other countries. Arviat alone one time I think raised around 38 thousand dollars, out of that small community, for Ethiopia. We are very good at these things and I am very proud of Canada for that. But, can we, or do we, or are we prepared to go to the United Nations and tell United Nations that Canada is ignoring it's own backyard.

Has she considered getting the information out publicly or internationally to let the other countries know that we have our own crisis in Canada in Nunavut in terms of housing that the world doesn't know about. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know our Premier went on Team Canada with the rest of the Premiers and I'm aware that every cabinet is also trying to lobby every time they meet with the feds on their housing crisis and I know other members, other leaders in our territory are also saying the same thing.

We can do that but it's something that I, as a Minister of Housing, couldn't do alone and I appreciate the fact that other leaders are also putting this forward in the face of the federal government. We are aware that Canada helps other countries and so on and so on. We are doing the best we can right now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I just had a couple of quick questions. In regards to the 215 million dollars, we owe to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. How many units does that involve. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: That's about 3,226 units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The interest rate that we are paying on that 215 million is that a fixed rate that we've assumed at division. What is that rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll pass that onto Ms. Hine if you would allow me to.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not certain what the exact rate is. It is part of the housing agreement that we took over, the Northwest Territories housing agreement signed in 1997. When we became our own territory it was passed on to us. We didn't have a part in the negotiations on that agreement. The money that we do pay, the 28 million that we do pay on an annual basis is actually given to us from CMHC.

So they give us the money and then we give it back. So, it's part of their money. I can check specifically on the details of the interest rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Having a mortgage of my own. 1% means a lot over 20-30 years on my mortgage. But on 215 million it may if it is I don't know what the rate is. It might be 4-5%. But then again it might be 10%. If it is 10% or even higher and I think the going rate for the bank now is 7%, then there could be significant savings there. I know what you are saying. We are getting the 28 million dollars from CMHC and we give it back. But the condition of the 28 million dollars that we are getting from CMHC is that based on the rate of interest we now paying on that long-term debt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be based on the long-term debt. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: So, if the minister went to renegotiate this or talk to the CMHC and saying that we are being charged, I am just picking a number out of the air, 10% can we renegotiate that down to 7%. Would that mean that they would also give us less than 28 million. Is that basically a no win situation on this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, yes. Again, we had the board members of CMHC here with the President and we've had good meetings with them. They've seen the north and seen sealift in action and we have asked for continuous meetings with them. At this point, it seems that way but we are not giving up yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the attitude that I like to hear. We are not giving up because, being a businessman, I don't get the right deals from my bank, I certainly walk across the street. Then I'd have to fly to Rankin to walk across the street to deal with the bank. Is there any way that and I am just throwing ideas and you probably got your people in your department that are far wiser and smarter than me. Is there any other options of looking at maybe going to another like a financial institution to refinance this debt and maybe save us 5-10 million dollars a year.

When I look at over 32 hundred units at 215 million dollars. The ratio of debt to equity I don't think is that high in these units. Compared to what it cost to build a unit today, we are looking at about 175 thousand dollars to 200 thousand dollars to construct a unit today. So the debt ratio compared to the number of units is not bad. Would the minister maybe commit to maybe looking at refinancing to another organization out there, and look at the possibility it would save us, if it would save us 5 million dollars a year. Maybe that could be put into the housing program to build more public housing units. It is just something that I wonder if the minister would commit to looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: We can certainly look at that option. Right now we are tied to the agreement that is already signed. So we would have to go back to the agreement and break it with CMHC. We would have to look at that. We would have to look at that, we would have to definitely go back to the agreement because it's signed already but it's an option we can look at. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know where the minister's coming from and their hands are tied and the department hands are tied and the corporation's hands are tied on the 28 million dollars that you get from CMHC and the money you give back to them.

In the throne speech, it was said that there's going to be an emphasis on aboriginal housing and the government is in a fiscally strong situation at this point. If they're really serious about helping aboriginal housing programs, in communities like First Nations and the Inuit communities, you'd think they would be a little bit flexible on trying to help us rather than you know, I know that's a big machine out there like we're just like an insect on an elephant compared to what the government can do. We're so insignificant but if we're so insignificant and they know that we probably have the worst housing situation in this territory than anybody in North America, that they would be a little bit flexible on helping the minister try to alleviate even a little tiny bit of the overcrowding and the situation that we're in

It's more of a statement than anything, but I would really like to see if the minister when she has time commit to maybe looking at talking to her federal counterparts, maybe looking at refinancing, save 5 million. If we save 5 million, doesn't that show we're being fiscally responsible, and if they can give us that money back, put it into housing programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what the member has just said it's more of a statement, it's not a question. It's something that we can look into, there were some other things the member has said, there's a lot of good ideas floating around. We're already working with federal officials on the programs to see if they can be more flexible. We've been working on them, since the throne speech.

Yes, we can look at all the ideas that the members have raised, to see what we could do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This 215 million...I was going to ask a question in regards to that but I have no more questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow along the line of my colleague from Baker Lake and the ideas that he had there. I think that's something worthwhile pursuing with our federal counterparts. I know from experience that in the past, the federal government and CMHC have said they're not into social housing. They don't want to put any new money into social housing because if they do it for us then they have to do it for the rest of the country.

They've been getting out of social housing for the last six years now, seven years now, this idea and I think we have no problem showing them the crisis and the needs that we have here in Nunavut and the needs for housing. Given the throne speech talked about aboriginal housing, this approach may be a win, win approach for both of them and us.

If we can refinance this amount, I know from past experiences some of the interest rates, on some of these mortgages are extremely high from the days when the interest rates were really high, because the life on some of these mortgages were up to 50 years.

So we are looking at interest rates from the 80's and they are as high as 17 or 18 % on some of these individual mortgages depending on where it was at that year, that's the rate that it is fixed at. The idea behind the CMHC signing the social housing agreement with the territories was to allow us as a territory, first it was the GNWT and now Nunavut, a little more flexibility on how to use those resources that we get. I know that everyone

here knows the circumstances here are much different from the ones that we face in the south. I think this was done to recognize that.

It won't cost them, the federal government, any extra money. They pay us over the next 30 years. But if we pay off that 215 million that leaves us 28 million dollars a year that we don't have to give back to them. I think if we go from 17% to, I'm sure we could probably negotiate a much lower rate at a financial institution outside of CMHC. We could save a considerable amount of that money. I think that CMHC as long as we assure them that this money will go into housing, it might be an option worth looking at and pursuing down the road. Just a comment.

That is something that I had in my head ever since I remembered looking at the list of mortgages and the rates that were on there. I am glad it was bought out here and I'd be willing to sit down with minister and staff and discuss it further. I know that if it means re-looking at the agreement, there is no scrapping the agreement entirely it would be like modifying it little bit. I am wondering if you might be looking at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There was no question. If there are no further questions on page 12-9. We will go on to page 12-10. District offices. Are there any questions. Going on to the next page. Local housing organizations. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad there is a 2.1 million increase from last year. Can the minister tell us what is our overall or total rent collected from Nunavut communities that goes to general revenue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't really realize where we were. I was lost a little bit so I will refer that question to Mr. Darcy. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rents that are assessed and collected at the local housing organization stay with the local housing organizations. They do not come to the Corporation or go to general revenues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Whatever they collect in the communities plus the grants and contributions combined those two are for operations and maintenance and maybe minor capital. What type of incentive is used to have the Corporation be more efficient in operating the LHOs in the community, apart from telling them that whatever they collect could stay in that community. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two specific things that we work with the LHOs on, in terms of, you know, making sure that people are adequately running their organizations. First of all, in terms of rent assessments and bad debt, the allowance that the local housing organizations have is 3 % for bad debt. Anything else comes out of whatever their accumulated surplus would be.

The second part of that is we block fund the administration and the maintenance. In other words through our funding formula the local housing organizations get a set amount depending on basically upon how many houses they have for administration and maintenance. We do not make up those deficits. They are responsible if they go into deficit for their own associations, their own organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Local housing organizations. Page 12-11. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This line item 61 million dollars under that line item it is distributed to the local housing organizations. Under grants and contributions. I would like to get further clarification. Some communities in Nunavut, the local housing organizations are under the hamlet councils and it's not the case in all the communities. What kind of impact does this funding have to the hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grants and contributions don't change when they are allotted to the hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the community and according to the units that local housing organizations have they are given a certain amount of dollars according to what they have.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is allotted for operations and maintenance. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like my community of Clyde River for example. There is a shortage of housing. Sometimes people can't afford to pay their rent and the smaller communities in Nunavut how do you give support to the, how is

the support structured and given to the communities. Do you try and give them adequate support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to give them funding enough for operations and maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that according to the needs of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): It is according to the number of units they hold, this funding formula is followed according to the number of units the LHO is responsible for and the formula just follows that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For instance the local Housing Association, I heard comments about that area before. If they go in a deficit are you saying that the Housing Corporation can help out to pay for that deficit. I kind of missed that answer before, can I get clarification on that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: I do know that if a Housing Association is having a lot of problems, we have the staff available to assist them, for budgeting and so on. So we're always there, as a Corporation to assist our communities with their O&M and if there is an urgent need then we usually help them out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: My question then would be if they keep going into a deficit annually and if that's accumulating, I'm just wondering if they assist the local Housing Association. Let's say for example one local Housing Association is going into deficit for a number of years and it's accumulating beyond their control and they can't do anything, what happens then. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Darcy.

Mr. Darcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's two parts to Mr. Havioyak's question. Firstly the deficit, if it is for utilities, we will make it up and bring the LHOs to zero. We've done that since 1995, and we expect that we will be able to continue to do that.

However if an LHO goes down into financial difficulties because of administration or maintenance we normally do not bring that up to zero. However we do bring a team of people from the district office into the local housing organization and work with them, on what, in the community Government and Transportation wording, would be a deficit recovery plan and work with them how they can work their LHO back up to a non-deficit position. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Local Housing Organizations, 12-5. If there are no more questions. Nunavut Housing Corporation, program summary, 12-5. O&M 40 million 644 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 54 million 644 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We have completed the Housing Corporation. What is the wish of the Committee. Mr. Havioyak. Who else. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you are getting old, but you are my junior.

>>*Laughter*

I thank the Chairman, and committee members for their comments and questions. That's it for us today.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. You are older than me so that means you are an elder. I would like to also thank the witnesses. We are finished with the Housing Corporation and what is the wish of the Committee. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I move to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion to report progress. All in favour. Opposed. Carried. I will rise and report progress. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. Mr. Picco is the seconder. All those in favour of the motion. Motion is carried. Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Madam Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Aglukkaq) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Friday March 9, 2001:

>>Applause

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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, the House stands adjourned until Friday March 9 at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*Assembly adjourned at 6:58 p.m.*

