



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

5th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 13

Friday March 9, 2001

Pages 559 - 595

Iqaluit

Deputy Speaker: Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Ireqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

*Minister of Community
Government and Transportation*

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

*Minister of Health and Social
Services; Minister Nunavut
Power Corporation*

Hon. Manitok Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
*Premier; Minister of Executive
and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

*Minister Responsible for Nunavut
Housing Corporation; Minister of
Public Works and Services*

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance and Administration;
Minister of Human Resources;
Government House Leader*

Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunuiq)

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)
*Minister of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth*

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 9, 2001**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, 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 Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning...

>>*Applause*

...Mr. Premier and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Let's move to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister for Community Government and Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 028 - 1(5): Arctic Winter Games 2002

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Arctic Winter Games International Committee chose Nuuk and Iqaluit to co-host the 2002 Games. I rise to ask for the support of Members of the Legislative Assembly and all Nunavummiut for work being done by the Iqaluit Host Society in preparation for the Games.

(interpretation ends) The Arctic Winter Games is the most prestigious international, multi-cultural, sporting event in the circumpolar north. These Games will leave a lasting legacy in the areas of sport development, volunteer development and infrastructure. They will inspire sharing of traditional cultures and appreciation of emerging talent, elder contributions, and elite athleticism.

The Games are a great opportunity for the national and international exposure of Nunavut. Broadcasts of the Games will reach millions of people and provide a forum for the promotion of the history, culture and artistic traditions of the Inuit and our beautiful land.

From March 13 to 18 the Arctic Winter Games International Committee, and all the Chefs de Mission and representatives from Sport Canada will attend the first of two scheduled information and planning sessions in Iqaluit and in Nuuk. Your support and the support of all Nunavummiut will be a key factor in making these the best Arctic Winter Games ever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 029 - 1(5): Nunavut Broadband Task Force

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to report to the House the progress of the Nunavut Broadband Task Force.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Broadband Task Force was created in January of this year to research and report on the development of high-speed Internet service in Nunavut. The Task Force also will assist with the preparation of a Nunavut submission to the Federal Government, which recently announced a commitment to provide all Canadians with high speed Internet access by 2004.

High-speed Internet services soon will be essential for all communities in Nunavut. Affordable Internet access can serve many purposes – for telehealth, for distance education, for access to information on government programs and services, cultural development, and for business use. It is essential, Mr. Speaker, that we work to ensure that the Federal Government's commitment to Canadians for the year 2004 extends to all Nunavummiut.

The Nunavut Broadband Task Force consists of five representatives from the private sector, three from non-governmental organizations; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Social Development Council, and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and four departments of the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Task Force made a successful presentation to Industry Canada officials in Ottawa two weeks ago. Task Force members made the point that with Internet access, as with many other things, Nunavut is unique in Canada.

In most of Canada, high speed Internet access is being developed using land-based systems, such as fibre optic cable, and microwave towers. These technologies cannot be used here in Nunavut.

Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada that is entirely dependent on satellite systems for Internet access. We must ensure that the Federal Government understands this reality,

and includes support for the use of satellite technologies in its plans to assist all Canadians with access to high-speed Internet services.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Nunavut Broadband Task Force to provide a written report to me by the end of this month. The National Broadband Task Force will publish preliminary recommendations late this spring, and I am confident that the work we are doing here in Nunavut will ensure our needs will receive national attention and support.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to announce that the Nunavut Broadband Task Force now has its own web site with all related documents and information posted on it. Information about the web site can be obtained from my department.

I hope to be able to provide a further update to this House on the Nunavut Broadband Task Force before the end of our current session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 102 - 1(5): Chesterfield Inlet's St. Therese's Hospital

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though it is Friday I will speak on the Chesterfield Inlet St. Therese's Hospital. The minister said that he was not aware if or when the home would be closed. It is operated by the Catholic Church and we don't know the future of this institution.

The St. Therese's Hospital is a home for disabled people. It was established in the 1930's and has been in operation since then. My statement mostly concerns the fact that a lot of the in-patients grew up in the hospital and have always been taken care of by the people of Chesterfield. Approximately 10 or 15 people work in the hospital, residents of Chesterfield Inlet, and the hospital operates on a 24 hour 7 day a week basis.

Because there are few jobs available in Chesterfield, this hospital is one of the main employers in the community. The home is very important to a lot of people, especially the patients. The patients see the local workers as their parents, their mothers and their fathers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you to know that not all of the workers are salaried employees, some are volunteers because they know they can make a difference and for their love for the patients.

For these reasons, I will be asking the minister about the future of this hospital keeping in mind that it has been in operation for so many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 103 – 1(5): Economic Benefits from Mining

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about mining. It is very important in our region, especially to the people of Rankin Inlet. There are quite a few miners in Rankin Inlet, that are still alive and quite a few of them are elders. It was a very important industry in our region and it helped to develop our region in the past and has a lot of potential for development in the future and providing employment for our residents in that area.

I went to see some mines near Edmonton where they are trained in this type of employment. We will be recessing for a while from the Assembly, and while we are recessed, I want my constituents to know that I will be going to Toronto to attend the mining industry symposium and we will be talking about a lot of mining issues in Canada. I will be trying to find out more about Nunavut mining operations.

I know in Rankin Inlet there are a lot of possibilities for gold mining. Internationally, gold prices are lower at this time but I know they will eventually pick up and the gold mines near Rankin Inlet will open up again. This would develop our region greatly in terms of employment and economic benefits. It is with these things in mind that I will be attending the mining symposium in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 104 - 1(5): Recognition of Janet Armstrong and Meeka Mike

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about two members of my constituency that were given recognition last week.

Janet Ripley Armstrong is a well-known artist. Her rendition of our official flower, the purple saxifrage, was published on the cover of the Northwestel phone book. I am proud of that.

The other constituent, Meeka Mike was given the Business of the Year award for the Baffin Region. She runs Qimiq Adventure Tours and is very successful.

I wanted to tell the House about these two very special people that were recognized for their efforts last week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 105 - 1(5): Residential School Survivors

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about individuals that were involved in residential schools and the issues surrounding that.

Many of us went to Chesterfield Inlet residential school for our education. On the academic side, we probably got the best education in Nunavut. Many of the people who went to the school in Chesterfield Inlet are leaders and others are very capable workers.

For example, NTI's President and my friend Paul Quassa, attended the Chesterfield Inlet school along with Jose Kusugak, President of ITC and Commissioner for Nunavut, Peter Irniq. But today many of the former students are going through a hard time because they were sexually abused during the time in Chesterfield Inlet. We were too young to know it was wrong to do that, that this should not have been happening.

Despite this, many are doing well today, thanks to the good support of their families and friends. Having said that, there are many others that still critically need to be given more help and support. You would think that something that has taken place a long time ago would be forgotten or healed on its own by now, but no, it does not work that way. It still has an impact on our lives.

I feel that there are still past students of the residential school that require more help and support because some are still living through hardship, although they have good jobs. When they have good jobs, people tend to think there are no concerns and they are healthy. It is not like that, because mentally they are hurting. Therefore, I feel they should be given more support.

Regarding the community of Chesterfield Inlet, at that time even though we weren't staying in local residents' houses, they were very supportive to us. I would like to acknowledge the community for the support they have given us.

Also the member for Nanulik mentioned earlier the St. Therese's hospital which was in the place where we went to school. I would also like to acknowledge the support that they gave us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 106 - 1(5): People Project by Anne Hanson

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to take the opportunity this morning to inform the House about an exciting project being put together by well-known Iqaluit resident and a constituent of mine, Anne Hanson.

The People Project is a cultural project and an Imax format film to be driven primarily by Inuit to bring our home to the world. It is a vision to portray the people here at the top of the world, the environment we live in and the wildlife we depend on.

There are three main elements to the content of this exciting project Mr. Speaker, the Inuit culture, the human history in the Arctic and the Arctic environment featuring wildlife indigenous to the region. Also Mr. Speaker, other components of this project include the production of a DVD CD-ROM about Inuit and the Arctic region for educational purposes, the production, Mr. Speaker, of a television documentary about the IMAX project itself and Mr. Speaker, the creation of a comprehensive website.

Inuit will have a major role in this project as partners, patrons, advisors, scriptwriters and as a vital part of the production crew. Mr. Speaker, in addition, Inuit will provide expertise and advice about the animals, the land and the sea. Specialists in the IMAX format have been identified to implement this project in partnership with Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about several million dollars here in the production of the project itself. Mr. Speaker, this project, The People, is more than a film production. An initial benefit of direct employment for Inuit during the development of the project at this stage is hoped for and an indirect employment effect once the film has been released.

Which means Mr. Speaker, enhanced tourism and culture-related industries and also Mr. Speaker, local businesses will be given priority for contracts and contacts in the north. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that Anne Hanson has said the following and I quote Mr. Speaker, " I want to show the world that our home is not hostile, desolate or isolated. I want to show the world how we live in the Arctic, our culture, our language, the arts, how we survived and continue. How we use and view the animals, the land and our sea. We can do all these things by using IMAX, their technology and expertise".

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you join me to wish Anne and her partners the very best in regards to this exciting, unique proposal for the first time ever here in Nunavut, the IMAX format. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 107 - 1(5): House Recess

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try my best to speak, despite my bad voice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though we may not always agree with each other we have progressed well. So I would like to thank each and every one of you, especially our staff.

Mr. Speaker, we're going to take a short recess. I am very happy and I'm sure that the rest of the members are happy too. Although we have a challenging task ahead of us, as Members of the Legislative Assembly we have to give our family our priority.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wish the people who are leaving today a safe trip and we'll see you again when we come back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 108 - 1(5): Isuma Productions Project

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be speaking about a positive event. I want to recognize an Inuit owned film Production Company in Igloolik called Isuma Productions.

Isuma Productions have been working for two years filming a production, at a cost of about 2 or 3 million dollars. This production is completed and that film will be distributed to the theatres. We expect perhaps this spring, summer or fall that this film will be aired.

This film will be travelling to various communities. I would like to acknowledge the producer Zach Kunuk. He started working with IBC and later founded Isuma Productions and they now have the facilities to produce full length feature movies.

I still have yet to see this major production but it is called Aatanaarjuat. I am sure that we will all be seeing the film soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statement's. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 109 - 1(5): Trade Show Auction

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given it's Friday and our last day before we have a break, I'll try and end on a humorous note.

I'd like to point out that all members last week participated when we had the Nunavut Trade show. One of the events that they had at the Trade show was the gala and auction Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all the proceeds from the auction and the gala are to go towards the purchase of pediatric beds for the hospital and I think it was a very worthwhile cause Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as one of the members for Iqaluit, I think all three of us, we tried to do our share in contributing and adding to and being able to provide those pediatric beds for the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know if you are aware, as my colleague from Iqaluit West indicated earlier this week, that the three of us Iqaluit MLAs got auctioned off. Mr. Speaker, I heard on the radio the average amount that we went for Mr. Speaker, was 850 dollars. I just want to let the members know that was the average amount, and I know we all try to be average or above average.

>> *Laughter*

We all strive to achieve that Mr. Speaker. The Premier Mr. Speaker, went for I'm glad to say above the average amount. He went for 900 dollars, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

And, myself I was just happy to be an average kind of a person; I went for 850 dollars, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Iqaluit East brought down the average Mr. Speaker. He went for below the average amount of 800 dollars. Mr. Speaker, although the member was attributing that to his portfolio of Health & Social Services, I don't know if all of my colleagues would agree with that being the cause of the problem.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the total amount raised was in the neighbourhood of 21 thousand dollars. We don't know the extent of the expenses coming out but I know the target they were trying to raise was 15 thousand dollars, and I am sure if they do for some reason come short in trying to achieve that, the Minister for Health & Social Services will do what he can to pick up the slack. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 110 - 1(5): Constituency Visit

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday, I just have two notes, which said that it looks like Mr. Tootoo and I had haircuts at the same time but mine is shorter than his.

What I would like to say is that I'll be going up to Pangnirtung on Sunday during our break and I would like you to know that it's really me on TV, it's just that that my hair is a lot shorter than everybody else.

I'll be in Pangnirtung from March 11 to the 14th, and for the members who are travelling today I hope you have a good trip and hopefully some of you will come back with better voices.

>>*Laughter*

I would also like to say that Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. McLean and our Sergeant-At-Arms have very little hair, so I had to get mine cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake. My cousin, Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 111 - 1(5): Hoarses and No Cowboys

Mr. McLean: Thank you, cousin. Mr. Speaker. I was going to have a quiet day today but the member from Pangnirtung says his haircut was the shortest and I know a couple of members over here, myself and Mr. Arvaluk included that have shorter haircuts. It's not because we want them but because of old age. But on that note I'd like to wish everybody safe travel home, I'm getting a bit homesick.

But in the last couple of weeks we've heard a lot of talk about "hoarses". Like my colleague from Clyde River has a hoarse and my colleague Mr. Alakannuark has a hoarse too. We've got all these hoarses and no cowboys. Have a good break. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize NTI President Paul Quassa, who is kind enough to visit us again. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, welcome to the Gallery. When Paul Quassa and his group went up to Gjoa Haven, my grandson thought Paul Quassa was me, so he was saying "grandfather, grandfather, come over here" to him.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize somebody from my community who is here for schooling. I have been asking a lot of questions on SFA for students.

I would like to recognize Sheepa Pudluq, from Clyde River, she is one of the students at Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person has already been recognized but I would like to recognize Mr. Paul Quassa who has given a lot of support to the Department of Education and also his EA who used to work for CBC North and who knows a lot about the media, Paul Irngaut.

Mr. Speaker there are two people from Pangnirtung who are visiting us here. One is Mosesee Kilabuk, and also Ragilee Isimailie, welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit East. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this chance to tell a little story about the two Pauls in the gallery that have already been introduced.

Back in the late 80's I had an opportunity to be on a plane, at that time we had a flight that used to go to Iqaluit, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Pelly Bay, Spence Bay, Gjoa Haven and then finally Cambridge Bay and then Yellowknife. It was quite a long flight.

Mr. Quassa was in the middle of negotiations for the land claim and he was quite involved. Every time when Paul and I used to get off the plane we'd always have a smoke. Every time when Paul would get off the plane someone would run up to Paul and say when are we going to get a cheque from the land claim. Paul would try to explain the land claim is more than getting a cheque at the end of the day.

When we got back on the plane, I remember saying, gee as a politician there must be tremendous pressure on. I don't know if Paul remembers that trip or not. But I think it was the first time that I realized the type of pressure that was on Mr. Quassa and the other people that were involved in the negotiations of the land claim at that time.

So, I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome Paul and his sidekick Paul No.2. Paul. Mr. Irngaut who is well known for his work on Igalaq. I guess my favourite Paul story was

when he was doing his Santa Claus thing on Igalaq, which has been replayed many times, repeated. With his Santa Claus losing his reindeer and everything.

I remember seeing him filming that up by our house in tundra valley a few years ago. I didn't know who was really doing the acting, Paul or his cameraman. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome again to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Paul Quassa because I don't believe the members give him enough credit although we try. A long time ago we used to live in an outpost camp with Paul Quassa's parents and my parents, and his older brother Pierre was a very good friend of mine.

There was one time we were in a tent and we decided to have some caribou ribs, without our parents' knowledge. We did it secretly. It was a whole caribou and we were too young to break off the ribs so ate the meat right off the carcass. We ate a whole rack of ribs. When Paul Quassa found out what we have done, he went over to his mother who was outside and ratted on us. I don't believe he remembers that because he was very young at that time.

When he went to tell his mother of course the parents came in right away and they were going to scold us but when they saw the rack of ribs with all of the holes in between they just started laughing and they said it looked like the carcass had been eaten by shrimp, full of holes. I would like to recognize Paul. Thank you.

>> *Laughter, Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to rise and recognize someone that I don't always get an opportunity, like we did in Rankin Inlet, to recognize relatives. I have no problem recognizing relatives in Rankin Inlet there were lots of different people in the gallery that I'm related to.

I don't always get that opportunity here Mr. Speaker, and also I remember earlier this session a couple of my colleagues were going to attempt to speak in English more, I'd like to recognize my Angutiqatik, Mr. Paul Quassa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome again to the gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6. Oral Questions

Question 105 - 1(5): Liquor Board Consultations

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance and Administration and also to the Minister Responsible for the Liquor Board.

When is the Liquor Licensing Board going to be having a meeting to discuss the liquor issues and which communities are they going to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Finance and Administration. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now my officials are discussing with the Nunavut Liquor Board trying to finalize their travel times. Right now the problem has been that some of the Liquor Board members have commitments in March.

We had wanted to get it started in March, this month as soon as possible, but it looks like it may in the latter part of March or in April at the latest and that's the timing of the consultations that are planned. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the communities are anxiously waiting to have a meeting with the liquor licensing board so that we can make amendments to the Liquor Act.

The people of Broughton Island are waiting anxiously to see what kind of amendments will be made. Are you going to keep deferring this tour to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that a lot of communities and individuals want to provide input to the Liquor Board so that it can make the appropriate recommendations.

We are going to try to allow as much access as possible from all communities and individuals in the process to make sure that there's ample opportunities for those that want to provide some recommendations to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. To the Orders of the Day. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Irgittuq.

Question 106 - 1(5): Certification for Airport Employees

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that member across from me is getting kind of lonely so I would direct my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

The airports have Inuit employees in most of the communities and they are not certified. I had heard that the employees that are not certified would be laid off. I don't know whether that is true or not so that is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I am not lonely or stressed out.

>>*Laughter*

No, I haven't heard anything. But since Nunavut was created we are looking more at the employees' experience as opposed to formal education.

If the Government of Nunavut has any control over it, we are not going to be laying off anybody because they are not certified. The one problem that we might have is that we have to follow federal rules, regulations and codes. What I can also add is that our present airport employees are capable, they have taken courses, they may not necessarily be certified but they do have training and experience. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his explanation. I spoke to someone, I won't mention the name. A Transportation supervisor told the four people who are not certified that since they are not certified to do their jobs they will be laid off by March 31. I want to ask if this is indeed true, Mr. Speaker. If so, is it because of what is required by federal rules. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said earlier, when we were preparing for Nunavut, before April 1, 1999, we were told that there were a lot of people that were capable of doing their jobs but they were not certified.

I know that is true and I will try to look into this particular issue that he mentioned. If it is accurate, I will find out why. I know the people in the smaller communities work very hard and had to learn their jobs through experience.

I will get back to the MLA, not just for his riding, but for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. The question is taken as notice and he will get back to you when they receive the answer. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 107 - 1(5): St. Theresa's Hospital

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier that I would be questioning the Minister of Health. I said in my statement that I was going to ask him some questions about the home for the disabled in Chesterfield Inlet.

I received a letter from the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet, a copy of the minister's letter. I received it even though I did not receive a copy directly from the minister. In the end of the letter it says, we will want to find solutions in the coming weeks. The letter is dated January 24.

I would like to ask the minister, when he is making a response to the Chesterfield Inlet issue, does he plan to meet with them. 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, I would just like to clarify for the record one quick thing. Yesterday at breakfast, I had an opportunity to speak to the lucky individual who purchased an hour of my time. He felt that he had underpaid and I believe he has actually put in 1,180 dollars or so, and I am quite pleased with that amount.

There are two major issues and one of them is the economic impact in the community of Chesterfield Inlet if the home is closed. My understanding is there are several people from Chester who work at the facility. I also understand that major purchases of over 200 thousand dollars are made in the community and in a small community like Chesterfield, which is a have-not community that has a major impact.

The second point, Mr. Speaker, probably the most important is the standard of care or the situation regarding the patients, to make sure that the patients are not impacted by the operation of the facility. As I tried to explain earlier it was only about six weeks ago that we found out about this from the Hamlet of Chester. I met yesterday with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations, Dr. Best who has been in contact with Bishop Rouleau.

We're trying to get an extension for the contract of six months to give us an opportunity to do a better evaluation of St. Therese's home, the facility and to see where we go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For some reason, I have the same answer as yesterday.

My question, Mr. Speaker was that in this letter it says “I hope to be able to give you a more definitive answer within the next few weeks.” That is what it says in the letter to Mayor Tanuyak from the minister.

My question was Mr. Speaker, will the minister be meeting with the people of Chesterfield and come up with a mutually acceptable solution to this uncertainty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said before we’re reviewing the situation in Chesterfield Inlet and if the Mayor would like me to go to Chesterfield Inlet and meet with him on this situation, with the member, I would be open to that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really appreciate that answer and you know, we will command the weather in Kivalliq to hold, until the minister arrives. My next question to the minister is that seeing that it’s not only the economic impact that will happen in Chesterfield Inlet.

In my earlier statement I said that there must be consideration and compassion for the patients, I hope the minister appreciates that some of these patients have been there for years and years and they have developed relationships with these individual caretakers in Chesterfield, in fact psychologically replacing them as parents.

My question to the minister is, during the deliberations to determine an answer for Chesterfield Inlet, will these other factors, human factors play a major role in deciding to look after the patients and how they will be looked after. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct, one of the major aspects of this is the patient care and the well being of our patients. The majority of our patients that are staying in St. Therese’s home are severely handicapped.

I had an opportunity to go through the home with the member, I believe last February, on his invitation and it was an quite an eye opening experience to be able to see the dedication and the work of the employees and the bond that they have with the patients.

As I said earlier, as I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and I'll say it again, those are the two issues that we're looking at. The economic impact of the situation in Chesterfield but also the impact on the patients and the patients' care and their well being comes first. We want to make sure, Mr. Speaker, that we do right by the patients, at the same time we have been put into a position where we spend almost a million dollars a year to run that facility, I believe it is 989 thousand dollars. There are also contributions put in there from the Catholic Church itself. The Catholic Church owns the facility. We have just recently, as I said, in the last six weeks, found out that they would like to end the contract.

We are in negotiations to have that extended for at least six months to give us an opportunity to evaluate and make sure that we do what is right for the people of Chesterfield Inlet, but most important Mr. Speaker, as the member has said, for the patients in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has stated the other day that the building is not up to code. If the government takes it over then they will not be able to use this facility. I am told by the Chesterfield mayor that in the mid-1980's, the GNWT Fire Marshall ordered renovation of the building to bring it up to code.

Can the minister tell me if this is now outdated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Qujannamiik. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when this situation developed, one of the first things we wanted to do is to make sure of the solid ground that we are on as a government and what would happen if the Catholic Church gave up running it. They own the facility, it is not our facility, we have a contribution agreement with the Catholic Diocese to run the facility.

It is my understanding from a preliminary evaluation done by Public Works & Services, is that there are quite a few code deficiencies if the government is to take over. Because if I take over the facility as a government facility, then it has to come up to the current code. Mr. Speaker, I am not in the building and construction trade, but I do understand that codes change on a regular basis, as you know, and in this case it could be in excess of a few hundred thousand dollars on the outside to be able to do the renovations and repairs that are necessary.

That is a consideration for this government, because we hadn't budgeted to take over this facility. Maybe the opportunity Mr. Speaker, is there that we look at a contract with one of our Development Corporations, one of our Inuit partner organizations in the Keewatin, to look at the development of a facility specifically for this institution.

Maybe that would be the direction we would look at. Again, Mr. Speaker, that's why we have asked for the extension of six months, from Bishop Rouleau to give us an opportunity to make the right decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 108 - 1(5): Capacity to Deal with Conflict, Crime & Drug Abuse

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Justice this morning. In the recent federal speech from the throne, the Government of Canada committed to work with the provinces, territories and the communities, to strengthen the capacity of local communities to deal with conflict, prevent crime, and addressing drug abuse.

What initiatives will the department be taking to take advantage of this commitment of the Federal Government. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have written to the Prime Minister to advise him of our intentions to work together, not just on justice but on other efforts that were mentioned in the throne speech, such as housing, education and health for aboriginal residents here in Nunavut.

So it is our intent to do whatever we can to work with the Federal Government, to improve the situation of the residents in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary, Mr. Speaker. What have they initiated to help the communities in Nunavut on this issue.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Minister. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I mentioned the Federal Government and Nunavut Government are open to each other to help each other for the betterment of Nunavummiut and we want to participate and to help with whatever they want to do for Nunavummiut. We will work with them closely.

They have not really given us the details as to what they want to do, but we will be planning with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister states that they will be working with the Federal Government and sometimes the communities don't have

anyone to help them out. I just want to know what kinds of things they have started to talk about with the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have to work with the Federal Government to try and get some assistance for the communities and Nunavut and this is a new thing so, we haven't really heard exactly what they want to do, it's just a starting point at this time.

Perhaps we will find out by working with the Federal Government but I can't really say when we will start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to hear that they will be working with the Federal Government so the communities can benefit from it. Perhaps if I can ask a question.

(interpretation ends) Is this one of your priorities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are various things that we're working on with the Federal Government, especially in regards to housing for Nunavummiut. Housing was one of the first priorities we discussed with health and education. Part of our priority is justice. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Baker Lake. Mr. McLean.

Question 109 - 1(5): Financial Crisis in Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days we've heard from media reports and from newspapers and various other agencies that Nunavut is in a severe financial crunch because of the projected 12 million dollar deficit in our new territory.

Can the Minister of Finance alleviate my fears as an MLA in this territory as to whether we are indeed in a serious financial crisis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member raises a very good question. As members have heard, different facets of the media portrayed, used the words

crisis, disaster, and that word has never come forward from any of my colleagues or myself. I want to make that clear.

When you look at the projected 12 million dollar deficit, if you look at just this current fiscal year, of our 679 million dollar projected expenditures, that's Mr. Speaker, that's 1.76 % approximately. So if you use the analogy of somebody spending a hundred dollars, they're spending 101 dollars and 76 cents, you know when they have an income of 100 dollars.

From that perspective I would say no, we're not in, certainly in any crisis situation. We plan to aggressively ensure that we are diligent when we look at departmental spending over the current fiscal year and ensure that legitimate requests that come forward for the departments will be supported.

If there aren't legitimate requests coming forward then I would say to my colleagues, my Cabinet colleagues, as members know, continually come forward to the FMB for reallocations. That they'll be scrutinized more than normal during the course of this coming year, and we hope at the end of the year, even though there's a projected year end 12 million dollar deficit, overall accumulated deficit, that won't be the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's the type of answer I like to hear, that the government on the other side is going to be very diligent on our fiscal stability in this new territory. I for one on this side of the House, will make sure I keep them accountable in the standing committees.

My other question today is that we were honoured to have the Minister of Finance Mr. Paul Martin come to our territory and I think he was moved by being in this Assembly yesterday.

Which brings me to my second question today. Can the Minister of Finance, and I know he's had his meetings and they have their little meetings behind closed doors. I know that he doesn't like to let the cat out of the bag, but in those meetings behind those closed doors, if he could give us a hint, that maybe the Minister of Finance might have promised us, there might be some move in the future on giving us some additional revenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members can appreciate I can't get into private and confidential discussions amongst the other Federal Ministers or my Cabinet colleagues. I can say to the member, as Minister Martin eloquently portrayed during his comments at the signing ceremony that he's sympathetic to the situation of Nunavut.

He understands some of the specific needs and he will endeavour, if there's justification, to assist us in that regard. Having said that Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that again the media portrayal is that once we have signed the formula financing agreement, there are no open doors, it's closed for the next three years and that is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I mean during the regular course of the formula financing agreement, there are annual adjustments that are made, depending on the circumstances in southern Canada, it is part of the formula, that moving adjustment based on circumstances across the country. Now having said that, it isn't always guaranteed that there will be additional revenues.

The fact is that there are opportunities because of the escalators, because of the gross expenditures base adjustments and quite frankly interpretations between officials, that the ministers don't necessarily have to sign off on, there are adjustment made on an annual basis for the formula financing agreement, for one thing.

Now the members recognize that the formula financing agreement, as I said in my budget speech is approximately 83% of our revenues, we still have 8 % of other revenues from other departments of the government, outside of the formula financing agreement.

Whether it's in the area of health care, whether it's in the housing, training needs, infrastructure needs, the internet, as my colleague Mr. Akesuk spoke on earlier today, there's other programs, federal programs that all governments have access to. Over the course of the year my colleagues intend to aggressively pursue those avenues of funding and that is another significant factor.

Another one Mr. Speaker, is the Arctic Airports Capital Assistance Program, from the Transportation Department, another I have to think of, those are the ones I can think of off hand.

So there's an ample opportunity for us to expand our revenue base from the federal programs or quite frankly our partner in recognizing the audience NTI, Mr. Quassa, we've spoke on other opportunities, for example, with the fuel subsidy program that we are cost sharing with them.

There are other opportunities, Akitsiraq Law program, there are other opportunities, other organizations that we can partner with as well. So I just wanted to make it clear that just because there is a 12 million dollar projected deficit, it is not the end of the world. Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I liked the lengthy answer. He answered about fourteen of my questions there. When he got to about number 10, I forgot about number one. So is there room now, is the minister going to pursue, and is there room when he pursues that we may get some additional funding from the Federal Government into our base over the next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I can't be definitive, I would say that given the complexities of the formula, past trends that the likelihood of additional revenues based on the interpretation of the current formula, the likelihood is probably fairly good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Tunnunig. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 110 - 1(5): Museum / Heritage Centre

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I know that when we first started our Assembly here, we were going to deal with heritage centres. I was wondering what the status of that is now.

We were planning to build heritage centres in Nunavut. I remember that it was quite expensive. I was wondering what your position is now. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. This area has been developing and heritage board members have been appointed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the heritage centres, I think the Federal Government provides funding for them. So we can move forward with our heritage centres, I was wondering if you are looking at funding or how these can be budgeted for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We got the funding from the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I was asking about the heritage centres. As that minister said, he has already appointed the board. When are they actually going to start operating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know when they are going to meet, I don't have that detailed information here. But I will inform all members when their first meeting will take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): He will inform you. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 111 - 1(5): Additional Funding from Federal Government

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, as my honourable colleague from Baker Lake said, he answered a lot of questions and also raised a lot of, made me think of some other questions that I'm going to ask him for his long answers.

>>*Laughter*

I do appreciate long answers like that. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that the Minister of Finance was sympathetic and was willing to look at some of the problems and issues that we face here in Nunavut. I'd like to ask the minister, and he had also indicated that it could potentially happen this year.

I'd like to ask him like how, how quickly are they going to be sitting down with his federal counterparts to go over some of these issues and how soon are we going to find out whether or not we are going to be able to see any additions, or more money to the formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, first of all it was only yesterday, as members know, the discussions that I had. But if the member is referring to the review that Minister Martin supported, it's a matter of our officials and theirs getting together. They have actually had some preliminary discussions yesterday as well while Minister Martin's staff were here.

So, it's a matter of trying to formalize the parameters as I had indicated in the past, of the review, the timing and the scope of the review. If the member is referring to...I hope he likes the long answer.

>>*Laughter*

If the member is referring to other program areas outside of the formula I had indicated, that would be up to individual ministers within their area of jurisdiction. Of course if they required support from myself or the Premier or any other Cabinet member we would offer to help them out in moving forward and trying to access some of the other federal programming.

If he's referring to actual formula financing agreement adjustments, that takes place automatically during the course of the year based on the formula itself and the factors in the formula, the timing in the formula.

I don't have the specifics but I could certainly provide it if that's what the member is referring to. So, it depends on which aspect of federal funding the member is speaking of Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we should concentrate on the quickest one that would get us the results. Mr. Speaker, I was speaking more specifically about the formula itself. I know that, and I can appreciate the work of the minister's colleagues of looking at other sources and outside of the formula to try to obtain funding and I fully endorse any work on that part.

Mr. Speaker, I know that and I've been a believer right from day one that the formula, like any formula is something that is done up ahead of time on best guesses and it's something that you have to re-look at because you don't know, you are pretty much guessing as you are going along.

You don't know until you do something as to whether or not you did it right or not. What I'm getting at is I know that if you take a look at the numbers that we have seen over the last couple of years in the budget. If the formula were adequate, we wouldn't see those numbers because theoretically we've been allocated through the formula adequate resources to deliver the programs and services that we are required to as a government.

I'm just wondering, you know, how soon are we going to be seeing some of these changes to the formula and as the minister indicated once they figure out the timing and the scope of this, will that information be made available to the members as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to get too technical, I've indicated that Minister Martin has agreed to have his officials and have our officials work to review the fiscal capacity of the funding for our programs and services in Nunavut.

We are going to try and undertake that work, obviously, as soon as possible, given that we think, the Government of Nunavut thinks, that we may have some deficiencies that we are hoping that the Federal Government can address.

Having said that, there is also on the bigger scale, federally, provincially, territorially, the equalization and the formula renewals that will take place in the next fiscal year. Now, leading up to that a lot of the federal Department of Finance officials will undertake some initial work and discussions in anticipation of negotiations.

So that is an area that would complicate matters for us from the perspective of the Nunavut Territory, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, because our formula financing arrangements are quite different from the equalization payments to the provinces. They are on a different track as far as the negotiations go. But the fact is that the Nunavut Government and the other two Territories are lumped together in the discussions on amendments to the formula financing agreements.

So we are trying to quite frankly, remove ourselves in this particular instance from that to try to address things outside of the formula, if at all possible. Given that if there are specific needs that are found Nunavut wide, we will have to try to address that outside of the formula. If we try to roll it in to the formula it is complicated by the other two jurisdictions. So that is why we are taking the steps that we have and we are going to try to move forward in that manner, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it sounds like we could have a much longer session just trying to figure out this formula. Maybe one of these days when the minister has a little bit of down time after the session I will visit him up in his office and try to get a better understanding of it.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated earlier that part of the funding through the formula that we get is dictated by circumstances in the rest of Canada. I would assume that whatever is happening in Alberta, Saskatchewan and any of the other provinces in the south or territories, whatever happens there, how does that affect our formula.

I would think that when we are developing a formula you would want to take a look at our circumstances and our needs. I am just wondering how that is tied together and if you could try, I don't know if it is something that is easy to explain or not, I would just like to get an explanation on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the big components of the formula funding agreement is the provincial/territorial/municipal expenditures across the country. So it is an indicator of how strong the economy is and is based on

expenditures and that is one of the facets where I say it is from factors from outside of the Nunavut Territory. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 112 - 1(5): Dealing with Housing Shortage

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This is in regards to the funding for the Housing Corporation, which we just approved, because housing is one of our priorities in Nunavut and we are in a dire housing shortage.

How are you going to be dealing with the housing shortage in the year 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be building 50 units this summer. On top of that we have already set up the homeownership programs for those that want to purchase a unit. We are also looking at possible rent-to-own programs. We are working on that, and also alongside of this the homeowners can apply for funding for renovations and that funding will be made available.

Federal Government officials are also working with my staff discussing how we can get more funding. I am working with Paul Quassa and we will be going down to see the DIAND Minister down in Ottawa. Yes, there are quite a few programs that are within our department and I've also informed the House that on March 19, 2001 we will be having a meeting regarding housing in Rankin Inlet, especially in regards to the rent scale.

These are various programs and also the Housing Task Force was established and they made 15 recommendations and we have now started implementing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response to my question. I would like to ask the minister another question in regards to the previous year where there have been some problems with renters being evicted for their arrears. I hope you are going to review the whole matter so that you can find some solutions to the problem. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the member to rephrase his question. One thing that I didn't understand in his question was whether he's talking about the foundation or the construction or the rent scales. I would like him to rephrase his question please. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Uqqummiut please rephrase your question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the private mortgages. Some of these people have been evicted because they had broken their agreement or have gone into arrears or went through some type of a problem. Is there going to be a review of the whole process so we don't come to that point. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the people who got their homes and can't pay their mortgage, they go into arrears and have debts that pile up. Perhaps it is because they don't know what their responsibilities are or they cannot keep up with their responsibilities.

The Housing Corporation staff are always available to give you advice and to help with these issues. Just this winter my staff have helped some clients with the schedule of their mortgage payments and also to help them understand what the procedures are.

So my staff are there and Mr. Speaker, but for those homeowners who don't pay their mortgages there is not much that we can do. But we may be able to help them reschedule their mortgage payments or help them whatever way possible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When they encounter those types of problems because they don't understand the procedures, how can the Housing Corporation help their clients so that the homeowners have a clearer idea of the responsibilities of owning a home and mortgages.

This is something new for Inuit and there has to be a way we can educate our people so that they know what they should do as a homeowner and what their responsibilities are and so on. This should help alleviate those types of problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is Friday and some of my colleagues sitting beside me are a little out of whack this morning.

For the homeowners and for those people who have applied and received the Access homes, they are well informed ahead of time about planning for and owning a home. They are also given aftercare. They are asked what kind of questions they have, they are also advised or even asked what paint their doors should have.

They are asked how much they can pay per month on their mortgage and for how many years. They are informed about all those things ahead of time, but there are some clients out there who don't pay their mortgage at all. They have monthly bills to pay but some have never done it from day one. Then they get way behind and they fall into debt. They don't check the mail that comes in or the notices that are delivered.

I am not sure how else the Housing Corporation can help. The clients have to make monthly payments because of course if you don't pay your monthly bills you are going to fall behind. If you own a home you have to pay your monthly payments. However, some of our clients get buried in debt. I think they should ask the employees of the Housing Corporation if they need assistance, because of course, they are always available any time to give advice and so on.

The Housing Corporation staff are always there to help, either by mail or through other means. They do follow up care on their clients. I would like to urge the homeowners out there to pay their mortgage bills on a monthly basis if they don't want to get buried in debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you saying that you will give more support to the clients. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitek Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Somebody said yes over there.

The Housing Corporation is looking into the future and how we can better serve our clients in Nunavut in regards to homeownership. When we were meeting in Bathurst Inlet we as a Cabinet came to a consensus that we should work harder to serve the people of Nunavut. We will always be there for the people of Nunavut to give them assistance and support and also in the Bathurst Mandate we also agreed that the government documents and so on were too technically worded.

What we have envisioned was that this government would be more understanding and more accessible. When documents go out there and they are technically worded, it is hard to understand them. The Housing Corporation is always available for advice or for support.

Since the creation of Nunavut we have always had an open door policy and we also look for ways and means as to how we can improve our support to the people of Nunavut. For the renters again some are falling into arrears, that creates a problem for them. I think everybody out there understands that.

Some of them don't even want to pay for their monthly rent at all. They just want to live in the house, although the majority of the renters are up to date on their payments. We know that many independent minded people are going through hard times making payments or making ends meet.

But anyone out there or any Inuk out there should feel free to ask questions and ask for advice from the Housing Corporation. I think that would improve the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members and ministers I would like to inform you that during question period and during your preamble to try and keep it as brief as possible. Make your questions and responses to the point, otherwise we tend to lose the content if it is too long. And looking at the clock, there are other people who would like to ask questions. I just want to urge members to be brief and to the point. That is for the ministers and regular members. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 113-1(5): Homeowner Arrears Statistics

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. My colleague Mr. Iqaqrialu brings up a very important issue. And that is the fact the focus for the last number of years and the push to put people into homeownership. There are people that are running into problems and arrears and the bank foreclosing on them.

The minister indicated that they do meet with these people. Does her department or does the Corporation keep track, do they track the number of clients that have been put into homeownership that run into arrears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the advice that you have given us. You are a very good Speaker. So my responses will be brief.

(interpretation ends) Yes, we do have records of people that have had problems, the ones that have requested help. But there are other that may not have requested help because they are able to go to the banks themselves and solve their problems. So those are the people that we wouldn't have on the list. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just wondering if the Corporation is keeping track of people that have claimed help, or have been in trouble. Has the Corporation provided any additional assistance to any of these clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, most of the problems that have come to us are usually because the client does not really understand the mortgage payment schedule and also the technical explanation of how their payments should be made.

It is mostly misunderstanding of the whole system so that is what I was trying to say is that in this government we are trying to simplify our procedures and policies so that it is easier for the clients. Up to today I am not really aware of anybody that we have assisted with large amounts of money to get them out of debt, because we are trying to help the homeowner understand the procedures more and see if they can have a plan to get out of debt. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the minister saying that she is not aware if any additional assistance has been put forward. I know Mr. Speaker, a lot of the more recent homeownership programs required the client to obtain a mortgage from the bank based on their income and what they are eligible for and then the corporation or the government assistance kicked in on top of that.

I am just wondering if any of these problems that have arisen with homeownership clients, has the corporation taken over those mortgages, instead of the clients dealing with the bank they are now dealing directly with the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of how many clients there are that would be in that situation but I could certainly find out for the member and get back to the member on that. I really don't know the details for that question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know I can appreciate her answer, I don't imagine that she would have a list of that. But if she is looking up that information could she also find out like throughout the whole corporation if any additional assistance has been provided to any past homeownership clients. Also could we get like a total of how much it cost the corporation for additional support and also, a total amount if any on either of these Mr. Speaker, if any of them were mortgages that have been bought out from the bank by the corporation and the client is now dealing directly with the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I can do that.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is over. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my honourable colleagues to return to item 5. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The member wants to return to item 5. Are there any nays. There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognized someone this morning, but I have another person to recognize who's well known to the public, Joavie Alivaktak. He is an outfitter and brings tourists to Nunavut and participates in tourism trade shows in the United States. He will be going to Kimmirut to teach a tourism course for the next three weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't had an opportunity to welcome my son to the Legislative Assembly for a couple of years. The winner of two computer literacy awards 1999 and 2000 and somehow even with those awards he managed to fry my computer a month ago. I lost all my writings, my stories and everything. I was kind of upset, he's trying to make it up to me by coming by here every day to see me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. We are very proud of you. Going back to the orders of the day we are on item 7. Written questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First

Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Question has been called. Those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson's Bay that the Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this supplementary appropriation is to provide additional funding for the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31st 2001. Authority is requested for a total of 12 million 551 thousand dollars in additional appropriations. This is made up of 9 million 985 thousand dollars for operations and maintenance and 2 million 566 thousand dollars for Capital Expenditures. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. Question has been called. Those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Bill 2 has received second reading and is accordingly referred for consideration to Committee of the Whole

Second reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other matters. Bills 1, Appropriation Act 2001-2002. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001.

Mr. Iqaqrialu will Chair the committee. At this time we'll have a short break for 15 minutes. No. Members wish to proceed. Mr. Iqaqrialu. You may proceed with Committee of the Whole. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. My colleagues, in the Committee of the Whole we will be considering Bills 1 and 2 and we will start with Bill 1. Main Estimates. What is the wish of the Committee. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to deal with Community Government & Transportation under Bill 1. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Do you agree. At this time the committee wishes to proceed with Bill 1 Appropriations Act, 2001-2002, with Community Government & Transportation. The Minister of Community Government & Transportation, you may give your opening statement now.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly, with me today is my deputy minister, Mike Ferris and the Director of Finance Mike Rafter.

The Department of Community Government & Transportation has made progress toward some long-term initiatives during the past year. The most well known of these is the development of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy. The strategy, which establishes our vision and goals for transportation in Nunavut over the next twenty years, is on budget and on schedule. It will set standards and milestones to mark our progress. Some long term goals include: unique access roads and safe harbours in many communities; a road link between Manitoba and central Nunavut; and a potential deep water port in Bathurst Inlet, with a road link to the Izok mine site. The impact of the Nunavut Transportation Strategy will be felt by all Nunavummiut.

My commitment to consulting Nunavut-wide on the transportation strategy has been fulfilled. The vision document was circulated to, and discussed with, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Nunavut mayors and other stakeholders. It was publicly advertised, and comments from interested Nunavummiut were invited.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the second major transportation project involves the motor vehicles information system, which tracks licence plates, driver's licences, driving records, driving convictions, results of tests and finance information. Since April 1, 1999, the GNWT has provided Nunavut with these computerized information services and, as a result, Nunavut has no existence in southern Canada in terms of motor vehicles. Individuals moving to other jurisdictions have difficulties in getting new licences. With the NWT raising its service fees, it is time to establish a separate information system for Nunavut. I am pleased to announce that it will be in place by April 2001.

Several airport capital projects proceeded in fiscal year 2000-2001, thanks to the federal government's Airport Capital Assistance Program, or "ACAP". Examples of projects approved include a sweeper and a plow truck for Rankin Inlet and upgraded airfield lighting for Qikiqtarjuaq.

My department has submitted a number of ACAP project proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. I will report back to you once the federal government announces approvals. My appreciation goes to our staff, who put in long hours of hard work to prepare project funding proposals.

My commitment to acting on community requests for quarterly funding has been met. Now, about half of Nunavut communities qualify for and receive quarterly funding payments.

Our 2000-2001 Main Estimates document has been refined to describe more accurately where funds are being spent. Some program names may have changed, but the programs and their funding allocations have not.

Funding has changed for the better in one area. Over the last few years, communities received no additional funding to offset forced growth costs. Recognizing the financial burden on communities and as a result of the ongoing municipal finance review, I am pleased to confirm 5 million dollars has been budgeted over two fiscal years, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. By the end of the current fiscal year, communities will have received 2 million dollars.

In 2000- 2001, another 2.25 million dollars will go to communities for operations, fuel, water and sewage and diesel rider subsidies. Two hundred and twenty five thousand dollars will be made available to communities through the Recreation and Leisure division to support skill training in facilities management and leadership for local residents. This training is expected to extend the life of recreational facilities. The funding will be used, as well, to enhance sport coaching in Nunavut as we begin to take our place in various national sporting events.

The municipal finance review working group recommended the funding changes outlined for 2001-2002. The review is proceeding on schedule and we expect complete recommendations by the end of fiscal year 2001/2002. We anticipate that we will be able to implement these in the following year.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, this August, the very first team Nunavut will march into the Canada Summer Games in London, Ontario. I look forward with great pride to being present and cheering on our team. Some coaches and athletes will participate in educational workshops being held in conjunction with the games. The training will assist us to develop more programs aimed at offering individual sport opportunities in Nunavut.

An additional 500 thousand dollars will be provided to the Arctic Winter Games Host Society here in Iqaluit and Nuuk to help offset some operating expenses.

(interpretation ends) Capital projects planned for this fiscal year are proceeding well. In the upcoming fiscal year, my department will lead a capital planning consultation process, with the Departments of Finance and Public Works, to identify the communities' priorities. I would like to emphasize that this government's established priorities will direct the spending of our capital funds.

Our municipal legislation review working group has proposed a set of amendments to legislation that will better reflect Nunavut's situation, help to reduce bureaucracy and improve partnerships between the Government of Nunavut and community governments.

My department has created a special advisor for community development and Inuit Qaujimagatugangit to help us realize our dreams for a truly representative government. He will conduct a major policy review in consultation with communities to produce clearly written, readable policies that fit Nunavut's priorities.

(interpretation) During the International Year of the Volunteer, my department will be developing a Nunavut volunteer strategy. We will emphasize the benefits of volunteering for both the community and the individual volunteer and facilitate the development of a broad-based recognition program for community volunteers.

Throughout fiscal year 2000-2001, my department will continue assisting in preparations for the 2002 Iqaluit-Nuuk Arctic Winter Games.

(interpretation ends) Early in the new fiscal year, we will evaluate the feasibility of developing an electronic financial reporting system for Nunavut municipalities. If the evaluation is positive we hope to pilot it in three communities. Our community development division will co-ordinate up-to-date community capital inventories. We also plan to begin the development of a twenty-year needs assessment that will provide valuable information for setting future priorities.

Mr. Chairman, I am really pleased to report that all Nunavut communities have emergency preparedness plans in place and there is now an emergency response system at the Iqaluit airport. The office of the Fire Marshal is working on improving fire protection programs and systems. In the upcoming year, we will be developing or delivering programs aimed at reducing fatalities, injuries and property damage related to accidents on roads, at airports and on waterways.

We hope to progress to higher-than-required target levels for beneficiary staff in all jobs. My department will continue to work closely with Human Resources and the Decentralization Secretariat to access available funding for training and development.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, as you have just heard, we are working proactively to meet the many challenges and opportunities of our unique environment. The completion of departmental objectives and initiatives will further the Nunavut Government's goals and add to the quality of life in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my colleague Mr. McLean had to go out and make some travel arrangements and he is just coming back in now so I would just like to wait for him to make his comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I would like to ask the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment & Sustainable Development to make his opening comments.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has carefully reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Community Government and Transportation for the upcoming fiscal year.

As Chairman of the standing committee, I am pleased to be able to provide the committee's opening comments as we begin the review of the department's 2001-2002 budget.

The committee was pleased to see that the department will be providing communities with additional assistance to respond to the increasing demand on their infrastructure as a result of forced growth. Many communities have seen a population boom over the last couple of years and their resources have been stretched to their limits. Additional funding to respond to this need is long overdue, Mr. Chairman.

It has also come to the committee's attention that the communities will see a sharp increase in their municipal insurance premiums for the 2001-2002 fiscal year, partially as a consequence of the catastrophe in Walkerton, Ontario. This increase, Mr. Chairman, is estimated to range from \$5,000 up to \$65,000, depending on the community. An increase such as this could also have a debilitating impact on the resources of those communities affected. The committee would urge the minister to address this situation as a matter of priority and provide those communities with the financial assistance they need to pay these exorbitant increases in their insurance premiums.

Mr. Chairman, as you know, several of Nunavut's communities are situated along the shoreline of this vast territory, and many Nunavummiut own boats both for personal and commercial use. The committee would like to encourage the minister to pursue funding for safe and reliable docks in Nunavut through the federal government's Small Craft and Harbour Program.

Mr. Chairman, the committee would like to express its displeasure with the department at what appears to be its lack of consultation with the communities on capital projects. Officials from several communities have indicated that the department has not been responding to the priorities that they had identified. This situation does little to instil confidence in the consultative process that this government has placed so much emphasis on.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the committee is pleased to see that the department is moving forward on the Transportation Strategy for Nunavut, as well as the Municipal Financing and Legislation Reviews. As there is a consultative aspect to each of these projects, the committee would strongly encourage the department to ensure that consultations are thorough and seen to benefit all those involved.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I am sure that individual members will no doubt have other insightful comments to make on the department's 2001-2002 budget estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment & Sustainable Development. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour. Against. We will report progress. You can ask the Speaker to return to the House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Committee Chair Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Seconder is Mr. Nutarak. All those in favour of the motion. Against. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Deputy Clerk Leona Aglukkaq.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 15, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 2001-2002
 - Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 2000-2001
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Deputy Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day, I'd like to thank the Pages. I might not pronounce the names properly. I'd like to thank May Williams, Pascal MacLellan, Brendon Doherty, Annie Kattuk, Steven Rigby, Stella Balajadia and I'd like members to give the pages a hand. Thank them for their work.

>>Applause

I'd also like to thank the Sergeant-At-Arms for his work. The Sergeant-At-Arms is from Baker Lake, Silas Anguyuak. I hope you have a safe trip home. Thank you. Some of the members will be traveling south or they will be traveling home. I hope the members have a safe trip home. I'd like to adjourn the session for the day. We will reopen March 15 at 1:30.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>Assembly adjourned at 12:19 p.m

