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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday March 15, 2001

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 030 – 1(5): Eastern Arctic Sealift

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the members back to the House and wish everyone a good session.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to inform you of the progress that has been made in the transfer of responsibility for the Eastern Arctic Sealift from the Canadian Coast Guard to the Government of Nunavut.

I am pleased to advise that the Department of Public Works and Services is in the process of entering into a contract with the N3 Alliance for the next two sealift seasons.

Mr. Speaker, the N3 Alliance is a majority Nunavut owned consortium composed of Nunavut Sealink and Supply Inc. and Nortran Inc. As you may be aware, Nunavut Sealink and Supply Inc. is 60% owned by Arctic Cooperatives Limited.

This contract will provide the residents of the Eastern Arctic the same levels of services as provided by the Canadian Coast Guard administered sealift of the last 30 years, however at a considerably lower cost than in previous years.

Thank you Mr. Speaker for the opportunity to provide you with this update.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 031 – 1(5): Day Care Nutrition Grant

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that a 5 thousand dollar Nutrition Grant has been sent out from the Department of Education to the 23 full day, licensed Day Cares in Nunavut. The funding of the Nutrition Grant is in keeping with the implementation of recommendations made in the Day Care Review Report that was completed in September 2000.

The Nutrition Grant is to help with supporting day cares in providing the young children in their care with healthy snacks. The money is being used to purchase, country foods, fruits and vegetables, 100% fruit juices, milk and dairy products.

Mr. Speaker, responses that we have received from daycares with regards to this grant have been extremely positive. Good nutrition is clearly linked to better learning. Improved nutrition programs in our daycare facilities will positively impact on the lives of these children.

Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Moving on to Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 112 – 1(5): Medical Care of Chesterfield Inlet Patient

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was recently an unfortunate incident that happened in Chesterfield Inlet where a patient was not examined by a doctor, as should have happened. The nurses told her just to go home and this letter that I have received from the individual's son says they had to raise money together as a family for airfare so they could send her out for medical attention.

When she received her check up in Rankin Inlet, she was immediately medivaced to Winnipeg, because of serious illness. To make sure that this does not happen again in Nunavut, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 113 - 1(5): Unpredictable Weather & Preparedness

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to be able to be back and I had a chance to see my family during the break.

It's nice to be able to get longer days and see the sunshine coming back to Nunavut but Mr. Speaker, some young people in Nunavut, such as the young people that I have with me, whenever the weather gets bad, it's very hard to go out there and enjoy it.

Although there are a lot of things out on the land that we can do, but at times we tend to get lost, when we wander off, when you don't know what's happening out there. We use skidoos and other machinery that break down quite easily on the land, I just want to make sure that all Inuit people in Nunavut should dress warmly and try to watch the weather patterns when they're out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 114 - 1(5): CBC and AWG Host Society Agreement

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2002 Arctic Winter Games Iqaluit host society and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for reaching an agreement that will see CBC North serve as the official Broadcaster in the 2002 Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, as members know the Chef's de Mission of a number of participating countries are in Iqaluit this week to review the facilities and infrastructure that are in place for the games.

The extensive broadcast schedule for the games will promote and provide a tremendous opportunity to showcase Nunavut and the circumpolar world to the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that CBC North will be broadcasting games coverage in a number of northern languages, including Inuktitut and Dene languages. This is a welcome commitment on the part of our national broadcaster to provide services that reflect the languages of our communities and demonstrate our diversity to the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that all members will join me in congratulating the host society and the CBC for their teamwork. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 115 - 1(5): National Post Editorial on Nunavut

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not completely finished with my statement about people wanting us not to eat meat.

I just wondered what kinds of food those people figured animals eat. I was also disappointed when I was reading the National Post. The editorial in the National Post asked why the Inuit people got the Nunavut Government, that it was just too expensive. It said that we are in a dream world, that is what was in the National Post. To me it was a shortsighted thing to say.

I thought about it and as we all know that there are diamonds here in the north, there are also gold and other minerals. It will not take a lot of mines for us to start raising our own revenues and we will become more independent in terms of the funding we get from the federal government.

Once that happens will they recognize that and start saying we are giving too many royalties to the federal government. Are they going to tell us to keep our money up here. I don't think so.

I wanted to say that was not very smart of them and I am not pleased with that particular editorial. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 116 - 1(5): Recognition of Miali Coley

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you and this House about an amazing young person from Iqaluit, Miali Coley.

Miali is taking part in the Canada World Youth Program, which is a non-government organization that helps young people develop important jobs and life skills, while living and working in communities in Canada and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Miali had to raise 1,500 dollars to go toward Canada World Youth plus another five hundred dollars for the registration fee as well as monies for her trip to Edmonton, Alberta for her orientation.

Mr. Speaker, this industrious young person was successful in her fundraising and in this past August began her placement in the country of Ecuador.

Mr. Speaker, in Ecuador Miali was billeted with a host family and right away began to immerse herself in the Spanish language and her daily chores. Miali taught English, helped plough fields, herd cattle, and plant seeds. As part of the group, she helped build greenhouses and helped out wherever she could.

Mr. Speaker, after her experiences in Ecuador the next step on Miali's adventure was to Brockville, Ontario where she spent Christmas with another host family. In Brockville, Miali had a chance to work with in the local nursing home and an elementary school. Miali has also developed a capacity for learning languages. Along with her Inuktitut and English she can add Spanish and pretty soon French.

Mr. Speaker, Miali Coley demonstrates the best qualities of our Nunavut youth. She told me by e-mail that the support of her mother, Elisapee Davidee, has been instrumental in her success and she thanks the many residents of Iqaluit who sponsored her for this experience. Last year, Mr. Speaker, Miali worked with me to help get a youth centre for Iqaluit and when she comes back to town, I'm sure that she will once again be there not only as a role model but also as a volunteer for Iqaluit and Nunavut youth.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that you will join with me to congratulate Miali to support her success and the support of her mother, Elisapee Davidee, and her ambassadorship on behalf and for all of Nunavut youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. There are no further Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 001 - 1(5): Progress on Manitoba/Nunavut Road Link

Hon. Jack Anawak: Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a written question from the Member for Baker Lake.

On February 2, 2001 the Honourable Steve Ashton, Manitoba Minister of Highways and Services, and I had meetings with the Federal Minister of Transport, the Honourable David Collenette and the Honourable Ron Duhamel, Minister responsible for Western Economic Diversification, to solicit support and funding for additional studies on the Kivalliq to Manitoba road link and initial winter road construction.

Following these meetings, on February 13, 2001, I met with the Honourable Bob Nault, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

As a result my officials are now working on a funding proposal to access federal monies to pay for a route selection study and other required parallel studies, including all-weather road design standards, among others.

The route selection study will look at socio-economic and environmental impact and provide more accurate cost estimates to assist in selecting a road corridor between the Manitoba and Kivalliq areas.

Our officials estimate that these studies will cost on the order of one million dollars. Further information on our funding request and the status of proposed studies will be provided to the Assembly as soon as it is available. Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Just to let you know that reply should have come under item 8, Returns to Written Questions, not Returns to Oral Questions, as it was a written question from the Member for Baker Lake. But we will let you go on this one.

Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from Pond Inlet, our Sergeant-At-Arms. I would like to congratulate him on being the Sergeant-At-Arms, Joanisie Pijamini Arreak. He is our Sergeant-At-Arms today, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Chamber. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the person who is standing up and walking, one of our pages, his name is Allook, from our community. I am very proud that he is from Clyde River and has come to be a page here in our Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Chambers. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize also Joanisie Arreak as I have known him personally for many years. I know he is a very good person. (interpretation ends) Also, I wanted to recognize one of the pages, my son and umatik, Halley.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 114 – 1(5): Nunavut's Own Firearms Law

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Justice in regards to a serious matter. In the last year our Premier has been dealing with the Firearms Legislation.

We tried to have it postponed to suit our needs. Even today, it still seems that it does not suit us here in Nunavut. We would like to make this legislation more suitable to Nunavut and to our lifestyle. We know there are some problems implementing it in our region because of the fact that we are sustenance hunters.

I think we need to fix this legislation to suit our needs in Nunavut. I would like to ask the Premier if we could ask the federal government to amend this legislation to suit the needs of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This federal legislation deals with the criminal code. It was taken to the Supreme Court, which was asked directly to make a ruling on this legislation. We cannot deal directly with this legislation since it is Federal legislation. We can only deal with it through the federal government. We have said, however, that there have to be certain limitations to this legislation as it has to meet constitutional requirements and its direct impact on constitutional rights, so we're supporting Nunavut Tunngavik's attempts to have this legislation nullified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his answer exactly. However, we from Nunavut have to face this legislation directly so that it is suitable for the people of Nunavut because we live off the land and some parts of the legislation deal with the criminal code. There should be separate sections to this legislation to meet subsistence needs in addition to the criminal aspects of the legislation. Perhaps we can ask the federal government to make amendments to accommodate our needs in the legislation. This is a question that I would like to ask the Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier, please proceed.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This legislation came into force January 1. Even if we try to deal with it then we would be breaking the law so we have to be careful as to how we deal with the legislation. We asked to have this postponed and the federal government has refused. We are not the only party to this

legislation. The federal government does not have to agree with our particular wishes. As a result, there is no way that we can deal with this particular legislation at this time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his explanation clearly. I am just trying to ask if we couldn't try to work with the federal government on this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nothing has been left open to us in any way. We have worked closely with Nunavut Tunngavik and we will be working with them an agreement that deals with the rights of Inuit. We have to work with Nunavut Tunngavik to deal with this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 115 - 1(5): Action on Medical Patient Letter from Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. I have been getting copies of the letters that have been forwarded to the minister and this was one that was directed to Ms. Supliss from the Rankin Inlet Health Centre. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) Once in Rankin Inlet the doctors and the nurses gave her blood tests and x-rays all day. At first they suspected gallstones but further testing...

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk, as per the rules of this House, any document that has not been tabled is not before the House and cannot be referred to or commented on. If you wish to ask some general questions without using names or diagnosis and so on, you may proceed.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be reading excerpts from the letter but this person asked if the minister can deal with this issue and this particular person was told that the minister would take action on this issue. Are you going to be doing that according to the response that you gave. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Again before the minister answers also keep in mind that we should not be discussing confidential matters that are not before the House. I guess in general, especially if they were documents that are out there but not before the House, we should not be referring to them. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, any time a written complaint is brought forward to the Department of Health & Social Services there is an administrative

process that is put in place to review any accusations or allegations that have been made. That has been the case in the past several months and days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, I was trying to be very clear in terms of general questions about has he done what he said he would do for the person who, the same person who informed me of this request to the minister.

I am not asking any more about the history of what the department does but my question is has he done something on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk just to be fair to yourself so that you don't use up your supplementary questions before getting a reasonable answer. I'd ask that you clarify your question again and be a little bit more concise and precise so the minister can give you a reasonable answer.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The documents are not in the House except the conversation that has been between the family in Chesterfield, the minister's office and myself and his regional office.

So we know what we are talking about. He has assured them that he will do something about that. My question is has he done something about what he said he was going to do something about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not trying to be evasive Mr. Speaker. As we know, this is a public forum here. Without the consent of the parties in writing saying that yes you can discuss this in a public forum, then I'm not prepared to discuss a case like this.

What I have said is that when allegations are raised, in this case I have received a letter, I have responded, actually on Tuesday I received an emailed letter. I responded that we will be reviewing the case, which we are doing right now, Mr. Speaker, as is the process administratively for these types of enquiries, allegations or whatever, that come forward in an official capacity that the department would respond in. So we're doing that Mr. Speaker. I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 116 – 1(5): Increased Insurance Premiums for Municipalities

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the minister made a statement announcing some additional funding for the municipalities throughout Nunavut, for things like fuel prices, and things like that. We've all been aware since then that all the municipalities of Nunavut are looking at substantial increases in their insurance premiums.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister responsible if he has met with the members of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to discuss a solution to try and assist them with this immediate need that they face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact my Assistant Deputy Minister within the Department has met with, is currently meeting with risk management, and Municipal & Community Affairs officials to come up with some options. Realizing that at present communities pay a premium of 7 thousand dollars and have a 5 thousand dollar deductible for any claims they make.

One of the options being considered would be that the premium would remain at 7 thousand but the deductible would increase to 50 thousand in which the communities would continue to pay the first 5 thousand and the Department would recover the remaining 45 to try and do this. For this we would need approximately 1.2 million dollars.

So Mr. Speaker, we are presently in discussions to try and see what we can do to alleviate the extra costs that will result as of the high costs of premiums. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the program I was referring to was the group program that the Association of Municipalities has for all of the communities and under the understanding that for the 2000-2001 year they pay approximately 1.8 million dollars in premiums for all the communities in Nunavut that pay for it.

They're looking at for this coming year an additional approximately, about 35- 36 percent increase overall across the board for every municipality. I'm just wondering if the minister's indicating that they are no longer going to have a group liability program for the municipalities and hamlets to fall under and if there is going to be something he's indicated that the government is going to provide that for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. That's not what I am saying but what I am saying is that officials are currently having a meeting with the parties to find out what kinds of options they might have and the least expensive options.

They are looking at ways and means of how they can decrease the price. I'm not saying this is exactly what they are going to be doing but the Nunavut Association of Municipalities are, we're going to be talking with them to see which avenue would be the best for us to use. We are not going to say we're going to be doing this but we are looking at options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding that the municipalities, the press release that they made had sent out requests for proposals for insurance coverage from 20 different companies.

Because of the unfortunate incident that happened in Walkerton, a lot of insurance companies have just dropped that type of coverage. So they are very limited in the places that will be able to provide them with the type of coverage that they currently have. If they are able to maintain the same amount of coverage, it is going to cost them that much more.

I'm not sure if those are the numbers that are on the table that they're looking at, that 35% increase, which roughly I think is close to 500 thousand dollars, will it be something that's covered off. Will the department assist the municipalities in being able to come up with those funds, to enable them to continue to have the same level of insurance that they have right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not want to presume, ahead of time, what the agreement will be. But what I'm saying is that whatever the outcome of the discussion on how best to deal with this insurance premium increase will be an agreement between the parties involved and the most cost effective way of getting that done. So, again, I say I would not want to prejudge what the municipalities would want to do but we will work in conjunction with them. Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand also that one of the numbers that I was talking about, that the association has to provide a commitment prior to March 25th, and I was just wondering if the minister could commit to coming up with a solution with the Nunavut Association Municipalities on that, prior to that date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make sure that we'll try and do what we can to address the issue, making sure that there is no way that we would allow the municipalities to get into a situation that they wouldn't be able to pay their insurance

premium increase. It's just a matter of looking for innovative ways so that no municipal councils would be left out in the cold to pay the increase in prices. Thank you

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 117 - 1(5): Inuinnaqtun Language Training

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to direct a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. The Inuinnaqtut language, spoken or written, is very different from the other dialects. For some it is difficult to understand and translate. When can we begin to look at ways of improving the expertise of our translators to ensure we understand each other better, while using our elders in the process. It needs to be clearer so that our interpreters and translators can begin to learn more of the proper use of the language from the elders. This is my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question. The development of the Inuinnaqtun language is being worked on by our department right now. They are looking at how we could improve the writing of the Inuinnaqtun dialect. We are using the elders and asking them questions about how we can improve the written Inuinnaqtut, and how we can improve the written correspondence that we put out to the public.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. I want to make sure that our Inuinnaqtut dialect in Kugluktuk is maintained and that the youth continue to try and speak in Inuinnaqtut. Even myself, I have to pick out the correct wording to use. For instance, here "qagitaujaq" means computer. But in our dialect we do not have those terms.

In the future these types of terminology are going to be used more and our language will improve. The youth want to learn. When will this process that you have mentioned begin. Using the elders, and in which communities will you be beginning this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuit of Nunavut use different dialects, such as Inuinnaqtut, and we want to see that flourish in the whole territory. However, it has been very slow to date, but to your question, I cannot give you a time as to when this program will be finished.

But we are trying to use our elders in the future as per your comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The youth question me as to when we will begin this process of improving the use of our language. The youth have been approaching me and that is why I am pushing for an answer. This needs to be resolved soon while the youth are ready and want to speak and write their language.

The question was not fully answered as to Inuinnaqtut terminology. In Inuinnaqtut for instance when you say computers they say qagitaujaq, we do not have a word such as that and for instance kiinaujarmik, money, money is what we say.

Those words should be more precise. If, for example, you are going to Kugluktuk or Cambridge Bay or Bathurst Inlet these terms should be clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January I went to Kugluktuk and this was one of the concerns that was raised. The elders said that they could not read any of the new releases or documents that were released from the government because they were not written in Inuinnaqtuun.

However, I would like to work closely with the member so that we can start working on those issues that you just raised, perhaps outside of this chamber.

But at this time I cannot tell you exactly what is going to be happen but I would like to assure the minister, the member, that I would like to have a close working relationship with you in order to get the whole process going on the issue of the Inuinnaqtuun language within the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When can we expect to hear about working with you on this issue. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any time, we are waiting for you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 118 - 1(5): Causes of Inadequate Health Care

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question is directed to the Minister of Health & Social Services. In Nunavut we hear about people that have been inadequately tended to by the nurses in Nunavut and we recently heard one incident that happened on the radio.

My question to the minister is, are we having a shortage of nurses or can it be blamed on the flu season or is the lack money responsible for inadequate nursing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the member for his question. Mr. Speaker, in general I cannot speak to a specific incident that may have been in the media or so on.

But on average, Mr. Speaker, when any department including the Department of Health & Social Services, receives a complaint about services or diagnoses and so on, when we receive those complaints in writing we follow them up, a review is done, the families are contacted and so on. Mr. Speaker, those types of complaints are not necessarily based on staffing requirements, if there's a shortage of nurses at any given or particular time or at the health centre or indeed in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, you can see, for example yesterday in some of the newspapers that are available here in town, of cases of problems in health care system investigations in the south. So that is not unique to Nunavut and indeed, it is not unique to this jurisdiction. It is not unique or a cause of a situation at the health centres, specifically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I had was, how can we improve the health system. There used to be health boards, perhaps when we get the health board back, maybe this will improve. I was just wondering how this could be improved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we, for example, if we look at our health centres on any given day in the member's community, in the smaller communities like Repulse Bay, Mr. Speaker, any community in Nunavut. On average, let's say there were 20 visits to the health centre, and we know there are a lot more.

Let's take 20 visits a day by patients. By five days that's 100 visits, multiplied by 52 weeks in a year, that is over 5 thousand in one community multiplied by 26 communities, multiplied by the hospital here. You are looking at tens of thousands of patients being seen in our health centres on a yearly basis, Mr. Speaker.

If there are cases, Mr. Speaker, of diagnoses problems and so on, then they are addressed usually in written form, they are brought to the attention of the department. In the past they were brought to the attention of the respective health boards and then to the Minister of Health. Ultimately the Minister of Health and the Department of Health, and in this case Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is responsible. So I guess the short answer is, there have not been more cases or more instances since the demise of the health boards.

Mr. Speaker, what we are seeing is more and more patients actually coming to the health centres and as members have said in this House, they would actually like to see more staff at the local level, at the community level in their health centres and that's something that we are trying to accomplish Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problem that we have with health services in Nunavut, we have heard that there have been shortages of nurses in some communities, while other communities have adequate nursing.

There are some communities that are larger that have four nurses, and there are others that have three nurses in the community. There are also some problems with dispensing medication. Perhaps if they get more nurses would the people of Nunavut be served better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member makes a good point. I think it is safe to say and fair to say Mr. Speaker, that our medical professionals, our nursing staff, our health centre staff, including the CHRs, the interpreters and so on Mr. Speaker, they put in tremendous hours of work every day. In the health centres, nurses for example are on call 24 hours a day.

In most cases Mr. Speaker, they actually live in the nursing station or the health centre. They deserve our respect, Mr. Speaker, and they deserve good working conditions. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health and Social Services, we implemented 21 recommendations from the Najaat Report that we have discussed before in this House about retention and recruitment of our nursing staff. We have been quite successful, at one point Mr. Speaker, and today I think, I believe we are at almost 90% right now at the hospital here in Iqaluit as an example, whereas at one point in the summer we were at about 40%.

So we've been doing a lot of aggressive recruiting Mr. Speaker and as the member has said, I think that will help our situation on the ground not only for the relief of the staff but also for patient care and as well as look at the preventative side of medicine, Mr. Speaker and start doing some of the things that primary health care dictates. That is the prevention and care of our residents in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 119 - 1(5): Akitsiraq Law School Sponsorship

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were asked to smile once in a while in this House because a lot of the public tell us that we never have a smile. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he could give us information on the sponsorship to Akitsiraq Law School.

I just wondered if it was going to be the same as the TEP Program or whether it will be the same as the nursing program. I just wondered if the minister could tell me whether there will be dropouts and things like that, the same as those other programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not going to be the same because it is going to be a one-time program. There will be just over ten students taking this law schooling for about four years. As soon as they are done, that would be the end of the program. It is a one-time program that they are going to be taking and that makes it a very important school.

They will be paid at the same time while they're taking the law program. As government, we have made some money available that program and some of the Inuit Organizations will also be assisting in the way of funding for that program. We will try and help the law program and we will be giving them some support in between their schooling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try my question in English. I feel that the minister answered some of my question but, how is the law school going to make a difference in retaining students in the program. How is he going to keep them in the program. I know that we want to keep them there for four years. How is he going to keep them there.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, what we plan to do is scrutinize very closely all the applicants that will be applying and ensure that they are ready to take on the program.

It's a one-time program so we want really credible, strong candidates that will be able to succeed and at the same time, we will fund those students for the full four years that they're under the program and provide employment opportunities while they're not in school. That is unique. We guarantee them employment as well as paying for their tuition so we want to ensure that they're well supported not just financially but in terms of learning from the program and learning the skills that they'll need not just in the court room but also in dealing with the Inuit that require their services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister explain why law school students can have access to housing and are at par with the government employees, while other students in Nunavut do not have the same access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware that they'll get staff housing, if they are currently our staff and we've provided employment for them, they'll be eligible for staff housing but I'm not aware of any special housing provisions. They'll be collecting a salary to pay for their day to day living expenses.

So they are eligible for public housing, they will pay like everybody else. But in terms of making sure they succeed we want to support them financially and as well guarantee them employment, once they successfully complete the program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to quote the web site for the Akitsiraq law school and it states here, "the financial assistance provided through the sponsorship will consist of a basic allowance sufficient to meet the needs of the student and housing arrangements that are similar to Government of Nunavut Housing Policy." Why don't other students have access to this. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently the students that attend college programs are eligible for student housing, so it is on par with other student residence accommodations that we already provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 120 - 1(5): Leasing of Housing Units

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation has a program to lease private homes that will in turn be used as public housing. Can she tell me how many they have leased so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that he is referring to our rental of private buildings. I think it is perhaps around 40 houses that we were going to lease. I had the information on my desk just earlier. Mr. Speaker, it's not 40, they haven't come up to 40 as yet, I think it is around 34. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These houses that are going to be leased, which communities are these houses in. I know that in my community, there are two houses that are vacant and there's nobody renting them and they are just being left alone. When you have programs available are these houses going to be used. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the rental houses are all overcrowded in his constituency in Clyde River. We do look for houses to rent, and indeed we were actually asked if we have houses we rent out.

It is my understanding that some of the houses were not completed in Clyde River and this is causing delays. We are continuing to look for houses that we could rent in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be satisfied only if I see houses that are currently empty being occupied since it is my constituency and I will not accept just hearing that the situation is being reviewed and the use of those units being negotiated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were not researching, we actually asked if rental units were available. We were told that those units that are being retrofitted in Clyde River are still not ready to be filled.

Some rental units are very old and in such a condition that they should not be rented out until they are properly repaired. I know we did ask directly from his constituency to see which units were available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Sorry, Mr. Iqaqrialu, you have one more supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I apologize. This is not exactly a question. Instead, I will ask my community if this has indeed been the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the MLA would like to work for the Housing Corporation, we would like to employ him as an interviewer. Yes, for sure, he is more than welcome to make the inquiries he says he will make.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 121 - 1(5): Effective Date of Rent Scale

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please know that I did not have a huddle with my fellow colleague, but I have a question also to the same minister.

The rental houses are based on a rental scale that tracks earned income. My question is, when was the rental scale implemented. I am just asking this for information only. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There used to be several different housing programs that were implemented, one of which was called the Access Program. Perhaps he could clarify which program that he is referring to.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I have a HAP house myself. Maybe she is thinking that I am talking about HAP housing. I am referring to people who rent public housing, people who have low incomes, depending on how much money their household makes they pay rent. When was the rental scale for public housing implemented as to what percentage they can deduct for the rent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his question now. Under the public housing program, they pay rent according to the amount of household income. The Nunavut Government did not set this scale. This was implemented sometime in 1995. We inherited this rental housing program from the GNWT. We are going to review the rental scale, we will be doing that very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I think that was implemented in 1995 by the GNWT, for employed tenants. With the increase in fuel prices and the annual increase with transportation and everything else, is it not a good time now to review the rental scale or are you going to be doing this review for the next two years. You stated last year that there would be a review and we have not seen a report to date. How much longer will we wait. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is quite a lengthy review and it's not easy to do. There are 3100 rental units in Nunavut. We pay rent for about 2000 of them. The government pays for those and the tenants pay for the remainder. For the rental units for welfare recipients, they pay 32 dollars a month for the unit.

In reference to your question, your question is why you haven't seen a report yet. We've been working on it to date and we do not know what's going to be best for all. We can't place everybody all at the same time but there will be a meeting in Rankin Inlet on Monday to hear from the people out there about what they would like to see in regards to the rental scale. There are some people who are living rent free. The question is are they paying too much or too little.

We are looking at the concerns raised about employed tenants and their high rents and we are also looking at the high cost of living in Nunavut and we are looking at how we can give more support to the people out there.

We hear many times that once they are employed, the tenant's rent goes extremely high. So that is one direction that was given to our department and I can tell you that the local housing organization chairs will be having a conference in Rankin Inlet and they will be discussing these issues at hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the rental scale, you are going to be reviewing it. We hear on the local radio station that there are some tenants that will be evicted, sometimes in the middle of the winter and the reason why they are

getting evicted is because of the accumulated arrears and the reason why it gets like that is because of the percentage of the income that is deducted for the house.

I think that if we decrease the percentage things will improve and that's the reason why I asked you when was the last time that there was a revision to the rental scale that we currently use. I think the best way to go about this is if we decrease the percentage that is deducted from the income of the tenant and that was the reason why I asked you that question. When was the last time you made a revision to the rental scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few people living rent free. Of course when people are working they do have to pay monthly rent for their unit. I said that I would be reviewing the matter.

The Housing Task Force did not say when I should start the review. I know that one of the main complaints was the people whose total income was taken and a certain percentage was deducted for the unit. If they're casual employees of the housing association, the nursing station and so on their rent is increased. Because of these problems, it's going to be a more lengthy review. That was the only direction that I was given and we will work on this and come to a conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, the housing associations at the community level, following the policy, know who has been evicted from the house because usually these tenants have not paid any rent and there's people on the waiting list who can pay for the monthly rent.

They can go into a deduction repayment plan. If you owe money, you don't automatically get evicted, you are given an opportunity to pay for your arrears through repayment plans or other option plans that you can agree upon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over. We'll move on to item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend oral questions by a half an hour if it is okay with the rest of the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 6, to extend question period. Are there any nays.

A Member: Nay.

Speaker: I heard a nay, therefore question period will not be extended. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 008 - 1(5): Review of School Funding Formula

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the written question is for the Minister responsible for Education.

The first one Mr. Speaker, and there are a number of them here, and I will just read through them all, instead of handing them in.

The minister has indicated on a number of occasions that a review of the school funding formulas is underway.

1. Can the minister provide a formal title for this review.
2. Can the minister indicate when this review was initiated.
3. Was this review tendered.
4. Was there a request for proposals, or was it sole-sourced.
5. When was the contract awarded.
6. What are the names of the individuals and their affiliated organizations or companies that have been contracted to carry out this review.
7. Who is the departmental designate for the coordination of this review, and is it the same person that will be conducting the review.
8. Can the minister provide contact information for the individuals who are conducting the review.
9. Can the minister provide a list of individuals, organizations and public bodies that will be consulted during the review process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 002 - 1(5): Transfer of Nurses Residence

Return to WQ 003 - 1(5): Baker Lake Group Home

Return to WQ 004 - 1(5): Policy for Elder Care

Return to WQ 005 - 1(5): Kivalliq Regional Hospital

Return to WQ 006 - 1(5): Kivalliq Medivac Contract

Return to WQ 007 - 1(5): Frequency of Dental Visits

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise that replies to Written Questions 002 to 7-1(5) have been filed with the Office of the Clerk. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kattuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 011 - 1(5): Community Economic Development in Sanikiluaq

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, "Community Economic Development in Sanikiluaq, Nunavut, the Consolidated Report". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 3 - Utility Rate Review Council Act - Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 19, 2001, I shall move that Bill 3, Utility Rate Review Council Act be read for the first time.

Speaker: Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act (Time Zones) - Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik: Merci Monsieur President, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 19, 2001, I shall move that Bill 4, an Act to Amend the Interpretation Act, Time Zones be read for the first time. Merci Monsieur President.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 5 - Loan Authorization Act 2001/2002 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 19, 2001, I shall move that Bill 5, Loan Authorization Act 2001/2002 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, with Mr. Iqaqrialu as Chair.

Before we proceed, I think it would be in order for the members to take a 15, 20-minute break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 3.03 p.m. and resumed at 3.28 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you, we can begin. The committee will come to order. During Committee of the Whole, we will be discussing Bill 1, Appropriation Act and Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We want to continue with Bill 1, Appropriation Act 2001- 2002, Community Government and Transportation. Capital.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Does the committee agree that we deal with Bill 1, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002, Community Government and Transportation. Capital. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): The last time we met, the minister did his opening remarks and the committee chairperson did his opening remarks as well. At this time if the minister can approach the witness table. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): When the minister approaches the witness table he is supposed to approach it alone and then call his officials afterwards. They are supposed to wait until they are asked to approach the witness table with the minister. Just to let the minister know for future reference. At this time, Mr. Anawak, do you have any comments. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are Inuit and that is why we bring our officials automatically. My Deputy Minister is Mike Ferris, and Doug Sitland is our Manager of Capital Programs.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Anawak and your officials, welcome. The minister already made his opening remarks and the Chairman of the Committee already made his opening remarks.

Any comments from members, you have ten minutes to make your opening remarks or opening comments regarding the Capital Estimates of Community Government & Transportation. Opening comments from the members, there is no one. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's too bad I was not here Friday. We left early on Friday. I went through the document in regards to your opening remarks, the minister's and the Chairperson's. Thank you for your comments.

The minister mentioned Manitoba, the central arctic, in the Keewatin. I am glad that he is aware of this need for our future use. This could be good for our future generations to build on. If they are complete whenever, yesterday we talked about today's airfares being very expensive, ship transportation is difficult at times if you only have summer months to operate.

Employment is seasonal at times. For instance in the Kitikmeot, the proposed road has been mentioned today. Yes, I am in favour of that, the future looks good for this proposal to go forward. Food, gas whatever, this road will allow them to be brought up to the north.

We need to plan well for the future. For instance, there is mention of a port near Bathurst Inlet in your opening remarks. Those visitors from the south going to that area, there is a lot of game and wildlife in that area. There are camping grounds nearby and we have seen this during the summer months. There needs to be well-planned future activities. When you look at the bay near Bathurst Inlet, if ships were going to go into that area, it looks a bit tight, it just needs to be well thought out if it is going to be used.

We will be discussing this more with the Department of Sustainable Development and plan for how the future is going to be in this area. That is why I mentioned it coming from the minister's opening remarks on Friday.

Another comment on the roads in the communities, we use them daily. The roads in the communities need to be upgraded so our vehicles can run properly and be used for longer periods of time once these roads are up to par. There are going to be more roads, the population is growing, you need to be aware of this that our roads need to be maintained. And not only to be maintained but new construction as well. Additional roads, maintenance of roads, gravel needs to be hauled. Even in Kugluktuk there needs to be areas where gravel can be found, they gather this from one of the islands now, the gravel that is used for house foundations and roads. We need to think of these things because they will become more and more expensive.

If these roads are kept up to par, well maintained, they will be used well. We need to remember these concerns. We will be trying to find other modes of transportation, such as docking facilities for ships, places to gather gravel. Ships that come into Kugluktuk have to deal with a lot of shallow areas, this needs to be looked at to accommodate docking facilities for larger ships.

Another comment I will be making, is that during the summer, there are games where youth participate and at times funding is very tight for travel to other communities. We enjoy competitive activities and games, such as the northern games. We need to keep up these kinds of things. Once our youth are exposed to that kind of activity they begin to learn other activities, games, and competitive activities for the future in terms of recreation.

It is good to watch other people participate in other games that you have not seen. Every year, funds are short and it should be increased.

During the summer in Kugluktuk, youth go swimming on the shore right on the ocean. The swimming pool is utilized for four to five weeks in the summer from July to August. This is good. In other communities, swimming facilities, like here in Iqaluit and in Cambridge Bay, they are utilized much longer and the children enjoy that kind of activity more. We need to think of those types of things that the future generation can utilize.

In terms of our airport facilities, our airstrips, we need to find ways to maintain them. Plus our air terminal is getting old. It is small. Our population is increasing, you are aware as a minister. I wanted to bring these things out. We can bring these things out that we haven't forgotten. I myself want to see progress.

So facilities can be close to where the airport is that are used to maintain that area. If I have forgotten anything, there will be comments made by my colleagues and if I think of anything more, I will have a few more comments to make. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyak. At this time, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I didn't get a chance to put my hand up but the chairperson recognized me so I'll make a short comment in regards to the hamlet employees and the Government of Nunavut employees, they have different benefits.

Some communities have decentralized government so I am sure that there are some government employees that are going to be transferred or getting employment in Pond Inlet. What I am talking about is the wages of the hamlet employees should be increased. Say for instance, I know that there are people that could take the opportunity to become operators of machinery, but there should be more amendments made to the Hamlets Act.

It was supposed to be done in Yellowknife, but it has not yet been done since the Nunavut Government began. In regards to Mr. Haviyak's comments I am in the same situation as him, docking facilities should be improved in each community. Sometimes

many people lose their boats because there aren't any adequate docking facilities. Some people have lost their boats because of this.

They did not build the docking facility for some reason, the construction was delayed. As well in Pond Inlet, the airstrip is very close to the community and the houses, like Pangnirtung. When you are landing you go right over the houses and if there is a gust of wind it is very dangerous for the aircraft and the residents. You have to pass over the hotel in Pond Inlet when the plane is landing. With the increased population, this will create more problems.

We also have problems with the arenas and gymnasiums and the community hall. I am sure that the minister is aware of the problem that we have in my community because I have voiced these concerns before. Getting back to the Hamlets Act, it would be best for the communities to make the changes to the Hamlets Act. Perhaps the department is not in any hurry to make changes to the Hamlets Act, but it just seems that it is not good for the hamlet employees. As I mentioned, I am in support of Mr. Haviyok's comments, but at this time I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be making very brief comments. The majority of the Hamlet Councils provide different types of services to the communities. I know that they are very well compensated by the government, but for the last few years, I think that the government needs to be more sensitive to the issues that have been prioritized by the Hamlet Councils.

It doesn't work when things are imposed on the hamlets or the community governments, like the previous government used to do. I think we should let the community governments set the priorities and we work on those priorities. I could use this example, because of course it costs a lot of money to operate a community, Repulse Bay, and I am sure it is not the only community in Nunavut like this. The water reservoir in Repulse Bay is a problem and the access road is hard to maintain in the winter.

The community has a hard time keeping on top of the water delivery services. We should look at how we can have better access to the water reservoirs, the trucks and equipment that is used and also the access roads that lead us to the water reservoirs, the garbage dumps and so on.

I think we would provide better services if we do that. Also in Repulse Bay, again, the airstrip is too short for the community. We should look at relocating the airstrip some time in the future so they could have a longer airstrip. There are a lot of concerns out there from the Hamlet Councils and I do agree with the previous comments that were made. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I have no other names. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you. I put up my hand and you said my name right away. Welcome and don't fall asleep. I have a few comments and smile once in a while. I have a few comments that I would like to make Mr. Chairman.

The first item is about something that was in the opening comments. It is about the pilot projects that will be done in three communities. However, the names of the communities were not mentioned. I think that will be beneficial to the communities, but usually the smaller communities have a hard time getting on with providing those services. Looking at this, Community Government will provide services and provide workshops or provide training courses for example, to the Hamlet Councils.

The reason why I mention this is because in many communities usually it is the SAO who makes the decisions instead of the mayor. It says here that there will be training opportunities for the Hamlet Councils, I would like the communities to be aware that your department will be providing the required training. In order to represent the communities properly they have to be well trained, but I would like the mayors of the communities to be the decision makers and not the SAOs.

Also, another issue that I would like to bring up is the lack of recreational facilities, especially in the smaller communities. In my riding they have recreational facilities and usually what they do is use the school gymnasium after school hours. It is the most utilized facility and in most communities, the buildings are aging and getting too small with the increase in population and we don't see any time soon these facilities getting enlarged. So I would like your department to think about that, especially you should work with the communities.

I was just talking with the Mayor of Arctic Bay and the main concern that the mayor had was a lack of recreational facilities. The school gymnasiums are used all day during the day by the school population and then open to the community in the evenings and they are used constantly.

You said that you would provide money for training, for fire prevention. I have not heard about any training that went on in the communities but I would like to urge your department that there should be training provided for the Fire Department and the crew, and also to get new fire fighting equipment. You prioritized safety issues, and I think that firefighters should be given ongoing training and be provided with the proper clothing and equipment.

I do know that the smaller communities are usually left behind but I think that they do have to keep up to par with the provision of services and they need the same kind of training. Also here you talk about providing roads and access roads, safe harbours and road links. We have to work on the roads in most of the Nunavut Communities and I am very glad that your department is working on that. I think it would be best if we start implementing these right away.

I will leave it at that but I am only making reference to the documents in front of us. So I would like to urge your department to start implementing these things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. I would like to remind the members that if we are going to speak in one language, please stick to that language without making additions in another language. It is inconvenient for unilingual people whether they are listening in Inuktitut or English. So I would like to remind you if you are going to be making comments please try and stick to one language. That is also for the benefit of the interpreters. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not speaking English. I am very proud of the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. Here I am saying an English word.

Block funding is provided to the Hamlets and Community Government & Transportation, have been urging the Community Governments to be involved in the five year planning process. Some the communities are very experienced in that department now and they are now prioritizing their capital acquisitions and what they think should be a priority in their communities.

They also work with Hamlet Councils in setting up their plans. Not only for the provision of services, community governments are involved in the planning stages for capital projects like arenas and recreational facilities and leisure activities.

For example in Gjoa Haven, their dump is too close to the community and they are involved in that planning. Some of the hamlet councils are also making suggestions on how they can improve housing or public works or the nursing station. They work with these various government departments who also work with them. But, still, too many hamlet councils are only involved in the administrative matters of their communities when the whole community is involved.

There is the heavy equipment that they deal with and also the provision of services and they should be more involved in the whole community and not just concentrate on the services that are provided by the hamlet council. A little bit later after my comments, I would like to ask the minister a question. Most of the Hamlet Councils have SAOs who used to work previously with the Hudson Bay company where they gained their experience and then they went to the co-ops and from the co-ops they went to the housing associations gaining their experience and their knowledge and they end up as the SAOs of the Hamlet Council.

I am not opposed to that and I'm not saying that we should not go up the ladder but a lot of them are not, don't know anything about how we should plan our finances, how we should operate a community and how we can become more self-sufficient. Or even how we can generate revenue with the funds that we receive, they are not taught or educated

about those aspects of their work because of course they learned everything on the job. Going from one level to another.

A little bit later I will be asking questions about the hamlet councils and the procedures they have when they are recruiting staff and what kind of assistance they can ask from your department. If you can understand me. We also have a clerk that used to be a deputy minister what did we do when we were recruiting for a clerk. So that is what I'm getting at, those are the questions that I would like to pose later. Like I said earlier, the hamlets are making plans, making five-year plans, and they also decide what they should be getting year to year.

They can do all that but after the plans are completed some of the stuff that they want to get are moved to another community. When we are looking at the Capital Estimates, we see that it is not going to one community but it is going to another. We see which community will be getting what. So when we get there to that particular community we are told that they don't want what they are getting. They had asked for something else.

So I will be asking those types of questions of the minister later when we get into the details. Of course, we can make additions and we do have to approve the Capital Estimates. My question will be, I think each community should be getting what they want. I know we will be getting into it later but I can use the example of Chesterfield Inlet. They will be getting a dump truck, I am not sure when, 2002-2003. What they are actually looking at is getting a dump truck that is privately owned. We have a very poor water truck, we have a very poor sewage truck. Is it not possible instead to contract that private company so that they can provide the equipment and the services.

It might not be a dump truck but we should be able to use and contract private companies to provide the equipment that is needed at the community level. So what we are finding out is that what was actually prioritized by the communities is not here, possibly because of a lack of funds or maybe they submitted their priorities a little bit late.

As a last comment Mr. Chairman, the minister's department or the hamlet they used to be settlement councils then they got hamlet status. I think that they should be empowered to make decisions on whether it involves the school or the nursing station or any other service that is provided. As long as it is within their jurisdiction. Like we heard today the gun legislation is the responsibility of the federal government and we cannot make any decisions on that. I think we should empower the communities and have them run the operations of the community as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was just going over the minister's opening remarks and I have some comments that I would like to make. In the first part he talks about the government's transportation strategy and I know that we all had a briefing on that earlier this year. I just want to reiterate one concern that I raised then, and I will raise it here.

I think we have to be careful when we are looking at the strategy that we don't promote or set up the promotion for the establishment of monopolies. I think all, or most people know that the only people that benefit from a monopoly are those that have it. You know, I think, you know, in the desire to try and find some cost savings and a cheaper way of providing services, you know, an indication, an example I could use is the Minister of Public Work's statement earlier today about awarding a sea-lift contract for all government stuff, services for two years to one carrier.

You know, I was wondering if moves like that, you know, what the impact of something like that is on other carriers. You know, is that going to end up forcing the other carriers out of business. And if so, I think, you know, all we have to do is look at the Air Canada merger where oh don't worry, you know, if you let us merge we are going to, things will get better and prices won't go up and things like that will keep things the same, you know, and sure enough after a year of the promise of they say oh we'll keep it in place for this long and, you know, as soon as that time is up people are being laid off, prices are going up.

I think, you know, when we look at something like this we have to ensure, not only for the short term that it's a good thing but have some guarantees that in the long term it's beneficial as well. I think in the long term as soon as you have a monopoly then you're stuck with whatever they give you. I think that's something that needs to be looked at very carefully. On another area that is mentioned in his comments is the airport capital assistance program. I know based on the latest regulations passed by the federal government in regards to having, I'm not sure what the exact term is, but basically a fire truck at every airport.

You know, requiring that by law to happen, you know, I think, you know, that alone is going to have a huge impact on us as a government if we are going to have to come up with the money for that. I think that, you know, when, I don't think it's fair for the federal, maybe an argument that is hopefully being used already is that, you know, by the government, is that you know, we took over the operations of the airports based on those types of things not being in place.

They used to be there but as soon as they got rid of those services at the airports, transferred the operation and the responsibility to maintain those airports to the other jurisdictions and they passed a law again saying that those services have to be back in there. I question that myself and hopefully that's an argument that the department used, because I don't believe, you know, that expenses incurred for those purposes should come from within our limited resources that we have already.

I think that if it's something that the federal government wants us to do, they should give us the money to do it. I hope that that's the direction that the department is taking on that because I think, you know, we all know we have very limited resources to begin with.

One of the other things that I'm happy to see here and I'm just wondering if, I'll be asking later is a commitment to provide less regular funding, I guess is a way to put it to the municipalities as far as quarterly funding or semi-annual funding instead of a monthly requirement. I'm happy to see that in there and hopefully, he indicated that some have and some haven't, so I'll be asking some questions on that.

Further along there, and I'll be asking some questions on it, is the capital planning. I know that for, this will be going on the third year now that the municipalities, you know, feel or have, I don't believe have been adequately consulted as far as what their priorities are for capital expenditures in their communities. I know, for my community of Iqaluit, for example, it's raised concerns and I'm happy to say that the department has been working with them. But I know that other communities as well have also voiced some concern on that so hopefully we will see some progress made in that before this five year plan is put into place that the communities have an opportunity to provide some feedback on the plan.

I think, as one of my colleagues has indicated, that when you try and force something on someone, it's not received as well as, is this something that we want. That's why I think there needs to be more of a better process established there for that. Also, in here it indicates that your department, along with the department of Finance and Public Works will be identifying the priorities and again, this is the established government's priorities. Again, I can't reiterate enough the need to be able to get that feedback from the communities as well on what their priorities are. I'm not saying that their priorities are going to take over everything but at least be given an opportunity to have some input if it's something that's okay, we can do this. Or no we can't. An explanation is given and they've had the opportunity to have some input instead of none at all.

Another area that I'd like to see some movement and I'm going to be asking about it. There was a comment here about a special advisor for community development. I know that prior to division, the push was on for community empowerment and that seems to be a word that I haven't heard very much since division. I think the move to truly empower the community is to be able to administer and deliver some of these programs and services themselves, falls in line with what we've identified as a government in the Bathurst Mandate for sustainable communities in allowing for the communities to look after themselves, provide additional employment not only in the decentralized communities but in all the communities. They all have more capacity and more responsibility, which will enable them to hire more people within the communities.

When we talk about a number of members mentioned the need for recreational facilities. I think it's very important that we have recreational facilities within our communities. I think prior to division, there was a push on to get your basic recreation facilities in all communities. I don't think we've reached that yet and that's something that we need to continue to strive for to make sure that all communities have their basic recreation facilities needs met as well because it is important. And proven, if you look at numbers that I'm familiar with in the past with my involvement with Sport North is that the lack of recreational facilities in a community, it is something that I've seen, it was done by

region. And the region with, where all communities had your basic facility like an arena or community hall or gymnasium, things like the suicide rates in those areas were lower than regions of the territory of then NWT that didn't have all those services available or those facilities available in their community.

I think it's, like you say, it's a juggling act I guess you could say where do we try to address and how do we try to address all these different needs. I look forward to asking more questions on that as we proceed Mr. Chairman, but I guess that's all I have for opening comments. Also I would like to welcome the minister and his staff to the chambers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. At this time I would like to ask my colleagues for a chance to speak. Could Mr. Nutarak come to the Chair at this time so I can have a chance to speak, if that is fine with you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, last year when the Nunavut Government was being established, my community was told that they could not be given community empowerment and this was said in a press release. Even after that press release, I was able to get my community to stand up on its own and this was done through Community Government & Transportation. I would like to thank this department for helping my community greatly.

I would like to reiterate some more. For the smaller communities at times there are funding problems. Some of the problems in these smaller communities come from the lack of funding and the fact that they cannot raise any funding besides that received from the Government. I would like to ask Community Government & Transportation to continue to assist the smaller communities to develop more community empowerment for the smaller communities so they can look after their own community.

In developing the hamlet status for the smaller communities and the settlements, I think that people should be proud of people that work in hamlets and do the administrative work and believe in the fact that they can improve their status as administrators of the community. When we were told that we could not improve our status as a community, how come our community was told it was impossible to transfer Housing or the Department of Public Works. Even though they are told that they can't be authorized to look after these services.

One community has only one authority and they are handling several departments through the Hamlet. They are looking after the Hamlet administration as well as the utility services, housing programs and when all these programs are all separated then each of them suffer.

If we can get block funding to look after all of these programs we realize in my community because the block funding was separated to each program our community

was not getting any better in their ability to administer their programs. I know that when those administrative processes were all ironed out we were able to raise our status and the community workers turn over is not so great. So that is one of the reasons why the communities have a hard time maintaining their independence. So we would like to have these people recognized because they work very hard in maintaining their community to keep them afloat knowing how little their funding is.

For instance when our community was broke there should be some employees that are more experienced in working with hamlets and the problems that are confronted by hamlet administrative processes, because they could not understand exactly what was going on. That was one of the reasons why we were able to get over this hard time that we were going through because we were able to get workers that were experienced in looking after the finances that can be taken care of locally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to speak on that aspect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Can you please return to the chair.

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak for allowing me to make general comments. Are there any further general comments. If there are no further general comments then we'll go to the main estimates. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to ask general capital questions and I know I asked in this area with previous departments. I'm just wondering if the minister could provide us with the process that they used in determining their capital plans for this year and what their priorities were over the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was starting to laugh, not just on, because of the speaker but of what I was reading. I will read in English at this time

(interpretation ends) I think it was the first speaker that was speaking and I started laughing because in my briefing notes instead of community consultations on 2001-2002 Capital Plan it says community consultations on 2001-2002.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) That's all I wanted to apologize for was that wording on the opening comments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Maybe you would like to add to this comment.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Maybe somebody can add to this but the way we looked at the community consultations and how we got to the numbers or the figures and the projects that we are doing this year. Of course, we only had 13 million dollars for this year for Hamlet capital plans. As much as we would like to get more, the government has identified education and housing as priorities and what we would like to try and keep going on is that, under the issue of education, is that healthy communities, the only way we are going to get healthy communities, not necessarily physically but also mentally is through I think, recreation facilities in the communities. I think that is a really a very necessary part.

There are basically three ways that we reached the capital expenditures. First, projects which are ongoing commitments and which will reduce O&M costs such as the Baker Lake snow fence, the Rankin Inlet snow fence. Projects that are required to fulfill statutory or legal requirements. An example is, upgrade Rankin Inlet Waste Water treatment plant. This project is required to bring the level of sewage treatment up to the requirements of the hamlet's water license. Or, these are examples, Repulse Bay relocate sewage and solid waste. The solid waste is only 400 metres from the centre of the runway and therefore has to be moved to conform to Transport Canada's three-kilometre separation requirement.

The last but not least is to address health and safety concerns. So we have to make sure that those three are met, before we can get onto other projects. We intend to have an ongoing, this is not going to be a consultation once a year in the area of Community Government and Transportation. What we want to do is have a continuous dialogue with the hamlets in terms of, not just their capital plan but also the way their O&M is reached.

So sometimes, there are differences and I'll be responding probably later on to the question. Sometimes what seems like a discrepancy between the government and the hamlet may be because of the safety requirements. Knowing that the community knows better about it's needs better than we do but still the understanding has to be that yes, the community knows more but we also have to address the legal and statutory requirements to do some of these things or for safety and health concerns.

But we're going to have a continuous dialogue with the communities. We intend to have, I intend to address the Association of Municipalities on these issues. But again with the assistance and in consultation with Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would just like to maybe, just one other thing and that is yes, we would like to make sure that the communities have more leeway in doing whatever they're doing. I would also like to pass the message on which I passed on to the communities, and that is, as was pointed out earlier, I think by one of the members, that these people are more than, the council's mayor and council are more than just municipal service councillors. I want to impress upon them and impress upon you that we look at them as leaders within that community to deal with not just the municipal services of snow removal, water, sewage pump out, road maintenance, but also the mental well being of the community. Or in the area of education. But I just wanted to pass that on.

(interpretation) This other area that I wanted to cover even though I might try and answer the question that was asked earlier. We will be consulting with the communities in regards to the capital planning process, but at this time, the variations in the community requests and also the government implementation of some of the requirements that we have to meet through the legal process, we started this consultation process in December and it's an ongoing process. But from December until now, there have been quite a few changes. There are some new councillors and new council members so their requirements and their desires for priorities in the process have changed in the meantime.

Some of the community offices are too small but looking through the standards and criteria for office requirements depends on the capital, per capita grants. To formulate their funding for office requirements even though some of the communities seem to require more space, so these are the minimal requirements that we usually implement.

The last one that I mentioned earlier on the funding process, 13 million dollars is all the funding that we received for this year. So our priorities for the Government of Nunavut are the Department of Education and Housing. We'll keep on looking for more funding for access roads and also maybe garbage dump and harbours. We'll keep looking for further funding from the federal government. I'll be meeting with Bob Nault from the federal government maybe on April 1st, the Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. They will be providing some of the funding for harbour development and access roads to these harbours.

Sorry, I have gone a little bit further than I had thought. I'm trying to answer some of the questions that were placed to me earlier. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. It's okay for you to have a long-winded answer and question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can sympathize with the department when they say they have new people and new priorities. I know that's always a struggle that we have to work with. What the minister indicated, I believe, is that the capital plan or the five-year plan that's developed was developed based on three areas and that was the ongoing commitment to statutory or legal requirements and health and safety concerns. Out of the 13 million dollars that the minister mentioned they have this year for capital, out of the total 13 million dollars, does it all fall under those three categories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe Mr. Sitland could respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. I wonder if the minister and his staff could try not to shuffle their paper around it hurts the ears. So could you be a little careful of that. Thank you. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did a calculation this morning and roughly 70% of the capital projects that we are undertaking in 01-02 are related to water, sewage and solid waste, health and safety type concerns, or concerns related to airports. We also have a number of other sort of statutory requirements, things like being able to provide a sufficient mobile equipment fleet for a community and of that I would say approximately another 10% is allocated to that.

In general for 01-02 approximately 26% of the funding that we have is allocated to projects which wouldn't normally be considered a priority for the government. So for example, we have some funding in there for arenas. Normally when we were looking at statutory requirements we would like to fund those more than arenas. However, there are arenas in there and we have recreation facility programs in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know the minister indicated that they had only 13 million dollars to work with and I assume it would probably be a lot more than that to meet all those health and safety, statutory and ongoing community requirements.

In that 26%, I guess the remaining portion of that, does that cover off all of the department's commitments in those areas, or are there still other projects within the department's, within the communities that aren't able to be done that are either ongoing commitments or have statutory or legal requirements or health and safety concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ferris: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give you a quick overview, if we take the list that came in initially from communities, as their priority projects for this fiscal year that we are looking at, the list was in the neighbourhood of 30 million. We had in the past had roughly 20 – 21 million for allocations. So we started to work with communities on reducing the initial list downwards and then when the priorities were set for Education and Health and we got the target of 13 million, obviously a number of community priority projects couldn't be addressed within that 13 million.

So we have tried to use an allocation and there is still ongoing consultation with communities and we are prepared where the dollars are similar to where if a community has a higher priority project, say in year two or three, to look at moving that ahead and the one that we had in back. But as the minister has indicated the government has set priorities on Health and Education and we are doing the best we can in carrying out consultation with the communities, to make the 13 million that we have do as much as possible related to that. But it is not doing everything that is on the list for sure that should be probably undertaken in this coming fiscal year.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that there must be less out there and I appreciate the minister's comments on working with communities on similar type projects with similar dollar figure amounts within the community.

I'm just wondering if all of the projects that are ongoing or previously started, have previous commitments to them, are all those projects that, were all those ones next. I guess what I'm getting at, I remember, in our first year of capital, we had zero wiggle room, everything that was on there was basically carried over from the previous year. I'm just wondering if all the carryover has been addressed within the department's jurisdiction, I guess with the community governments, with the hamlets and municipalities and the transportation area have those been met, or are there any projects that have previously started that aren't finished, or completed or have any resources allocated this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, I think I'll get Doug to explain about the capital commitments that are being met. So if Doug could explain.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately the numbers in the main estimates or the Capital Estimates don't show it and I don't have the exact numbers in front of me, but I think approximately half of the capital plan is for projects that are of a continuing nature where there is a contract awarded.

So that, for example in Grise Fjord we have a project to build a new water tank and you'll see that there is around a million dollars in the capital plan for that Grise Fjord water tank. What happened was that we tendered that this past year and the prices came in much, much higher than we thought. So that's what we did, we moved up the tank and we're going to build it this coming year. So it's a carryover project and the total amount of funding that is available, that being material from this year plus the capital from this coming year should be sufficient to do that. I think projects of that nature, I think it would amount to approximately half of our capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I was just wondering if all the projects that were previously started or received any previous allocations for prior to this year. Have all of those been addressed I guess are there any projects that received prior funding that haven't finished and aren't receiving any funding this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ferris: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In answer to your question, it's no, all those that were started or had contracts in place, have been picked up. But what Mr. Sitland is reporting is that to do that, about half of what we have in capital this year is gone to those types of projects.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that's what I wanted to hear, I'm glad to hear that. Another question, and I'll just ask, I was just wondering, and if other members have general capital questions, I'll let them ask. The minister indicated that they've received input from communities on what their priorities are. Was that input used in the development of this plan. Because as I indicated earlier and it's been in the media that communities felt that they never had an opportunity to provide input.

So, I'm just wondering, if they were given an opportunity, when that was and if it was after like in December, the minister indicated, I wasn't sure when the capital plan was put out by the department, by the government. Have they received any feedback from the communities since then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In going back to the figure of 13 million dollars, the 13 million dollars doesn't go very far. It doesn't go very far at all. We have to meet the minimum requirement for the safety and health and statutory and legal requirements or on-going commitments.

Of course, we have to do those things and the communities may not necessarily agree or be the priority of that community. But at the same time, as I mentioned earlier, we have an on-going dialogue with the communities to ensure that if there is a disagreement between the community and the Community Government and Transportation, we make sure they understand where we are doing it.

I think in some cases as was mentioned earlier by one of the members, would there be an opportunity to say if they have 150 thousand dollars for a loader and they wanted a dump truck instead for basically the same amount, in which that's tied to the issue of safety or health, statutory or legal requirements.

And I would have no problem in discussing with the community if they wanted to change that particular say the vehicle or a dump truck for a loader and vice versa. But again, I remind you that 13 million dollars for capital is not very much at all.

So, part of it again, in having to meet those requirements, that 13 million dollars doesn't go very far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Havioyak. I'm sorry, I didn't hear, Mr. Ferris.

Mr. Ferris: Mr. Chairman, just to further respond to the MLAs question. The early consultation is being done with the communities on a departmental specific budget and that information flowed out of what was left over from the GNWT days.

The communities now, for the first time, are seeing a consolidated five-year plan that went out under the signature of the Minister of Finance and my minister.

We've been asked to coordinate, lead in that consultation process and what we will be doing is either visiting in communities or conference call with communities to arrive at what would be considered the first Nunavut Government five-year capital plan.

And so there's been two processes, there was one where we were using early data and now that there's been a release of the five-year plan the MLA's were given initially we've now been asked to meet with the council and to allow for pre-consultation and input on that new five-year plan.

And I would assume that through that process some of the additional priorities of communities or concerns with the timing of projects would get addressed. That is a consultation on the whole Government of Nunavut capital plan including education and health and so on.

So, we're doing consultation on a limited basis where that community is based on just community government issues and the communities are letting us know what their priorities are. Also some of the project changes and some of the delegations were coming and visiting with the minister but we're now into a very formal consultation process and actual needs are being set up with all the communities that they'll have input into.

Chairperson: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might have been brought up earlier while I was out but, the question is, there was some talk about community consultation before we started talking about the capital plan itself here. Are there consultations already in most communities in Nunavut.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Anawak. Mr. Minister, it's up to you if you want your officials to respond to the question. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Ferris to answer the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead, Mike.

Mr. Ferris: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was as the members know, a very detailed consultation process where ministers and MLAs went around and visited all the communities and started with a source document. That source document was used when we were looking at the 2001/2002 capital planning process and then in our case we were given a new target related to that plan.

What is now gone out is a consolidated five-year plan that was presented to the MLAs by the Minister of Finance and we're now seeking additional input on that five-year plan. And that is being done in detail with each community to see what they think. I'm calling that really the first official Government of Nunavut plan. That would be the first time that the community has seen a five-year plan from the Government of Nunavut. What they've seen in the past was a five-year plan from GNWT.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. I remember the visits. I was involved in that community visit that time. That was almost two years ago, or just under two years ago, I think. That's why I'm asking if there has been an updated consultation. You already mentioned additional consultation or visiting the communities. The reason I asked, they're still not being contacted by the department. That's why I asked that question. So now I know the answer, it's good to know there's additional consultation on that.

If you don't mind Mr. Chairman, I just want to make an additional general comment about recreational facilities. If that's okay, I will continue. For the past year and a half now, we've been talking about the recreation facilities where some communities have a very large facility that they use only two to three months a year.

The rest of the year say maybe from May to September or something like that sometimes the youth, for example the arenas, right across Nunavut, if there were some funds that could go to these communities which is very hard to do but in the future, I'm saying that they should be able to use those large facilities year round. For example, in the summertime they should be able to use the ice arena for roller-skating or the large space that is being used all summer long. Sometimes they might use it for indoor soccer.

But again, there are a number of things that you can use the facility for besides ice-skating. If in the future there was some type of additional activities in that facility, again it would make a lot of difference for our young people. If they can use those in the daytime instead of a roaming around at night time because they are wide awake and they stay up 24 hours. I used to do that too, I know.

But anyway, I am just saying that there should be some type of year round uses for these facilities. Again, I know that we have talked about this for the last six months or a year at least that artificial ice may be a pilot project somewhere in Nunavut. That would at least let us see how that pilot project would work and if it would make a difference. I am sure that the department has looked at putting together a policy to make this work, but before you can do a really good policy, at least I think you know, you should complete the pilot

project and draw out some of the things that you have learned from that pilot project. Then make it policy.

I am just suggesting that avenue might be a way to go if we are going to be looking at these facilities in the future and how to do some improvements and how to use them year around. Drawing up a policy before you can do some work, again using the example of artificial ice, I feel that it would not be a complete thing when you are drawing up a policy without learning out how to do it before. But anyway, I am just suggesting that it should be looked at very seriously and it is a good time if it is in place. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. That's a very good suggestion. Maybe if the minister doesn't agree with you maybe you should become minister. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know whether it was yesterday, I was told that we could go swimming in Sanikiluaq instead of skating because of course the ice is melting and you can't use it for skating any more. But you can go swimming, but anyway.

We would like to see how we could help the communities when they want to expand the use of their recreational facilities. With our limited resources, I think that we should talk to the communities as a government or we could also talk to the private companies and look at other options. In regards to the member's comments, and thinking about it, we received a letter from the community of Kugluktuk and they outlined what they wanted to do as a community. Using that letter we can approach the federal government for additional funds and the Hamlet of Kugluktuk can also make a contribution or the Department of Education or the private contractors or companies and the Nunavut Government can get together and pool their resources to provide those facilities.

For example, these three Sanikiluaq, Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk are the three communities but then again our colleague keeps saying, I'll just use Pangnirtung as an example. They have been asking for a swimming pool and we can talk to the people of Pangnirtung and look for outside funds so they can get a swimming pool. I'm not saying that we are going to do it but I'm just saying that we can look at other options we can also look for outside sources of funds. We can talk with the communities and look at options and how we can work together to access outside funds to pay for the swimming pool.

So those are the things that we are working on. Those are things that we would be looking at, the community would make a contribution, the Nunavut Government would put in their share and then we can also look at the mining companies for example, that would also make financial contributions for the building of these facilities. Those are just examples, I'm just using arenas for example because of course we know that we cannot use those arenas in the summertime. Using Sanikiluaq as an example, they can't use the arena anymore because the ice has melted.

If they are going to have a music festival they can hold it in there like we did in Rankin Inlet but if you don't have the proper flooring you can't use it for concerts or festivals or whatever. So we are looking at those types of things.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Any further comments, general comments, questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when the minister was talking about a pilot project in three communities I guess, I'm just wondering about enhancing recreation facilities that are already there. I'd just like to ask the minister if all the communities in Nunavut have basic recreation facilities like arenas, community halls, and gymnasiums already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time there are three communities that don't have arenas and one is going to be built in Kimmirut this summer. For Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, they don't have those facilities. But like I said earlier I was using Sanikiluaq as an example where they use the arena for a little over a month. Like the member said they were very glad that they got that arena. They also got a donation from the National Hockey League, but now since the ice is melted they can't use the arena any more..

What I was saying and through past experience, we are looking at long term plans and also financial resources. I am not saying that we are going to be able to do that but we would like to use Kimmirut. If we were going to be building an arena would it be better if we built it with artificial ice, or how could we use the facility longer, like the arenas and the recreational facilities. We are working very hard so that these recreational facilities could be used longer or year round. There are three communities, but one arena is going to be built this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. If you don't want to be heard when you are whispering there is a little button that you can press, we heard all the conversation when you were whispering. So please keep that in mind. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You had to point that out didn't you.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, not only was I asking about arenas, Mr. Chairman, I was wondering how many communities have things like swimming pools, do all communities have adequate community halls. Do all communities have an adequate gymnasium, that's what I was asking about not just arenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: As far as I am aware all communities have community halls. Again, two communities after this coming year don't have arenas. Again, we are doing a study on the completed recreational facilities, understanding that community halls are a very important part of a community. Especially, not limited to but, especially at Christmas time or celebrations and activities and therefore they are very vital to a community.

Most communities as far as I know have gymnasiums within the hamlet office or in the school, in some cases both the hamlet offices and the school. But I am not aware of any communities not having a gymnasium in either the school or the office complex of the hamlet. Again, we want to make sure that we upgrade as much as possible community halls where it is urgently required. I will use an example of Pond Inlet, Clyde River, Pangnirtung, Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk are areas where community halls are probably badly required or need to be upgraded. But at the same time that takes a few more million than the projects we have in mind for upgrading at least some of the facilities that we have. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: I'm just wondering, the minister just missed out the pools, I'm just wondering how many communities we have that are in Nunavut that have pools in them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Ferris: Thank you. There are two that would be considered in-ground pools, one in Iqaluit and one in Nanisivik. There's about a half a dozen above ground pool operations around Nunavut that are still being used by communities. And there are a couple of ones that are actually beach swimming programs in the summer time.

We will for the first time be able to ensure the minister can provide that information because our recreation staff have just finished visiting all the communities in looking at facilities and are compiling a recreation facility study.

That will give us an indication of what is there on the ground, the shape it's in and any shortfalls in the program. But there a few above ground pool programs where the communities have chosen not to operate them any longer. But it's a small number overall in terms of Nunavut communities.

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

Mr. Tootoo: I'll just pose this question based on the information I got and I guess the policy or the priority of the department to move ahead with enhancements to existing facilities within Nunavut prior to ensuring that all communities have those basic facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Can either one of you answer. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: In terms of what we may want to do, let's say for the three communities that I mentioned earlier would probably cost of a total of about 9 hundred thousand dollars if not just more than a million dollars. Whereas a new arena or a new swimming pool or community hall would probably be quite a bit more than that.

And so, we just mentioned these again because of the very fact as I mentioned earlier, we have a facility in Sanikiluaq, an arena that has been utilized not much more than a month this year, so at least eleven months out of it where it's not being used other than it was used for a singing festival.

But we just want to make sure that we face that whole thing of ensuring that if we have facilities that we get good use out of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to decipher if then, it is a priority of the department to move to enhancing existing facilities prior to ensuring all communities have basic facilities, is that the short of what he has indicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're not trying to favour one over the other, from one community to the next. But, for instance if Rankin Inlet were to get a new arena, you might say that I'm favouring that the community because I am the MLA for that community and the minister.

It's obvious this year in Rankin Inlet that the young people there are very talented in playing hockey, so we can cater to the local talents. You're not trying to favour one community to the extent that if one community has the capability of using those funds to their better advantage then maybe at this time we provide those facilities to that community.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like it quite clear to the minister that I had, at no point did I say I was that looking at one community. I was just wondering if it was the priority of the department to look at enhancing recreation facilities prior to all communities having their basic requirements. That's what I asked Mr. Chairman, and that's what I'd like an answer to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: My response is that we're not necessarily going to say well we're going to make sure that a community like Sanikiluaq and Rankin and Kugluktuk are enhanced before the communities get the full recreational facilities.

All I'm saying is that when we look at the problems that we are undergoing today, we would like to make sure that Resolute Bay and Grise Fjord get hockey arenas. Again I point out that to build hockey arenas in those two communities would be quite a bit more than at this point if we have some additional money but not necessarily enough to build hockey arenas or other recreational facilities, we may have some to enhance some other recreational facilities without necessarily saying our priorities are to enhance the recreational facilities. Because our priorities are to make a good recreational program available to all and to get the maximum usage of the recreational facilities that we have. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Knowing there is global warming, your priorities might change. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back a little bit to asking a question that I had. The five year capital projects that were being planned, did I hear that there were consultations in all the communities, and if that happened then a lot of miscommunication happened.

I keep getting letters from my community about these five year capital projects and another one that I wanted to mention was, that I almost got all excited about the hockey rink in Resolute and Grise Fiord, I said I was going to be getting them but we'll get them soon.

Another one I wanted to ask was that swimming pool in Nanisivik, that's not run by the Nunavut Government is it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): The 5-year capital planning has not been completed as yet. If we're going to complete the whole 5-year plan we would have to be in agreement with all the communities as the Nunavut Government because we're mostly concerned with safety issues, even though we would like to have all these establishments fixed. If we put all these priorities in place we still have to carry out certain priorities if they are required by law, so legal priorities are more important than other needs.

But where possible, we want to avoid conflict with community priorities and that's how we want to conduct ourselves. We will continue to consult with the communities, maybe through telephone consultations or fax or maybe through computer now that you can use this as a communication tool.

We have no more excuses as to why we cannot communicate with all the communities, even as far as Grise Fiord we cannot say there is no way that we can communicate with them.

We have written to them, we've sent out our 1-800 numbers to the communities, so we want them to realize there shouldn't be any barriers of communication with us. We urge them to contact us by the various channels now available.

We've always open to all the communities even through the district offices, even directly to us at our headquarters office. We will continue to smoothen our decentralization efforts during the transition period.

I was thinking that even if you listen to our whispering that's okay. But yes, for the people of Arctic Bay to utilize the Nanisivik swimming pool we can be approached, then our department would try to make arrangements with the mining company who owns the swimming pool.

I'm sure, the member knows more than I do, that we could assist the community if they want to use the swimming pool in Nanisivik. Or they can talk to the mines themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Any more, Ms. Williams. Okay, Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. The department is responsible for, along with the hamlets, for land use planning. Again, I would like to use Kugluktuk as an example, probably it is the same right across Nunavut, regarding the leases.

I just want to give an example of an individual who bought a house hoping that the lease would be turned over to the buyer. But lately he learned that, yes, he can get the land lease, but it took him almost two years or a year and half to get a response for the application, what's happening with the application.

Why is the process so slow. I ask this because after he ordered all the supplies by barge to do some improvements on the house hoping that the land lease would be done by that time. But it never was done, the paper work was never done.

Even today it's not complete, after a year and a half. I'm just wondering why it takes so long to get these land lease paperwork or administrative work, approval or something. What is the process. Is that normal. Should there be some time limit, for that individual to take almost two years, it'll be two years by the time this spring comes.

About six months later he purchased all the materials to do some improvements on the house and they are still sitting there. So, he's losing some time there. So, I'm just wondering what's the process, what's the normal period of time to get a response for the applicants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the shortest answer would be to say because the municipality administers the land we would have to, in order for us to check something out like that and to maybe try and respond to the long delay, we would want to learn the individual case. Then we could look at it and the problems that they went through and use that as an example to see if it's the process.

But again the land is administered through the hamlet so, maybe we can take a look at the individual case and see the problems that they went through and see what we can do.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: The reason I'm saying this is because it can happen in the future where a buyer, I'm just saying the possibility a buyer can sue, I don't know the formal legal term, but because he was losing money, he could sue the government.

Let's use the Co-op for example, if they sell the lot, that house to that individual but because the paperwork does not get done, the Co-op couldn't turn over anything because there was no paperwork done. The buyer is saying, I should sue this guy for spending so much money on the material that can be damaged stored outside.

He's spending 50 thousand or 40 thousand dollars worth of material sitting out there and it could come to a point where he's taking court action for these types of things. So, that's why I brought it up.

If it had been done earlier or if it was on deadline these types of things wouldn't happen. I'm just trying to get some information how or what the normal response time I guess is given to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say that I would want the department to take a look at why it took this long, see what improvements can be made to expedite processes like that because there's no point in us delaying any application.

Again the land is administered through the hamlet but we would want to be working together with the hamlet to make sure delays like that do not occur. So we will work on it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's two things that I'm thinking about, one was already talked about by the minister and he wrote a letter to the hamlets about the 85 million dollars of capital money put aside for the next five years. It has not been determined exactly what it will be used for.

To use an example, some of the communities that don't have proper roads. I'll use Chesterfield Inlet as an example as they don't have any gravel within their community and there are a lot of rocks on the road and they get flat tires on their vehicles from that.

If the community wants to have roads as a priority to the gravel pits, could they do that. Is that what he meant when he wrote to the hamlets. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time what we said to the communities was that the amount of 85 million dollars is to be used for capital projects but what we said was we will be consulting with the communities about it.

That 85 million seems like a huge amount of money but it probably will be in the neighbourhood of 17 million per year, so what we have to do is consult with communities as to the planning of their priorities, and that 85 million dollars would be for five years.

What I can't say is that this is what we want you guys to do. I can't tell the communities that these are the priorities because the communities have their own priorities so what we have to do is consult with the communities on the 5-year capital plan.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Do I understand the minister to say that 85 million is going to be for the 5-year capital plan so each community will be allotted same amount of money each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amounts each year will be staggered, it won't always be the same amount. I can't say how much difference it would be.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned before that the communities are thinking more towards the future and I would like to thank the minister for his response, for recognizing the priorities of the communities. That it is not just about water and sewage trucks but also about the health of the community.

For example, aircraft have to have adequate runways so they don't have an accident, we would also like to not have them landing on access roads and stuff. We would like them to take off safely from the community airstrip, we want a safe environment.

There are people that live in the communities who go hunting for a living, some of them every day. In some communities, say for instance, Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet, especially Iqaluit, it seems like the needs of the hunters are not considered at all, to provide them with access roads out of the community.

The other day, we almost lost our way trying to get out of the community. We had to go by the airport, by the lagoon, which we found by observing the ravens and then go past the FOL site.

If you're an older person it must be very hard and I was wondering why a lot of people in Iqaluit have metal hitches on their kamotiks, it's because they have to go through a maze of turns when they go out hunting.

The question that I have is, seeing that hamlets are given much more leeway in deciding what they want for their communities, what they have to have is access roads to their hunting grounds and I just wondered if the communities are involved in this.

I just wondered if the communities would have more involvement in community planning if you understand what I'm talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have always said that I'm from Repulse Bay because I grew up in Repulse Bay. Growing up in Repulse Bay, the settlement council was established and after that they wanted to gain hamlet status.

It seemed like they had a competition in the communities in the Kivalliq region to see which one of us was going to have hamlet status first. But when I was over there I noticed that, in Rankin Inlet, I noticed that the public was not ever asked a question as to where the building is going to be situated and where the hospital is going to be situated and where the school is going to be situated, where they are going to put the garage and where they are going to put the fuel tanks.

The public was not given input as to the community planning. Like I mentioned before I grew up in Repulse Bay and that nursing station should've been near a residential area, they should have put the nursing station location inside the community. These problems existed when I became the mayor in Rankin Inlet.

So in regards to the member's question about community planning I agree with the member, that the communities should have input into the community planning, although the first priorities are health and safety but involvement of the community should be included, as long as it doesn't interfere with the health and safety aspects.

The people in the communities know their community and they previously had no involvement whatsoever in community planning and what they could have said was if they were refused to be involved in the community planning, they could've just asked why can't we be involved.

As long as I'm the Minister of Community Government and Transportation, I will let the communities know that I would like to involve the communities in the planning of their community and as well when one of the members asked about hamlet councillors, how they can get more ideas so they are.

They have to try and be leaders, leaders in the community and we want them to be involved more in planning of their communities. I support the involvement and leadership of each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Thank you very much for your comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you going to be informing the hamlet that since the creation of Nunavut and since we're going to be charting our own destiny that they should start considering other things, other than providing services for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): After April and when we're in the new year, we would like to have mayors and the community representatives get together to discuss further their leadership role in their communities.

We're not going to be talking about how we could improve the services, what we'd like to talk about is the hamlet councils and their leadership role, that conference that I'm talking about, that I would like to see will take place some time after April 1.

As one of the members stated, I think it was the MLA for Quttiktuq who said that we should hold workshops or orientation workshops, when they are first elected.

The mayors will be having a meeting and they also requested to bring their senior administrative officers. We're not against them bringing their SAO's but we wanted the mayors or their representatives to realise that they are the leaders at the community level.

A lot of them believe that their SAO's know a lot more, which they might in some areas but it is the mayors who are elected. They know a lot more about what's happening in their communities and I think that's what we have to focus more on and that's one of the reasons I would like to have the mayors get together after April 1st. I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I would like to ask a general question on transportation. Can I pose that general question or does that go in another category. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The floor is now open for general comments, we have not got into the capital estimates yet. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of us have realised that a lot of the communities, through no fault of the Nunavut Government but with the Government of the Northwest Territories, we made dock facilities in communities that we've never even been to. We just saw the map and we pointed and said put that docking facility here, this would be the perfect location for putting in a docking facility so they try and build it the best that they can.

Again, using Chesterfield Inlet as an example, they tried building a docking facility but the people of Chester were telling them that when it's blowing from the Hudson Bay, it would just get washed away. They put in huge boulders, those boulders that I'm talking about are half the size of this chamber, around this circle, but when the wind blew from the ocean they just got washed away.

That's what was predicted by the residents, they spend 40 thousand dollars rebuilding the boulders every summer but when it flows over, they are washed away.

What I'm trying to say is if they had listened to the people of Chesterfield Inlet, the docking facility would still be there.

That 85 million dollars could be put to good use if you listen to the communities. The minister has stated earlier that he had a meeting with the Bob Nault and he said he was very receptive and there is a possibility that he might be giving us further funds, additional funds that could be used to rebuild or relocate the docking facilities in some of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On his example of Chesterfield Inlet, I have used that docking facility and I do know that when there's high winds they have very high waves from Hudson Bay.

In regards to the capital dollars, it could be used for the building of roads or the building of access roads or the docking facilities. Nunavut is the only territory or province that has no docking facilities for these types of small crafts that we use.

Our officials have asked the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and they are drafting up an agreement, once that agreement is signed we can access funds from the DFO that will

be used for these docking facilities and also making the communities more accessible by small craft.

I agree with the member, that these communities are the ones that know their communities and they're the ones who know where these facilities should be built and I wouldn't want to oppose their decisions because of course we have to respect the communities and their suggestions.

If we're going to be rebuilding or building docking facilities, the people might even suggest moving it to another location because of course they know where the water is bad, when there are high winds, where the currents are and where the ice movements are. So we'll take all this into consideration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recognise the clock and that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. There's a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. The Minister of Education is going to be hosting a meeting with the Council for the Disabled, that will be at 7 o'clock at the Nanuq room and anyone is invited.

Thank you very much Mr. Anawak. We'll see you again tomorrow. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to say thank you but I would like to keep going tomorrow until we finish this department. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say I am not going to be alone hosting that meeting you announced. I sent out a memo earlier this week and invited all the members to this meeting. Thank you very much.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much. Thank you we will see you tomorrow. The Speaker may return to the chambers.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills & Other Matters. Maybe we should move on to item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (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. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Mr. Havioyak. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for Friday March 16, 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: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House will stand adjourned until March 16 at 10 a.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 6.05 p.m.*

