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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 16, 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 will do the prayer today.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ublakkut. Good morning Premier, members. Orders of the Day. Moving on to item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 032 – 1(5): Status of Negotiations with the NEU

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report on the progress in the negotiations between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees' Union. I would like to commend both the union and the government negotiating teams for their hard work and commitment in working towards the first made in Nunavut collective agreement covering the Government of Nunavut's Public Service.

Mr. Speaker, both the Government of Nunavut and the NEU commenced negotiations for a new collective agreement in December 1999. Since that time the negotiating teams met on five different occasions with each bargaining session lasting four to five days.

At the present time the negotiations are continuing with the help of Mr. Tom Hodges, a mediator selected by both sides. This part of the bargaining process is in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Act and is standard practice in negotiating a collective agreement.

Mr. Speaker, the parties first met with the mediator during the week of January 20 to 24 and I can advise that the session was productive, however more work remains to be done. Further talks are scheduled from April 4 to 8. At this important stage of the negotiations, both sides have agreed to a news blackout.

Mr. Speaker, I will keep the MLAs informed of any additional progress made through the mediation process. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 033 – 1(5): Palliative Care Workshop

Hon. Ed Picco: Ullaakuttauq Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, as you know the Department of Health & Social Services has been attempting to deliver programs and services that are more responsive to local needs and which incorporate Inuit values.

Many Nunavummiut who are in the later stages of disease, are now choosing to spend their last days or weeks at home with family and friends and to die at home.

Mr. Speaker, there is a need to develop the skills of staff to better care for and support terminally ill people and their families in their home communities. This is often a very stressful and emotional time for families, friends and workers.

In response to this need, I am pleased to tell you that the Kitikmeot Health & Social Services office just completed hosting a palliative care workshop from March 13th to 15th in Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, a Palliative Care Education Team from the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton and a certified grief counsellor also participated in delivering this important workshop. It was attended by mental health workers, community health representatives, social workers, community health nurses and home care aids from all the western Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, my department hopes to continue to offer such training initiatives here in Nunavut. We know they are very important Mr. Speaker, because we know that our families, communities and staff need to develop skills so that we can care for those amongst us who are nearing the end of their lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 034 – 1(5): Nunavut Film Symposium

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a growing interest in the commercial film industry in Nunavut. This growth has the potential to promote economic development, promote cultural awareness and recognize artistic talents in our territory.

I am very proud to announce that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and the Department of Sustainable Development have come together in this joint initiative to recognize this industry and to facilitate conversation with filmmakers.

Together Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and the Department of Sustainable Development have made it possible for the Nunavut Film Symposium to take place at the Astro Theatre in Iqaluit from March 16 to 19. The symposium will provide a forum for professional filmmakers interested in producing in Nunavut.

Topics for discussion will focus on how the film industry started, the current status and industry needs, and film commissioners from other provinces will share their experiences with film development in their respective provinces. Funding, training and marketing challenges will be discussed and possible solutions will be explored.

One quote from the Nunavut Film Industry Discussion Paper captures our goal: “To create a world class indigenous industry in Nunavut and to promote the expertise, locations and stories of Nunavut to producers around the world.

As my department works closely with the Nunavut Arts Council, I am excited to be involved in conversations about film making in Nunavut. As the Minister responsible for Culture, I am happy to have the opportunity to express the importance of cultural sensitivity and balance in the making of films and documentaries.

I would like to thank Minister Akesuk for the opportunity to introduce this joint initiative and look forward to his statement after the symposium discussions close. I would also like to invite you all to the viewing of Isuma Productions’ feature film, “The Fast Runner” at the Astro Theatre on Sunday evening at 6.30 p.m. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Ministers’ Statements. Item 3. Members’ Statements. Members’ Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member’s Statement 117 – 1(5): Wrong Identity on Trip Home

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday, I will be mentioning a humorous issue. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you what happened in Kugaaruk.

I left my community on February 18 to Iqaluit and arrived on February 19. On February 20 in Kugaaruk, my wife and children were told that they should pick me up on Friday at the airport and my children were very happy. Mr. Speaker, three vehicles came to pick me up when I wasn’t even arriving on the plane.

Mr. Speaker, I have a grandchild who is named after me, Ovide Alakannuark. He had asked through the local radio station for someone to pick up Ovide Alakannuark Jr. from the school and they made a mistake and said to pick me up from the airport instead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 118 – 1(5): Big Game Hunt

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy St. Patty's day to a very true blue Irishman in the House in the Speaker's Chair this morning.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week accompanied by a fellow islander, Minister Kattuk from the Sanikiluaq islands, and a good friend of mine and yours, the jovial RCMP, Corporal Jimmy Akavak, we struck out to pursue the elusive big game, known locally here in Nunavut as tuktu.

Mr. Speaker, after travelling most of the afternoon we came across only one set of caribou tracks. Now I followed them Mr. Speaker, using my skill as a hunter. I followed them for quite a while where they led me to a rocky outcrop. There at this rocky outcrop were numerous tuktu tracks Mr. Speaker, but I couldn't see any tuktu.

Then I heard shooting. My partners, Mr. Jimmy Akavak and Mr. Kattuk, had surrounded the caribou. Now I quickly turned Mr. Speaker, 180 degrees and came across my two partners, my two hunting buddies, and then I saw Mr. Speaker, a huge, a gigantic, a humongous tuktu that had escaped from Jimmy and Peter's grasp.

Mr. Speaker, using an old hunting trick I learned many years ago, I fired one shot to scare the tuktu and then the second shot at over, my estimate Mr. Speaker, about a thousand yards, about a thousand yards Mr. Speaker, anyway I shot and I struck the tuktu after a double ricochet off the surrounding rocks.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, Minister Kattuk and Mr. Akavak with over seventy years of hunting experience between them, could not believe what they had seen. Mr. Speaker, I still don't believe it. Anyway Mr. Speaker, it was a very good day, it was an excellent day and it was great fun to be with a couple of good hunters and one extraordinary storyteller.

Mr. Speaker, as a footnote to this story I have been following Mr. Anawak's on the vegetarians and the meat. I wanted to point out Mr. Speaker, a guest at my house the other night was visiting and I offered him some of this fresh caribou meat that we had. He said, Ed no thank you I don't want any of your caribou meat, I am a vegetarian. I said yes, and so was the caribou. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter, applause*

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

Member's Statement 119 – 1(5): Anti-trapping Groups

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many years ago in our area, in northern Canada, our fellow Inuit made a living by trapping foxes and hunting other fur animals.

Since those times, these same trappers have been made to suffer because of fur activists' efforts, which damaged the markets for these products. At the same time, they are manufacturing and using synthetic garments that are made to appear like real fur and animal products. It is good to hear reports from around the world that indicate the use and demand for fur products is improving. We here in the north have and will always use fur. That is why I don't mind if it stays cold up here.

I refer to an article that said that in a northern area of the United States, it has been a cold winter, increasing the demand for warm fur garments. It has also been cold in China. I expect that with the increase in demand there will be more opportunities now for our hunters and trappers. As I said I don't mind it staying cold for these reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 120 - 1(5): Premier's Dialect

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be talking on a subject that has not been talked about quite often.

When our Premier is speaking in Inuktitut, in his own dialect, when he is talking about working with someone, sometimes I wonder who worked on this subject. There seems to be two subjects that he talks about, maybe when he's speaking some day he can clarify this. If he were to adjust those words by just a little bit, closer to my dialect then I would be able to understand him better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 121 - 1(5): Clyde River Dialect

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the person next to me was talking about our Premier. He's my friend and I'd like to tell him today that my superior dialect, Kangiqtugapimiutitut, is stronger than his. I thank him for recognizing that, my friend Mr. Nutarak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize today Mr. Vernon White with the RCMP who spends a part of his time in the Yukon. He's visiting our community and I would like to welcome him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I'm sorry Mr. Speaker. I was given some old pictures yesterday and one of them had a picture of me and my classmate and friend Andrew Tagak, taken in 1967.

I'd like to recognize him in the gallery at this time and say that I have been proud to watch the progress he has made in his career. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors of the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 122 - 1(5): Emergency Preparedness at Airports

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be directing my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. We heard recently that the federal government is implementing new airport emergency procedures in the coming five years.

Can the minister tell us exactly how the new standards for emergency procedures from the federal government are going to be implemented in Nunavut. I'd like him to clarify this process and whether he will be requesting additional funding from the federal government to implement their new rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the airports in Nunavut, we're responsible for maintaining the airports that were transferred to us from Transport Canada.

When they were first transferred to us, we were not quite prepared to take complete responsibility but we are now. We are going to follow all the regulations required by the

federal government, but to do that we will have to get more funding from them, from the Department of Transport Canada. It's very expensive to operate the airports and the regulations from the federal government will have to be followed through as these rules are statutory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response and we definitely need support from the federal government.

I would like to ask him if we will be able to comply if we don't get the extra financial support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is a Canadian standard or regulation it will definitely have to be followed. But if we are going to get the required equipment and if we do not have the finances to obtain that equipment, then the federal government will have to be made to understand why.

If we can't get the equipment, then we can't get it. We will have to talk to the federal government and explain that because of our limited resources that we can't buy the equipment thus require additional funding.

We will keep negotiating with the federal government to obtain the fire fighting equipment, the trucks and so on. We will want to follow through with the regulations and we will have to let the federal government understand this. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. In Nunavut we might not be able to get this fire fighting equipment and we have to order this equipment from the southern provinces because we can't buy them up here. If this regulation went through, the onus would be on us to buy the equipment.

If we were not able to comply what would be the consequences for us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would talk to the federal government and the Federal Department of Transportation. If we cannot buy the required equipment we would talk to them, let them know that we have limited financial resources. Sometimes the federal government might make regulations without thinking about the impact on the Nunavut Government.

Since we have limited financial resources, then we will have to talk to the federal government to get additional funds. When we are talking about standards and regulations we have to think about the repercussions it has on our government and we talk to the appropriate minister and let him know why we need additional funds to meet the standards and regulations that are set by the federal government.

Then we would have to re-profile or get additional funds. We would change our priorities and because aircraft are the only mode of transportation up here, we have to look at the insurance and other issues as well, to see how we can meet those regulations. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The larger communities in Nunavut have a lot more equipment than the smaller communities. The smaller communities have very limited airport equipment and should there be an accident and if we have these standards and regulations imposed on us, what would happen to the smaller communities who do not have any equipment at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. We do know that the larger communities have better equipment because of course they get larger airplanes coming in. For example, there's jet service provided for Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay and also Resolute Bay.

We also have to look after the larger communities because of course they need more safety equipment and we also look at the smaller communities to make sure they have the equipment for them to meet the standards and regulations.

We keep the communities informed, for example about fire trucks and back up equipment and we'll work diligently on training in the communities so that they'll know what to do in case of an emergency. Also, even if we don't have other equipment we would like the smaller communities to be fully trained on what to expect and how to approach emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 123 - 1(5): Translation of Harvesters' Fuel Subsidy Application

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. This is in regards to the harvesters who will be getting subsidies for fuel.

This subsidy will be provided by two organizations. To obtain these subsidies, the harvesters will have to fill out application forms in order to get those fuel subsidies. I would like to ask who did the translation of these forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. I have not seen the translated forms yet, or know who did the translations. I will check into it and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a copy of the forms in both English and Inuktitut and a person from Pond Inlet told me that these translations will have to be redone. So I brought a copy with me and if the minister wishes to see it I'd be glad to provide it to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize I have not seen those forms yet and haven't reviewed them. I'll check into it. Thank you.

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

Question 124 - 1(5): Equity between Akitsiraq and Nursing Program Students

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear of the establishment of the Akitsiraq Law School program and I was interested in the following description of the law school web site, oh, the minister's not here... I'll continue, Mr. Speaker. I am directing this question to the Minister of Health & Social Services.

Most candidates from the law school program who are eligible for the program or are interested in applying, have lately been working in positions of varying degrees of responsibility. Some are supporting children or other family members. The cost of living in Iqaluit is considerable and the housing shortage is well known.

In order to attract the best candidates to apply for admission, and in order to ensure that they stay in this very difficult program for four full years, it is necessary to be realistic and recognize that long-term student financial assistance will be necessary. Experience in the past has shown us that Nunavut students have dropped out of other post-secondary education programs because of financial difficulties.

My question is, would the Minister of Health & Social Services agree that this description also applies to students in the Nunavut Nursing Program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the member brings up an excellent point and I would support that not only to the nursing students but also to all students attending Arctic College, and indeed, post secondary education whether it be in Nunavut or indeed, in a southern institution.

Mr. Speaker, I think this question should probably go to the Minister of Education, who has the overall view of the programs. I know that student support through Education has been there for the nursing program and the nursing students. I have myself on occasion had an opportunity to go to the program and speak to some of the students with the Premier, I might add.

I don't know Mr. Speaker, if I could add any more to that, I know that in my opinion itself I think, since the members asks what my opinion is on support, of course, you know that ministers aren't supposed to give their opinions. What I can say is that it is the policy of this government to support students whether they are in the nursing program or any other post secondary or other program that is being delivered in Nunavut or indeed, in other institutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Health & Social Services indicated that the attrition rate for the nursing program was very high, somewhere near 80%. This was also the case in the Nunavut Teacher's Education Program when it first started.

My next question is, would the minister consider a sponsorship program for Nunavut nursing students that is separate from the Nunavut Student Financial Assistance Program. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the nursing program is a program that is run by the Department of Education through the facilities of Arctic College. As students they have the full rights to apply for student financial assistance that are in place to support our students that are in post secondary education.

Mr. Speaker, after saying that, the member does make a good point. That is the availability of other funding sources that may be there. I know for example Mr. Speaker, that we are looking at the opportunity for different bursaries that may be available specifically for the nursing program students so that they could give them an extra opportunity for income.

I also believe Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Education is in the process of looking at some type of review of the Student Financial Assistance Program. So we would entertain that opportunity for bursaries, and in actuality, we have been pursuing it in co-operation with the Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear very good success stories from the law school program, which is as important as the nursing students.

Would the minister consider being more active in considering approaching the federal departments such as Health Canada - Inuit Health Branch or Inuit Organizations to be sponsors for student positions in the Nursing Program. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member again makes an excellent point.

In my discussions with Minister Rock, on at least three different occasions, we've had an opportunity to discuss the Federal Department of Health and the nursing program. I think the program should be pointed out as unique in Canada specifically focusing on Inuit, training them through the good offices of Dalhousie University.

So when they do graduate they have a Bachelor of Nursing and they can actually go anywhere in Canada for that matter, the world and be a nurse, so we had discussions with the federal government.

At the present time, they have not been as successful as we had hoped but Mr. Speaker, that's something we have approached the federal government on, and we will continue to do that. Again, with the support of the members of this House, that type of direction is something we welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Just before we proceed, I just want to caution the members that, according to our rules, you are not permitted to seek an opinion from a minister. At the same time, you are not permitted to ask hypothetical questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 125 - 1(5): Extra Funding for Akitsiraq Students

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is I believe for the Minister of Justice and maybe as Premier he has a more overall view on it.

I'd like to ask the minister and first off state, I'm very pleased with the law school being formed and the students being given, I think, adequate resources and support to be successful and I think it is high time these steps were taken to ensure that these students have the tools that they need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the minister, is the Department of Justice or are there any other funds being provided to these students from the Government of Nunavut

other than what the student would normally receive under student financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the program is a joint effort, involving the Nunavut Government, Federal Government and Inuit Organizations. Each party will sponsor a number of students, so it's a unique program and it's a one-time program.

Once we select those 10 to 15 students, they'll be there for four years in addition to articling for another year, so it's a five-year commitment on the part of the students. We'll be looking very closely as to who applies and it'll be a very difficult process to get in but we're encouraging a lot of residents to apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that the government, under the department, I'm not sure if it's the Department of Justice or where, is going to be sponsoring students that is funding on top of what is normal or that any other student would receive under student financial assistance.

If, you know, that is the case as he had indicated I wonder how much more the government is going to be supporting these students above what they would normally receive under student financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students that will be enrolled in the program will be provided with income. The exact amount is yet to be determined, we are waiting for the applicants, number of applicants, which will largely have an impact on the amount.

But it will be around 50 thousand dollars per year. We are asking the candidates perhaps to leave employment to take on this new challenge, so we don't want to destabilize good potential students that may be employed.

In terms of collecting additional income, they'll be collecting a salary by being sponsored and they'll be working for the sponsor during the period that they are not studying.

So it's a unique arrangement where services are provided to the sponsor and at the same time they are paid during the term of their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, and I'm not disagreeing with providing students with the support that they need. I'm just wondering if this government, if the government feels that we need lawyers.

I know that we have all heard over the last two years of the crisis that we have faced in our nursing stations and in the hospital there where at times over half the beds have been closed down because we don't have the capacity to keep them open.

We have also heard, you know, of the enormous cost of the agency nurses, the contract nurses that cost us a lot more money. Could the minister commit to looking at developing, with the Minister of Health & Social Services and the Minister of Education, a similar program that would allow and entice with the same principles that he talks about in recruiting students for this law school to provide that same kind of support to getting nurses into a nursing program and ensuring that we get good quality candidates and we give them the resources that they need to succeed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said this is a one-time program. It's a pilot project and once we get the ten to fifteen students that's it. They'll be studying for four years and that's it. There'll be no additional studies.

The nursing program is an ongoing program, so we have to distinguish between the two. But we will see how the law school compares. It's yet to start, and we are committing resources and money towards it right now.

But we would want to see how well it does. We want to see it succeed and as mentioned before, the Minister of Education is currently reviewing the student financial assistance program so I'm sure the Minister of Education will also look at what we are doing in Justice.

But we need, in order for us to do this in the future for other programs, other parties have to be involved and we were very fortunate to get the federal government and Inuit organizations to buy into the program. So any new program in other areas would have to involve other parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand what the minister is saying, that there, and I recognize the fact that there is third party funding for this program.

What I am asking is, looking at the lack of the success rate that we are seeing in the nursing program and the prices that we face in Nunavut, and our nursing stations and hospitals, it may not be a bad idea for a one time or for this first term or the second term or for a set period of time for X number of students where we want to get some

Nunavummiut through this program succeed and have them working in our nursing stations.

I am asking the Premier, not just as the Minister of Justice, but to work jointly with the other two ministers that I indicated earlier in approaching outside sources to try and obtain the funding levels necessary to provide a similar type program as they have for the law students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Health Minister approached the Federal Minister of Health, we've tried, but there is no harm in trying to approach other parties. I am sure that we can approach Inuit organizations and solicit their support. We are open to trying to do that.

But it does involve third parties and getting them to contribute their portion. So I think we can try that for the next coming year perhaps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 126 – 1(5): Coral Harbour Caribou Harvest Study

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing this question to the Minister for Sustainable Development. He mentioned before that there was going to be a study done on the different aspects of commercial caribou harvesting activities in Coral Harbour. At what stage is this at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. The study that was going to be done is not complete yet. As soon as it is completed we will find out what their recommendations are. They have studied the operations of that facility, at this time we are doing the study on the harvesting facility in Coral Harbour.

We will give the member the study when it is complete and we will be working with the community of Coral Harbour. Perhaps in April or May I will be going to Coral Harbour to talk with the hunters to speak about what types of things they would like to see improved. I will be talking with them about these things and how to improve the situation in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister said that it would be around April or May that he will be visiting Coral Harbour. Would that study be complete by then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we would hope that the report would be done. We expect it to be done. They are looking at it right now and they are reviewing it. Perhaps even before I go to Coral Harbour I will have that report available and I would review it with the Member for Nanulik. It would be better to meet with the member before I go to Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before the completion of the report it would probably say that it is best to do it this way, and I would like the residents of Coral Harbour to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be going to Coral Harbour with the completed report on the meat processing plant in Coral Harbour and I will be involving the people there and tell them that it would be best if they do it this way. We will do our best to work with the people of Coral Harbour.

We will be discussing the harvesting program with them and talk with them about the yearly quota. We will look at the study with them to see whether they can get a larger quota. We will do our best to try and help them when we go there in April or May. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 127 – 1(5): Labour Standards Act Amendments

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister of Justice. I was pleased to hear that the minister committed to amending the Nunavut Labour Standards Act and increase the parental leave entitlement for 12 consecutive weeks to 37 weeks in keeping with the federal government's recently implemented changes to the Employment Insurance Act.

Without the amendment to the Act Mr. Speaker, most Nunavummiut will only benefit from the federal government's increase in parental leave benefits for their employees if the employer agrees to it.

Can the minister tell the Assembly when he will be introducing the Bill to amend the Labour Standards Act. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now we are in the midst of negotiations with the union on the collective agreement. That has been our main consideration to date. But as the minister said earlier in his statement there is progress taking place. So I can certainly state that we could introduce it by the May session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to ask another question. At this time they are negotiating. What effect will this have on my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is part of the agreement and we can't change the agreement just like that even if we want to do it that way. If we did it that way we could be creating more problems for the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We felt that we could go through this the other way, because the parents would like to stay home from work after having a child. So now at least I understand that it is part of the negotiations with the Nunavut Employees' Union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a comment. Okay. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 128 – 1(5): Marine Act & Regulations

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation, perhaps this is his day as he may be travelling tomorrow. I would like to ask him about whether the Canadian Department of Fisheries & Oceans are now working on rules for marine operators.

I was wondering if we are going to have a Marine Act or regulations. What is the status of this right now. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the marine rules and regulations, yes we do have those within our department. When we talk about boats we are talking about canoes and smaller boats.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, as I mentioned a bit yesterday, Nunavut is the only jurisdiction that lacks proper marine facilities. At this time we are discussing this

with the federal government and we would like to sign an agreement with them. Once the agreement has been signed we will be able to access more funds from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to be used for breakwaters and to help people that own boats.

But on the Act itself, perhaps we will be bringing that forward as well. Last year they introduced the legislation but they were willing to wait for us so that the small boat owners would be able to follow the act. We were told they would give us two years to be able to implement this. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for this clearer response. However, I have only heard a bit about it and that is why I am asking this question. I have not received any correspondence in regards to this. I think this is more towards tourism operators and outfitters who have to follow these guidelines and the rules and regulations of the marine act.

If we are going to be using the marine act as Nunavut residents without consulting with our residents I am sure that problems will arise if we are not consulted in advance of the introduction of the bill.

I was wondering if the Department of Transportation, representing Nunavut residents, how are you going to be working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Standards, codes and regulations for small boat operators, although it's federal government legislation, I think they're dealt with through our wildlife division, I think.

But the people from Nunavut, we have to recognize that boating accidents happen, so we have to look at the rules such as life jackets or survival suits or whether the boat needs to have buoys available.

We have to give support to the Nunavut residents. When the federal government is coming out with new rules and regulations, we have to keep in mind that safety comes first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, since your Department of Transportation is going to keep Nunavut residents' needs in mind, and Nunavut residents keep saying that we don't have any equipment available in our region. I could tell you that we lack equipment because of a lack of funding. We talk about lack of employment opportunities.

Having proper equipment is going to require funding. How are we going to give support to the people who cannot afford to buy this safety equipment for boats and for people who are not making a large amount of money. I was wondering if your department is willing to look at this so that we could help out the people of Nunavut who are not making large incomes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you travel to various communities, you could tell that HTOs work hard in support of their community. For example, life suits, I have noticed that the Hunter's and Trapper's organizations sell these life suits at half price and I believe that Nunavut Tunngavik is involved in that.

I know the member agrees that we should not weaken the safety rules or regulations. We should be looking for ways that we can give more assistance or support and I'm aware that there are already existing programs to help the hunters purchase their safety equipment at half price or they could buy them through their local hunter's and trapper's organization and Nunavut Tunngavik has assistance programs for safety equipment.

Our department will do what it can for the residents of Nunavut. We would like to be able to tell them that you need safety equipment although you may not have much money. We will advertise where they should be buying their safety equipment at a lower price while we are working on this. So we will try and inform the communities ahead of time before this actually starts and how they can be given assistance.

Although we know, I know, life support life jackets are very expensive but we have to inform the boat owners to obtain safety equipment such as flares and other items. We will keep everyone informed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to life jackets, we're aware of their importance. But there is other safety equipment inside the boats like navigational equipment and communications equipment, will that be included in the safety requirements for boat owners.

Since there's going to be quite a bit of tourism outfitting activity in communities that take tourists outside of the communities this safety equipment that's required in the boat, will they be covered under regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, of course, for the tourists tours and cruise ships there's regulations governing those types of operators and if they are going to be operating tourism fishing operations, this will be handled through Sustainable Development under the tourism division.

These regulations are already under those Acts but the regulations that are under the federal government, we have been given two years to prepare for these changes, the standards that we have to follow.

I'm just using the life jackets for an example. There is other equipment that's required for safety equipment for boats and for people who operate outfitting or tourism activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 129 - 1(5): Status of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I've asked this particular question before about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, how far have they gone in implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government

How well is this initiative going. How far have they gone Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can answer him by saying that the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has been started. That is what I can tell the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I had asked him earlier about Inuktitut language issues and he replied that he would be looking into this issue.

I'll ask him since they say they have begun work on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit implementation, are they just going through the alphabet of the Inuktitut language putting the T or K into place one at a time, is that what he means by progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I'm making tea I'll always finish it right off the bat so when I say that I'm going to make some tea, I don't just say it, I just do it right away.

I'm going to answer him that way, we're just not making a tea, we believe as a department that we are making progress on this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. As we said in the Bathurst Mandate, the Nunavut Government made a commitment to implement this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Maybe I am pushing too quickly on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we would like to see it implemented, we're too eager. I find it going so slow, now that they are starting to implement it, how long are we going to be waiting for the results, maybe within two years or within a year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit programs in the other government departments are going quite slowly with a target of two years, but we know it will not be implemented just in two years, more than two years will be used to work on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 130 - 1(5): Country Food in Medical Boarding Homes

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Health. I have two communities that I represent, one in Kitikmeot and one in Keewatin. The boarding home in Kitikmeot is situated in Yellowknife and the other one in Winnipeg.

I want to ask the Minister of Health & Social Services, the Inuit would like to eat their own food and they find the food in their boarding home not always to their liking. Have you ever looked into the possibility of providing Inuit food in those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier during this session we talked a little bit about the boarding home. We've just completed the review of the boarding home in Winnipeg that the member talked about. We're in the middle now of reviewing the boarding home in Ottawa, as well as the boarding home in Yellowknife and the boarding home here in Iqaluit. We run actually five boarding homes.

One of the things that we've asked each of the contractors that run the boarding homes for us, Mr. Speaker, is to make sure that there is country food available. There have been some concerns raised in the past when we had only specific type of boarding home, at one point where we only had the same country food available each time and that was terrible.

That has changed, we have been able to bring in different foods. So Mr. Speaker, there has been a concern and we have been trying to address it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the minister for his answer. I'd still like to ask about the food, when we eat food that we're not familiar with we tend to get upset stomachs. For that reason I was wondering when will I be able to know exactly what kind of food they'll be able to have in those boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the contract that each of the operators have, there are monies of course to provide nutritious foods as well as country foods.

For example to my understanding, last week the boarding home in Winnipeg just received fresh meat as well as fresh fish. Mr. Speaker, if the patient was going to the home, a number is available in each member's community for the specific home, they can contact the home itself and ask what types of food are there.

Of course Mr. Speaker, some people like to take country food with them when they are going down, for example, like quaq, they can do that too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. You'll note that question period is now over. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 009 - 1(5): Replacement of the Baffin Regional Hospital Sign

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister Responsible for Health & Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I know that members can drive up to the hospital and see a piece of plywood sitting on the side of the hill out there and Mr. Speaker, that used to be, I believe it was put there in 1997 for the building of the new hospital here in the Baffin.

My question is about the sign, which has since faded away and gone, and I will ask my questions before the plywood and the lumber deteriorates and blows away as well. Mr. Speaker, I'd like ask the minister regarding the hospital the following:

1. Are meetings being held with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation on the hospital.
2. Can he provide a time-line for the actual construction of this hospital.
3. What kind of outstanding work needs to be done in order for this process to begin.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. We require your written questions. Just to caution members, written questions should be done prior to the questions being asked. Thank you.

Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. 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. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 012 - 1(5): Shamanism & Traditional Laws and Customs of Inuit

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document called Illimatikkut. It was produced by the people of Pond Inlet by Elisapee Ootoova, John Toongak and Kooneeloosie Nutarak. This document outlines shamanism and Inuit traditional lifestyles and traditional laws. It is just in Inuktitut and I would like to donate it to the Legislative Library. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. 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. Bill 1, Appropriation Act 2001-2002. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act 2000-2001.

Mr. Iqaqrialu will have the chair. Before we meet as Committee of the Whole, we will break for 45 minutes. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 11.29 a.m. and resumed at 12.33 p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Welcome, I would like to welcome the members back, we'll be going to back to what we were dealing with yesterday, we were on general questions and comments. Donald I would like to ask you what's the wish of the Committee. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, we wish to continue of the review of Bill 1 and the Community Government & Transportation capital. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I would like to ask the minister and his officials to go up to the witness table. We're going to be dealing with Bill 1,

Appropriation Act, Department of Community Government and Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I will be inviting Mike Ferris and Doug Sitland, to come to the witness table and we also have Mike Rafter here and Anthony Saez.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like you to introduce your officials at this time Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Like I said we have Mike Ferris and Doug Sitland, and over there we have Mike Rafter and Anthony Saez. There's a lot of Mikes here, I didn't realize that we have a lot of Mikes in the Department of Community Government & Transportation until now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like the members to look into the capital estimates, Community Government and Transportation, page 7-5. That's where we were yesterday. We were under general comments yesterday. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to pose a question to this department while we are under general comments and questions.

I'm sure your department has informed the communities about the safety issues in regards to floating devices that are used in boats in the Nunavut area. I'm not saying that we are opposed to setting safety codes because of course, we know that's very dangerous out there in the open water. The motors that we use today do tend to break down at any time unexpectedly. Of course, we can see the equipment over there and there's malfunctions once in a while when it's a technical device.

The floater suits or the flotation devices, the floating vests are used and I think we all know they were meant to be used when you don't have heavy clothing on. When you are traveling out here even in the summer it's extremely cold and you have to wear winter clothing to keep warm out there in the open water and when you are wearing those types of clothing, you can't put those vests on. We tried an extra, extra large but it didn't fit because we had heavy winter clothing and you cannot tie it together when you've got heavy clothing on.

Is your department looking at what types of floating devices we might use in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I'm not the speaker. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well he said extra, extra large so, I didn't understand what he meant by that. When we are talking about this issue and safety devices, we know that Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Regional Inuit Associations, we have been working very closely with them, when we are looking at the

safety devices that can be used in Nunavut. From what we understand, the beneficiaries are the ones who can obtain those devices from the Hunter's and Trapper's organizations.

The beneficiaries of these land claims organizations can get discount devices from the local Hunter's and Trapper's Associations. Usually these discounted items might be the floater suits, they're even discounted at a price of 150 dollars, you can obtain those discounts if you're a beneficiary of a land claims organization. Like I mentioned earlier we have been given two years to prepare for the implementation of these regulations. It's very dangerous out there in the open water but some of the boaters go out there with hardly any emergency devices on their boats even when they are going a short distance.

So in the upcoming months we are going to be urging the boaters to properly equip their boats. Even if they're going to be going a short distance, they are very helpful in case of emergencies.

For example we have lost, for example in Rankin Inlet, a boat overturned, they were close to the shore, but the boat overturned and we lost a person even though they were close to shore. They had no floating devices. I'm not sure what kind we would use in Nunavut but we are in full support of at least having these floating devices in the boats if you're going to be traveling around be it vests or floater suits or inflatable floating devices, vests.

If I can go a little further, the larger boats, the Peterheads, we're starting to notice, we realized last year, that the Transportation Department made an abrupt ending and we have to look at the Peterheads and how we can make them safer vessels. One of the members here, Ben Ell has a Peterhead and he told me that myself, as Minister of Transportation, he wanted to make sure that the Peterheads and the larger boats are fully equipped with safety floating devices.

We haven't discussed what should be made available in Nunavut but I would at least like to see these floating devices in the boat, that the boat be fully equipped even if you don't wear the equipment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you very much for your response. Another question. In your opening comments, you said that there's 85 million dollars that will be used for five years but it would be under capital projects and it would be for all the communities in Nunavut. Are you going to be divvying up this 85 million dollars to the 27 communities in Nunavut or is some of the money going to be used for the headquarters or the regions.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. It would be used for capital acquisitions for the communities. We're not quite sure exactly how many years it's going to be used

for but from what I understand for the first year it would larger. Well I can't really say how much, what dollar amounts we're talking about, if it's going to be 27 million for the first year and then the next year, 24, and then 21 and so on over these five years. But it will be used for capital projects.

In regards to your question, you wanted to know if it's going to be used for the headquarters or the regional operations. The monies that are used for operations and maintenance are not within our Department, and we don't know exactly how we are going to divvy up these 87 million dollars. But we are going to be talking with the communities, and find out which would be the most appropriate way to use these dollars when we're going to be doing the capital projects.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 85 million dollars is not in the Capital Estimates, I don't believe. When are we going to be seeing these dollars divvied up, is it going to be next year after we talk with the communities, or how much the communities want out of this 87 million dollars. When are we going to start seeing numbers in the Capital Estimates next year.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance so that he could give us details.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, obviously when the Department of Finance's budget is up it would be prepared to give more detail. But generally as members know, because of the new structure with the five-year capital plan, there is over the next four years roughly about 80 plus million dollars still to be allocated that hasn't been identified in the current draft of the five-year plan for communities that members have.

So it's a matter of each department, for example now once get finished with the 2000-2001 budget that's before us now, the planning will start for the next capital year and as members know the plan is to try and accelerate and bring forward a fall capital plan, so it can be approved by the Legislature probably a likelihood of October of 2001, of this year, the 2001-2002 year.

So I mean those, that work is ongoing now with departments. But the Standing Committees and members will get an opportunity obviously and there is a round of consultation as well, two rounds actually, more than likely rounds of consultation with communities between that time, between now for the time the capital will be approved for next year, next two financial years from now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials and to ask him a question in regards to boating. I guess the question I have is whether all the boats will have to have those safety devices in them at all times.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that way right now but for the future we have been thinking about it and to have their two way radios in the boats. We see down south they all have numbers on their boat but we don't have that at this time in Nunavut but that's what we have been gearing towards.

If we have to look for them and if we have to look for a certain kind of boat and if it has a number then we would be able to identify that but right now it's not like that.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for the response, because we have to make sure that the hunters are safe and that they're able to pursue their, some money from their hunt. Yes, I'm supportive of the minister's response but some of the hunters don't really have any money to purchase those types of equipment and I just wondered if they would be assisted financially.

I know that the two way radios and the other equipment will have to be purchased by them but, and, if they have to purchase a license I just wondered how they would be able to get assistance from the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): If a person has three boats, just a joke, sorry. I'm not sure exactly how we would treat this right now. But we have to respect the people that are not employed. I shouldn't say they're not employed, they're employed by going hunting and what not. But the only thing is they don't make an hourly wage but they make their money when they do their hunting. We have to realize that as being an Inuk and I have, I had a general hunting license from the territorial government but that shouldn't have been the case because I'm an Inuk I shouldn't have had to get a general hunting license.

We can think about how we can give them a license if they are not working and if they are not in the wage economy, when we get to it we will make sure that we respect them because they're not making a daily wage. If they are hunters and they don't have any other means of making any money even though they have a boat we will consider that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. I'm happy to hear that the minister has knowledge of the hunters in Nunavut. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 85 million dollar capital mentioned that was identified, when I look at the capital for this year, I'm just trying to get some clarification here. Whatever we have in these capital projects here, if we identify some of the projects for the 85 million dollars, did some of the projects move up somehow or how does that work. I'm just saying some of the projects that are identified in this capital will they just move up a year if we find something for them in this 85 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Minister. I think this is a question for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if it's identified already in future years, I mean, like we said, that's what we are trying to do, is that within reasonable certainty we are going to deliver those projects, each department.

So it's not going to accelerate the process. For example if something is identified for the 2002 fiscal year, a future year, not this one we are dealing with now, I mean that would come forth from the department. In addition to that, there are other projects now that they think they are planning on delivering but because their targets haven't been confirmed yet, because they will have to along with all the other departments, each department will have to present their case for funding to the Financial Management Board when finalizing those targets.

Then that amount will be put in for the future year if we're talking about the next year. I don't know if that explains it better to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Finance. The 85 million dollars that we're talking about is not in the capital estimates at this time. We're talking about Community Government & Transportation and I want the members to realize that we are doing the main estimates at this time for Community Government & Transportation and this is some of the information at this time. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for that, the reason I asked that question is because the 85 million it could have to be set down on the capital plan that we have in place for that department. That is why I'm asking that question but I'd like to continue with that if I could because it can happen in fact on some other things that might be already here, it might be that we have some projects that might be for 2002/2003. I know what the minister is saying when they say if they identify the project within that year, they add it to the list. That's what I understood from the minister before, so I guess maybe that's the answer I was looking for. These additional projects for the 85 million dollars will be added to that year once they're identified. I just want to make sure I'm clear on this before we can proceed on Community Government & Transportation projects. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I didn't really hear a question. More or less a comment. Mr. Minister would you like to respond.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, I know that we will be working with the other departments. We have to work with the communities, like I said yesterday and I really believe that in the communities, they know what their needs are. We might not agree with them though if they don't consider the health and safety aspects of what they want. We have to look at their priorities and look at the amount of capital dollars that are to be allocated to them, as long as they address the health and safety aspects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Under the capital estimates, I'd like to clarify under page 9-8. Five-year capital plan under the 85 million dollars, you can get further details of the capital plan on page 8-9. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you're saying that 85 million dollars worth of projects are here in the appendix. Is that what you're saying. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. They're further described under the A9. Can you see A9 in the appendix A. There's some further details to the five-year capital plan under that page. I'm not trying to stop the questioning but I just want to explain further. Mr. Havioyak do you have any further questions or comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have some questions that follow up on some my colleagues were asking and that's the pending boat regulations that were mentioned. I'm just wondering, I know I brought it up last year when it was passed. It's federal legislation, these regulations that are coming into place, they're going to require, basically force requirements upon the small watercraft owners and boat owners throughout Canada and Nunavut. If memory serves me correctly and I'm sure the minister or his staff could correct me if I'm wrong, Nunavut has, I believe it's a two-year grace period in order to comply. Then we do have to fully comply with these new regulations.

Some of the concerns raised here, I guess and I don't know if it could be something that is looked at in the transportation strategy that the department is looking at. I'm just wondering if there are any plans in assisting and making sure that Nunavummiut that are boat owners are able to comply with these regulations when the time comes for us to have to comply with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: I just want to say that yes, we do have a three-year grace period. But the thing that I keep pushing is that we have to understand the need to do what we can to promote safety. Whether it's the, let's say having a personal floatation device for

every person on board, I don't know whether we are going to be getting into the whole personal locator device or whatever the particular term is, flares.

But I'm sure the fact is, as I pointed out earlier to one of the questions, when we get to that level of having to enforce those certain regulations as it relates to small boats, a lot of the majority of the small boat owners are usually hunters with a minimum of wages if any. Therefore I would think that before we fully get into that whole issue of enforcement we would make sure that those hunters or those people who can't afford to will be able to apply to us, either an assistance program such as Sustainable Development under Hunter Support Program. Maybe I'd like to have Mike explain a bit further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Ferris: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two things that are happening at the same time. The first is that we did get from the federal government an agreement that there would be a two-year grace period to allow us to take all the material that the federal government has related to either the small boats or what they would call a commercial vessel such as the Peterheads.

We are in the process of having all of that material translated so that we can then go out and consult with the boat owners to review what is the requirement. The federal government has said that they are prepared to look at some exemptions or variations to those given the conditions in the north. At the same time as our minister has said we are very concerned with some of the tragic deaths we've had. So, we are very active in boat safety, and that's got nothing to do with the regulations per se, but we do have people that are out in the communities delivering talks on boat safety and talking about personal floatation devices, having paddles, having flares, the types of things that would make it much safer for boating in the north.

But we will, before we get into actually implementing any of the new regulations, there will be a good opportunity for review of what the federal requirements will be and how we can address making sure that all our boats and our owners are ready. We have had very preliminary discussions with NTI, I flew with one of the Vice Presidents once on a trip and they're prepared as well to look at the issue with us, in terms of beneficiaries money to help in equipping the Peterhead boats and what not with some of the equipment that some of these would require.

So we're just getting started in that but we are very active as the minister has indicated and he's provided direction to the staff to push boat safety right from day one and eventually as the regulations come in, that's probably going to be enhanced. But we are doing a lot of boat safety in the short term and here for example, we've had a formation of a Coast Guard Auxiliary and they're undertaking a boat safety program and the Coast Guard is providing funding for that.

We're hoping that same type of program can be expanded in other communities so we are moving forward in a co-operative way with the federal government but also to put a

package in place so that all the boat owners in Nunavut are clear on what may or may not be the requirements in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm very pleased to hear that the department is taking a proactive approach to this. You don't want to run into the same predicament like we did with people having at the last minute to fill out forms for their gun license and they're thinking we have federal legislation coming down the line that we have to be ready for and I applaud the department on being proactive to help ensure that the people that will be effected will be ready for it. I know that it's probably a sad fact, that most accidents that happen out there, in the water are preventable you know given the certain safety equipment or devices out there.

It's unfortunate that nine times out of ten they probably aren't there for whatever reason, I think, I'm glad to hear that they're really pursuing this. Mr. Ferris indicated that they are translating all the material related to these regulations and I know how much it costs to get things translated. Are we getting assistance from the federal government in regards to this or is it something we have to bear upon ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: I don't think we're into any last minute things or we would be because we're now advertising the same way as the gun control bill was advertised way ahead of time to fill out the forms. So I don't think it would be a last minute thing. We just make sure that the people know that they have to do certain things before the regulations come into effect.

But if there are ways to get funding from the Federal Government to ensure that regulations are translated into Inuktitut, we will try and do so. However if there isn't we still have to do the translations anyway and we will ensure we do. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll move onto another topic. I'll just go onto something else then. Yesterday, Mr. Chairman, one of the ministers indicated out of the percentages of their capital budget for this year, roughly 26% of it wouldn't normally be considered a priority by the government. I'm just wondering if the minister or his staff could indicate what types of criteria were used in prioritizing this 26% of their capital as far as which projects they received were turned into ink on the plan and which ones weren't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: We get to a point where we use too loosely priorities because in terms of planning for capital projects for each of the communities, of course if there was

money around it would necessarily be a priority to put something in that we're putting in because we just happen to have money. But we're short of money and everything that we've put into the communities as far as we're concerned is a need by that community and we will ensure that in terms of ensuring that the communities do get to meet the minimum requirements of safety and having to deal with accidents, we will ensure that those come first.

But it's only when we get to the level of let's say if we were going to try to build a 3 million dollar facility but we may not necessarily have that for that year but we do have some other monies but not in that neighbourhood then we will do smaller jobs maybe in different communities. I don't want to even if the term priority is used, to me, it's the need that we will deal with in all the communities with the understanding that there are limited dollars to spread around into all the communities. But we will do what we can to ensure that we meet the minimum requirements for safety but also if there are any smaller amounts of money that we can put to good use in a community then we will do that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I still never got an answer. What types of criteria were used in determining what those projects were. That's what I was wondering. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): As I have stated earlier on, that once we are starting to work on the capital items, we use our priorities because we look at the needs. If we have already started it from the previous fiscal year and if they're not completed or for safety and health reasons and if we have additional dollars and if we can put some funding into them because we do have limited financial resources, yes we can start on some of the items. But health and safety hazards are our number one concern and if the project has already been started then it needs completion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, is the minister now saying today that 100 percent of this capital budget is made up of things that are ongoing commitments and health and safety and statutory requirement projects. Is that what he is stating today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: I don't want to get into a word argument here. (interpretation) We don't want to use a word argument that's not what I'm trying to say. I'm not trying to say that all of these stem from that, what I'm trying to say is that's how we based our criteria when if it's a health hazard if it's a safety hazard yes, we'll do that first.

Or the previous programs that are still ongoing if they're incomplete then we will try and complete them within the next fiscal year. Even, because of our limited resources we are looking for other sources of funding to help the other communities. If there was a surplus or if there was funding available and if it was too small for capital items we could use it for smaller items to assist the communities.

For example, I apologize, the member for Baker Lake isn't here he had asked me a question last year, in regards to access roads. What would happen if they wanted to pave the roads and if the community, would we be assisting the community if the community puts in some dollars for the pavement of the road even though we don't support that community 100 percent.

But if the community wanted to initiate something it's up to the community and if they want to, if they need it they can initiate any kind of project in the community, we look at the communities initiation and then we can assist them.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was kind of what I thought I understood yesterday anyway and today my question I was asking is of the portion of the capital that isn't in those three areas what criteria was used in determining what projects were selected to put into the capital plan. That was outside of those three areas that he just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, as I have clearly stated that if the community requires it we are not going to tell the community at all we are going to give you this even though you don't want the item. We can't say that to the communities even if the community requested it or if they want to initiate a project, for example in Arviat, last year that community wanted to enlarge their recreational facility.

They wanted to put in an addition but last year prior to the budget session they asked me, the community came to me and asked me what would happen if we initiate that project at our local level. But the capital dollars have to be used by all the communities of Nunavut we can't say that we are going to put this capital item there even though the communities don't want it without thinking of the communities' priorities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the minister is trying to say and I don't know if he understands the question I'm trying to ask. I know and I'm sure and can imagine like he had indicated yesterday, the wish list was well over 30 million dollars from all the communities. Now given that they say okay that roughly 74%

of the capital budget is gone towards the health and safety regulatory and ongoing commitments portion is how all that got allocated.

Of the portion that falls outside of that 30 million dollar list, what criteria was used in determining which projects were picked. That's what I'm getting and I'm not saying that that's something you can force things on the communities. The minister said he got roughly a 30 million dollar list. Out of the stuff that didn't get picked off the list, because of those three areas, what criteria was used to determine which ones were. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: I don't recall using the word wish list for the communities because it is the type of thing that when you say wish list, it makes you think well they're just dreaming. The amounts of capital dollars that are needed to go into the communities is very high but again when the member keeps asking what criteria, I said it, priority need. Because those communities need those things. There are other communities that need more things but sometimes the need of a community exceeds the ability of the government to put that need in, such as an arena in Grise Fiord or Resolute Bay. But there are some other areas where we can do things for other communities and we will make sure that if a community comes into the government and says we're prepared to put in however much amount of money into a first year project, providing we get assistance from the government, we will do that.

Those are the kinds of things especially if a community has a surplus, we will do those kinds of things because in the end we will save money by working together with a community. So it's a case of knowing that the need sometimes, as long as the minimum standards are met in terms of safety and other health concerns but need because everything we put into the community is needed in some way or another. It may not necessarily be always critical but the need is always there so we don't want to get into a situation of determining well we put this stuff here because they are more important than the other community. We don't want to get into a situation of communities thinking that they're not as important as others because we didn't happen to put something in that community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it was based on the community's need and I guess well then what the question I basically asked is, who determines whose needs are more of a priority than another's needs because I'm sure that every community for everything that they send in and for anything, any community will be able to justify why they need it. So maybe, how was it determined what community need was more of a priority than another community's need as far as those projects go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: As I pointed out sometimes the need exceeds the ability of the government to put that need in and if it doesn't necessarily need to be done because of safety and health concerns then maybe that need doesn't necessarily get met that year.

But again, I pointed out that, let's say I'll use an example, it wasn't necessarily needed that we go into Arviat and put an extra addition on their community hall. But Arviat came to use and said we will put it in as long as you can tell us you are going to help us with some of the financing in the next year. I don't want to get into a situation as I think the member seems to be suggesting, that some needs are more important than others.

We don't look at needs as more important than others but if there is a way to meet a need in the community by working together with the community where the community puts some money towards that particular project we will do it.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, perhaps I will give a little bit of a background. The minister and the officials have stated that they have staff already that specialize in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I would like to ask in regards to Mr. Ferris' comments that they would be teaching boat safety to the boat owners perhaps that person who deals with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, will that person work on this.

Because we Inuit people, we the coastal Inuit people don't want to be taught by an inland person who doesn't know anything about the coastal area.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, we are all boaters, well some of us are. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): For those of us who have gone boating, we know how the currents move and I know that for sure that people who were raised inland don't know the coastal environment. It's going to be a challenge like when we start, if we have to amend the rules, regulations we have to base it on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. If we need to change it the only way we can change if it has to reflect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Once we start working on the safety training, we will get a person who is experienced in the coastal areas. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to ask a question again as they have said there may be different regulations for commercial or private boat owners. If the safety rules differ between the commercial and the private boat owners we have to make sure the public will know which rules they come under.

So I was wondering if the regulations differ between the commercial and the private boat owners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, I apologize Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are differences. There are ones that carry cargo and then there are passengers. There are insurance requirements and they are different for freighters and passenger carriers. It would be good if those of us with boats or those of us who use boats for enjoyment can access insurance policies but they do require a lot more if they're going to be carrying freight or carrying passengers.

I would like to go back and think about, I know that you're not one but your husband, Glen Williams is the only one who has all the required licenses, the insurance and so on I think in the whole of Nunavut. We'll be discussing this issue further and talk about safety issues and so on. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to remind all the members that starting from last year and following the House rules, we don't name names in the House. We are representing all the people of Nunavut and not just certain individuals. That's just a reminder. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, the reason I asked those questions is so that the people out there will know what the rules are. What can the communities do for example if they want to build access roads. Some of the communities, I don't believe know the information about how they can obtain funding to build access roads, trails and so on. They have a lot of priorities and the minister had said earlier this week, that the community governments are not only services providers, they should be working for the community as a whole.

My question is what kind of information are you going to be putting out in regards to the communities obtaining funding to build access roads and trails and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't set aside money for other projects that will be used other than O&M because we have limited resources. But we're looking at accessing additional funds from the federal government that would be used to build access roads for example or recreational parks. For example, there's a recreational fishing lake near Rankin Inlet that is about 12 miles away and is called Iqaluk in Inuktitut.

Vehicles and so on have damaged the land around this fishing lake. We as a Nunavut government can't do much about it but I'm just using this as an example. I'm not saying we're going to be building an access road over there but with the help of the Department

of Sustainable Development, we can see if we can find funds for recreational fishing lakes and attractions.

The Department of Indian Affairs believes we will be able to get some money from DIAND to be used for such things as access roads, roads leading to recreational areas, which monies could be used outside of municipal boundaries, outside of the town or the Hamlet. These would be monies that would be used, so we can access recreational areas outside of the town. I think all the Nunavut communities are asking for funds so that they can develop and access these recreational areas and also to increase the number of roads or to improve the infrastructure in the community. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, one further question and this is part of the comment that I made yesterday in regards to fire fighters' training. We use a lot of money for fire fighting people, the firemen have to be properly clothed and they need training and the minister has said that there's ongoing training provided for these firemen.

Do they come here to Iqaluit or do you have training provided at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I would like Mike to answer that question.

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

Mr. Ferris: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two types of training that are being set up, one is community specific where the assistant Fire Marshals as they travel into communities will do training with the local fire fighters in their respective communities on the equipment that is in the communities.

We also are developing more specialized training, some of that will be done in, what I call regional centres but not necessarily in Iqaluit. But we would take the fire fighters from four or five communities into one community and do specialized training in that community. There will be increased training as well in airport fire fighting techniques because we are slowly moving back into that area, as a regulatory requirement.

The program will move at the speed it would get the money from the federal government. They have allocated some, but we've enhanced the training for the fire fighters, we're looking at hiring a specialist, who will work with both community specific training and regional training. We do send some fire fighters out to fire college in the south for very detailed training particularly in what we call Command Officer positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ferris. Any further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I was just about falling asleep here, when you called my name. Yesterday the Minister of Community Government & Transportation said the five-year plans would be implemented. I just wanted to know if that's the case. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, we'd like to go back to it but we are working on the details at this time. We're looking at the five years and identifying the priorities of the communities again like we used to. We will be working with the communities and work out the final details.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had made statements more than once that the communities know exactly what they need. Because of course we don't go to the communities and the residents are the ones who know what they want or need. For example, I have never been down to Sanikiluaq and I have no idea what the community is like. I don't know what Sankiluaq's priorities are but the residents do. Mr. Anawak is very correct when he made that statement.

The communities are the ones who know what they need and what they require at the community level. The communities will be making five-year plans for their communities and they'll be asked to define their needs. Do you need approval and then make re-adjustments or revise their plans and then give them what they need. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): We've said repeatedly that we'll always put safety and health issues at the forefront. Using the communities as an example, they might say that their water truck is perfectly fine, they won't need one the next year but we'll probably have to talk to them again just using this as an example.

But the community might say that they need a grader or they would like to get another piece of heavy equipment for the following year so we can talk with the communities first of all. Today I know that our employees in Cape Dorset, Rankin Inlet, Kugluktuk and also in Cambridge Bay are in continuous communication with the communities in regards to capital items and we are going to keep doing that.

Like I keep saying health and safety issues will make the final decision at the end of the day. We'll talk with the communities first and at times yes, we cannot obtain what they need right away. But our department deals with hamlet offices, recreational facilities, community freezers and so on. We talk first of all with the residents so we'll make informed decisions and we'll know how we can appropriately allocate our finances. We'd look at what would be most beneficial to both the community and to our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. When the minister first made his comments, he said that he would work very hard on the safety issue and one thing that keeps coming up during his responses is the health and safety issues. If there is a public facility and if it was condemned, could you replace that facility right away for health and safety reasons.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I don't think we have ever come across that but I think that Mr. Nutarak is using that as an example. I'm sure if a building was condemned for health and safety reasons and if it was closed, I think what he's asking is if it would be replaced right away. If we cannot come up with the required amount of dollars with the community, we can use a community hall as an example because that's the focal point of the community other than the schools.

When I talk about health and safety issues, we are also talking about community halls that are too small for the size of the community and especially in the winter when a lot of people go there and the flu tends to go all over the community. We're well aware that some of the communities need larger community halls. But I can't tell you if we can replace it right away but I do know that if it's an old community hall and they desperately need one, we can look for outside sources of funds so that the old community hall can be replaced. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The minister, since he made the statement I truly believe that health and safety will be a priority for this minister's department. I think that the way everybody thinks, no matter where you come from, we'd like to see a decrease in sicknesses and poor health. Using Pond Inlet as an example. Our arena has no insulation and it's used at minus 40 in the middle of the winter. Is that a health issue because it's might affect the individuals who play hockey in that arena just as an example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I almost froze my toe when I was skating up there during a hockey tournament and I'm well aware of what you're talking about. We are working on it. Pond Inlet is one of the larger communities. Well it's small if you're talking about southern standards but it's one of the larger communities in Nunavut and we know that we have to do something about the arena. It's in the high arctic, which is a lot colder than the southern areas. We're looking for money and we'll keep the member informed about progress. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Again, to health and safety issues, some of the communities have cafeterias or restaurants. Using Iqaluit as an example, there are quite a number of restaurants in town. How are they regulated. I think that there are some restaurants that don't have the proper ventilation. There's a lot of cigarette smoke and cooking fumes in there. Is there anything you can do there. Do they have regulations or can you write a letter to these establishments to clean up their act.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): We can only implement regulations on items that we deal with. If the community feels that it's a concern then we can deal within our limitations of authority under the restaurants, it's under the jurisdiction of another department. Under the health and safety requirements, if there's the possibility of an accident the Nunavut Government can deal with that. We deal with community halls and we know that a lot of the community halls are too small for the community.

For instance Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Gjoa Haven, Igloolik, perhaps we should deal with these health and safety requirements, perhaps the restaurants and commercial establishments, their health and safety requirements. If there is a concern from the community then we can get it out to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): When I went to Pond Inlet I talked to the people from my community. When you speak you don't have very much to say, and I was just saying that the air in some of the public places, so I'm just mentioning these details.

We were talking about arenas yesterday. I'd like to ask him, yesterday he said that when the hockey players are talented, we want to help them out more. So I was going to ask him about that statement he made yesterday. I don't know exactly what other statements that he did with that.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I think I was speaking in English when it was translated into Inuktitut. I know the arenas in communities are one of main concerns for recreation and physical fitness activities. That's why we are very proud of them, the hockey players. We hear about them because arenas are very expensive to build and that's one of the reasons why we have a hard time getting arenas in all the communities.

For instance in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord and also maybe even this member's constituency, the arena needs to be improved. We do want to have arenas in all of them and if there are some athletes that are in public view and some of these sports events are

very popular for that reason, we would want to help them out of course for that reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. It was very good to hear when the hockey player from Pond Inlet was being recognized and also the one from Rankin Inlet. Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I would like you all to know that I'm trying to work towards getting an arena for Pond Inlet. I would like you to know Mr. Chairman, it was just one of the pilot projects in our area to see if hockey arenas were good for the communities. So this was one of the first pilot projects that's the reason why it is all metal. We can see that the pilot project was successful. So it's been implemented throughout all the other communities. Thank you for listening to my comments. I don't have anything further to say.

Chairperson (interpretation): There's no question there, they're just comments, we all just want to make comments, we all want support for our cause. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I'd like to move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I did not hear exactly what you were saying.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I'd like to move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak made a motion, it's not debatable. We always ask if everyone agrees. If it's approved, I would like to thank the officials from the Department of Community Government & Transportation and we'll be seeing them in the following session. Mr. Anawak on Monday, we'll see you on Monday, after the weekend, Thank you, have a good Sunday. Thank you, all of you. Please ask the Speaker if he is ready to enter the chamber.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that Bill 1 is still under consideration and would like to report progress. 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 to the motion. Mr. Nutarak. Thank you for seconding. All in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. 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. Meeting of the Management Services Board at 2.30 in the Tuktu Boardroom today.

Orders of the Day for March 19, 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
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
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.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members before we adjourn for the weekend, Tevi was one of the original pages on April 1, 1999 and it is very good to see you in the House. We thank you for all your service. Would you please stand up Tevi.

>>*Applause*

Members, enjoy the weekend. We will see you back here again on March 19, at 1.30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 2.05 p.m.*

