



**Nunavut Canada**

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**5th Session**

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**DAY 18**

**Wednesday March 21, 2001**

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**Iqaluit**

**Acting Speaker: Mr. Donald Havioyak, M.L.A.**

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

## *Speaker*

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(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

**Enoki Irgittuq**  
(Amittuq)

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
(Iqaluit East)

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Government and Transportation*

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
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Services; Minister Nunavut  
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**Hon. Manitok Thompson**  
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale  
Cove)

**Uriash Puqiqnak**  
(Nattilik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit West)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive  
and Intergovernmental Affairs;  
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*Minister Responsible for Nunavut  
Housing Corporation; Minister of  
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**Glenn McLean**  
(Baker Lake)

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**  
(Cambridge Bay)  
*Deputy Premier; Minister of  
Finance and Administration;  
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**Donald Havioyak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

**James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
(Uqqummiut)

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
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**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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## Table of Contents

Election of Acting Speaker .....	836
Opening Prayer .....	837
Ministers' Statements.....	837
Members' Statements.....	839
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	843
Oral Questions .....	847
Written Questions .....	864
Tabling of Documents.....	865
Second Reading of Bills.....	865
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	866
Report of the Committee of the Whole.....	929
Third Reading of Bills .....	930
Orders of the Day .....	930

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday March 21, 2001 ..... 836

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

039 – 1(5): Government of Nunavut Staffing Capacity and IEP (Ng) ..... 837

040 – 1(5): Nunavut Public Libraries Receives 486 Thousand Dollars from the Bill and  
Melinda Gates Foundation (Kilabuk) ..... 838

041 – 1(5): Appointment of Remaining Nunavut Power Corporation Board Members  
(Picco)..... 839

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

131– 1(5): Celebration of Spring (Arvaluk) ..... 839

132 - 1(5): Support for Businesses (Iqaqrialu) ..... 840

133 - 1(5): Traditional Lifestyle Change (Irqittuq)..... 840

134 - 1(5): Nunavut Youth Abroad (Anawak)..... 841

135 - 1(5): Translation of Income Tax Forms (Picco)..... 842

136 - 1(5): Working Language & Customs in the Legislative Assembly (Williams) ... 843

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

153 - 1(5): Nunavut Tourism Funding (Arvaluk) ..... 847

154 - 1(5): Workers' Compensation Board Coverage for Hunters & Trappers  
(Iqaqrialu) ..... 849

155 - 1(5): Fuel Assistance for Outpost Camps (Irqittuq) ..... 850

156 – 1(5): Name of Akitsiraq Law School (Nutarak) .....	852
157 - 1(5): Summer Student Employment Outside GN (McLean).....	853
158 – 1(5): Alternative Sentencing Committees (Williams) .....	854
159 - 1(5): Special Education Teachers (Alakannuark).....	855
160 – 1(5): Resource Development Agreement (Iqaqrialu) .....	857
161 - 1(5): Hall Beach School Update (Irqittuq) .....	858
162 - 1(5): Six Hundred Unfilled Positions (McLean) .....	860
163 – 1(5): Elders' Societies (Nutarak).....	861
164 – 1(5): Staff Housing for Decentralization (Irqittuq).....	862

## **E.**

### **Written Questions**

011 – 1(5): Kivalliq Partners (McLean).....	864
---------------------------------------------	-----

## **F.**

### **Tabled Documents**

017 – 1(5): Letter from Prime Minister regarding Gun Legislation (Okalik).....	865
018 – 1(5): GN Employment Statistics (Ng) .....	865

## **G.**

### **Bills**

Bill 3 - Utility Rate Review Council Act – Second Reading.....	865
Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2000/2001 -Third Reading.....	930

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Wednesday March 21, 2001**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Election of Acting Speaker**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Ullaakut. Members of the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Section 42(2) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act it is my duty to inform the members of the unavoidable absence of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker due to family medical problems. It is necessary to select a member to take the chair and act as Speaker. Are there any nominations from the floor. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I would like to nominate Mr. Nutarak.

**Clerk:** I am sorry, Ms. Thompson, we couldn't hear you through the microphone. Could you please repeat your nomination.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Sorry, I didn't hear what you said.

**Clerk:** Madam Thompson, could you please repeat your nomination, it didn't come through the translation system. Thank you.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I would like to nominate Mr. Nutarak as Acting Speaker. Thank you.

**Clerk:** Mr. Nutarak do you accept this nomination.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): No. I decline.

**Clerk:** Are there any more nominations. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you. I wish to nominate Mr. Havioyak as Acting Speaker. Thank you.

**Clerk:** Member for Kugluktuk, do you accept the nomination.

**Mr. Havioyak:** I accept.

**Clerk:** Any further nominations. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I move that nominations cease. Thank you.

**Clerk:** Thank you. Member for Kugluktuk, could you please take the Chair as Speaker. All rise.

>>*Mr. Havioyak takes the Chair as Acting Speaker*

**Acting Speaker** (Mr. Havioyak): Thank you. I would like to ask Ms. Thompson to say the prayer for us this morning.

### **Item 1: Opening Prayer**

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. First of all I would like to say that Speaker Kevin O'Brien is not here today as you are all aware. I would like to let you know that his daughter is in the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

(interpretation ends) Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

#### **Minister's Statement 039 – 1(5): Government of Nunavut Staffing Capacity and IEP**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with the Government of Nunavut's third quarter staffing capacity and Inuit employment statistics for 2000-2001.

Mr. Speaker, as of December 31, 2000, 79% of the 2,789 positions within the departments, boards and agencies of the Government of Nunavut are filled. Of the 2,195 filled positions, beneficiaries occupy 941 or 43% of the filled positions.

Mr. Speaker, although the overall Inuit employment has dropped by two percent from this time last year, the total number of Inuit employment has increased by 3.2% from 911 Inuit employees to 941 employees. This is a positive development even as we face competition for the same skilled labour force from the federal government, Inuit organizations and other private organizations.

Mr. Speaker, our staffing division has been aggressive in initiating 115 competitions during the third quarter of this fiscal year. We have made progress during this quarter, but we do realize that we face many challenges in achieving our goals of full capacity and a representative public service.

Mr. Speaker, the government continues to be fully committed in working towards filling the capacity of our public service and ensuring that it is representative of our territory's

population. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

**Minister's Statement 040 – 1(5): Nunavut Public Libraries Receives 486 Thousand Dollars from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in June of 2000, a delegation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation visited Nunavut in order to assess whether the government and libraries were ready to apply for grant funding that would assist with Internet connectivity and librarian training for computers donated under the grant. Nunavut was subsequently asked to submit a proposal to the foundation. A final proposal was submitted in February of 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Nunavut's grant application has been accepted by the foundation. The final decision to accept Nunavut's application was announced to the department on March 14, following the budget approval by the Legislative Assembly on March 6, to increase the Library budget by 17%. This decision gave the foundation the confidence that Nunavut had a plan to connect computers donated under the grant program to the Internet, train librarians and the public to use them, and is able to sustain support for libraries, and thus for computers under the grants program.

Mr. Speaker, the grant will fund the installation of 27 computers and Internet access to 11 Nunavut public libraries as well as two mobile laptop labs used for training library patrons. Separately, Microsoft Canada will donate software with a retail value of 124 thousand 445 dollars to all libraries receiving foundation grants. Week long training for several library staff in Seattle, upgraded hardware to provide wireless Internet access for libraries and one help desk station are also included in the gift. Further training sessions for librarians will take place in Nunavut.

Education Nunavut has developed several partnerships for training and technical support to library staff. Given the geographic isolation of Nunavut's 11 community libraries, their ability to offer free Internet and computer access to the general public is enthusiastically welcomed.

Mr. Speaker, the Foundation Grant will serve as a catalyst for libraries to attract community members and offer a wider range of resources as well as training. Implementation will have been completed for all 11 community libraries by the fall of this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements. Minister's



Statements. Mr. Picco.

### **Minister's Statement 041 – 1(5): Appointment of Remaining Nunavut Power Corporation Board Members**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Good morning, Mr. Speaker, and welcome to the Honoured Speaker's chair. Mr. Speaker, as you know, several months ago I had the pleasure of appointing five exceptional, exceptional Mr. Speaker, people to the Nunavut Power Corporation's first Board of Directors.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to this Assembly that I have recently filled the final two seats on this board. These two seats were reserved for individuals selected by the other board members for their specific expertise in the management and operations of large public utilities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like you and this House to welcome with me, Mr. Barry Gessnor and Mr. Bill Shanks to the Board of Directors of the Nunavut Power Corporation and to this Assembly today. Mr. Gessnor, who resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba, brings substantial, Mr. Speaker substantial, expertise in financial management of major electrical utilities. Mr. Shanks, also a native of Manitoba, brings a lifelong experience with operational utilities management and as you know, Mr. Speaker, was involved with the Ikuma Report which we tabled in the Assembly in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, as you know we are now 10 days, 10 days Mr. Speaker, away from the operational launch of our very own Nunavut Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, over the next several days you may expect the release of detailed information about this significant event. Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity along with this House, if you would join me in welcoming these two fine individuals on the Nunavut Power Corporation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Thank you for coming. Welcome to the House. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation ends) Back to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 131– 1(5): Celebration of Spring**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is March 21, and that means that this is the first day of spring, and also Mr. Speaker, the Inuit used to celebrate the days getting longer, and they had spring games and had festivals to celebrate the coming of spring.

We do know that the Inuit and the Qallunaag traditions are very different but we also

know that both Inuit and the Qallunaaq celebrate the days when spring is around the corner, the days are getting longer, the weather is warming up, and they also get together in the communities to celebrate, like they are going to be doing today, both Inuit and Qallunaaq the better days are coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Member's Statement 132 - 1(5): Support for Businesses**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I'll be asking a lot of questions today and I extend my congratulations to you as being Speaker for the day.

The Minister for Sustainable Development, the other day, made a statement about Aaruja Development Corporation in Clyde River and it was something that we were happy to hear about.

I wanted to point out though, that smaller communities have very little new injections of money coming into their communities as we have small populations. We are very pleased that they have set up corporations in Clyde River and Broughton Island, where they will be generating new revenue for the community. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that the development corporations in these two communities, will be supported fully by myself as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

If any new businesses are going to be established, I will be looking forward to the Department of Sustainable Development supporting these new companies, financially and also to make sure that they become viable businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And tomorrow, there will be exciting things that we can look forward to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

### **Member's Statement 133 - 1(5): Traditional Lifestyle Change**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give you a brief overview of the life that Inuit had and what our life is like today. I'm extremely proud that a lot of people come here to observe the sittings of the Legislative Assembly, both the Inuit and the Qallunaaq, it's something that we celebrate, that we should be proud of, while we are in session.

When I was growing up, in the beginning of the 60's we lived in an outpost camp and very few Inuit lived in one camp. We were told that the RCMP were coming in when detachments were being established in the communities.

When I heard that RCMP were coming into our outpost camp, I got extremely scared because I thought that they were going to take me away, and then again with the missionaries, we heard that they were coming in and I got scared and I stayed in the house for the rest of the day.

With that in mind, today's life is totally different now from the days in the 1960's. We live in a totally different environment. We are no longer intimidated by the RCMP or the missionaries because we finally found out that they are not scary. The biggest change of our lifestyle also has been that you need money to live in the community.

It has been a rapid change over these few decades. There has been a dramatic change to the Inuit lifestyle and we have learned to operate in this lifestyle and economy and I think that we should realize that we have a very unique lifestyle in Nunavut. We can make it either a happy life or something negative, it is our choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

#### **Member's Statement 134 - 1(5): Nunavut Youth Abroad**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to also talk about growing up. We thought the world ended at the end of the horizon. The only mode of travel was dog teams and we lived in igloos and snow houses.

In April 1, 1999 it was something to be extremely proud about with the creation of Nunavut and we had young people as pages who worked for us on that significant day. One of them was Gloria Kautaq who is from Tikirajuaq but now has moved to Rankin Inlet and now lives in Ottawa. I received a letter from her and she told me that she was down in Swaziland and had a good time over there. She was there on training with Jeffery Tulugak, who is my nephew. They are now travelling abroad where in our childhood we thought the world ended at the horizon.

I would like to express my support to these young people in their travels. It's called the Nunavut Youth Abroad program, which is geared towards our youth so that they get to know what is happening out there in the world. It is something that we should be extremely proud of whether it is Gloria or Jeff or other youth.

We have to support our youth when they want to further their training and if they are going to be travelling overseas and even if they are travelling nationally within the Canadian boundaries. We have to help them and do all we can so that they can have the proper support. We know that they are going to be the future leaders and they know how big the world is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 135 - 1(5): Translation of Income Tax Forms**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker unfortunately as all members in the House know, it is income tax time again.

Over the past two years I have been communication with the Federal Minister for National Revenue who is in charge of income tax and associated forms. I have, Mr. Speaker, in writing requested that Minister Kaoshaow move forward to have the income tax forms translated into Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Minister indicated that the official languages authorized for said forms are English and French only. I have since suggested that at the very least, Mr. Speaker, and as a start the Northern Allowance taxation deduction forms be translated.

Mr. Speaker, this is a serious issue as Mr. Ng knows who is in charge of income tax from this side the House. It is a serious issue for many of our constituents as filing annual income tax statements on income received is required by tax law.

Mr. Speaker, when you can't read or understand the forms, this compounds and complicates the issue.

Mr. Speaker, we have had some success in our letter writing campaign to Martin Kaoshaow. Mr. Speaker, Revenue Canada last year for the first time opened up their office here in Nunavut, and they set it up, Mr. Speaker, and allowed for the first time, Inuit language capabilities.

Mr. Speaker, it's still not enough, today Mr. Speaker, I will be sending another letter to the Federal Minister, to our MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell, as well as Senator Willie Adams, to again to impress on the federal government the importance of having these forms translated into Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, in my correspondence and conversation with the Honourable Martin Kaoshaow, Mr. Kaoshaow stated that one of the concerns that they had was the ability to have the legal text of the income tax forms translated, and who would authorize that. So I said to the minister at that time in writing then indeed Mr. Speaker, with the support of the federal government in setting up Nunavut, all of our legislation Mr. Speaker, legislation and law is in Inuktitut and if there is a problem with the federal government bringing the forms forward in Inuktitut, I think we could be giving them assistance from the Government of Nunavut, where we actually have those people and that ability in this Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

**Member's Statement 136 - 1(5): Working Language & Customs in the Legislative Assembly**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And welcome, you're a little bit shorter than the other Speaker so you didn't see me, from where I was sitting.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to say that I'm very proud and there are a lot of observers here who used to go to school in Churchill, Manitoba. We were young when we were sent out, and we had to learn the English language.

They had thought that we were going to turn into Qallunaat and we did try to the best of our abilities to become Qallunaat but we are still Inuit today.

I am very proud that we are almost all Inuit and we are using our mother tongue during the proceedings and I'm extremely proud to see some of our former classmates, and I'm very proud that we can have this sitting using our own language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Orders of the Day. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure some of the members have some of their constituents in this group and I'm sure they would like to welcome them to the gallery also.

I would like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, last night we had the final banquet between the NWT Power Corporation, who served Nunavut well over the past several years, but April 1st as I said Mr. Speaker, we are having our Nunavut Power Corporation being set up. And I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the House some of the people involved in the Nunavut Power Corporation as well as our colleagues, friends from the NWT Power Board who are also in town for these important meetings.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I know no stranger to anyone in this House, a good friend of mine, I've known him many years, he always gives me a hard time, he's a great hockey player, Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Nunavut Power Corporation Board, Mr. Simon Merkosak. Simon, please stand up.

>>Applause

Sitting next to Mr. Merkosak, is a man ....

>>Applause

Sitting next to Mr. Merkosak is a man of incomparable abilities, an entrepreneur, a businessperson as well as one of the people that was on the NTPC Board, and I should point out Mr. Speaker, Mr. Merkosak and Mr. Simailak did yeoman's service on the NWT Power Corporation Board and now both of them are heading up our Nunavut Power Corporation.

The Vice-Chair of the Nunavut Power Corporation, the pride of Baker Lake, sorry Mr. McLean, the pride of Baker Lake, Mr. David Simailak.

>>Applause

Also, on the board is a person from Iqaluit, another businessperson, that runs the Grind & Brew Coffee shop, well known throughout I think, Iqaluit, Baffin and in Nunavut, Elisapee Sheutiapik. Elisapee.

>>Applause

Now we also have with us two of our new board members that we introduced earlier. Which is fantastic with their years and years of experience in utilities they are bringing some expertise to our board that we need. Mr. Bill Shanks. Thank you Bill. Also Mr. Barry Gessnor.

>>Applause

Now, Mr. Speaker, anyone who has a board needs staff and I would like to take a chance here and the opportunity just to introduce some of our staff. First of all the Vice-President I believe of operations, who has been running the Baffin operations for the NWT Power Corporation, will be now moving on up to the Nunavut Power Corporation, an excellent individual, a great conversationalist, Mr. Axel Have. Axel.

>>Applause

Coming from the Kitikmeot region, a well known individual to the Members of this House, an excellent person, one of the first hires of the Nunavut Power Corporation, Ms. Clara O'Gorman. Clara.

>>Applause

Our communications person who keeps the messages going and clear, who brought us in co-operation with our communication policy people, the power to the people advertisement, Mr. Jobie Inuya. Jobie.

>>Applause

I would also like to introduce a person who is back in the House, who used to sit right up here at the desk, no stranger to the House, one of the first hires in Baker Lake, was over

there, one of the big reasons for the success that we have had in Baker Lake, with the vision that the Premier talked about, with all the local hires that we have done in Baker Lake, almost 90%. I think that is something that the Nunavut Government should be very proud of.

Sometimes we talk about staff housing issues and everything, if we are going to hire local, we don't need to bring people in from outside, and I think the Power Corporation has demonstrated and shown that. We would like to thank Rhoda Perkison, for her hard work. Rhoda would you stand up please.

>>Applause

I think I forgot one person the President/CEO, also a board member, as I said last night he is affectionately known as the Colonel, a very proud, dominant person, people will recognize him when he stands up, Mr. Rick Blennerhassett. Mr. Blennerhassett.

>>Applause

Now Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take the opportunity to quickly introduce the NTPC Board. Our friends who are over here from the Western Arctic. First of all I would start off by introducing a friend of mine, used to be with Braden Bury Expediting, a businessperson, an all round good guy, Mr. Gordon Stewart. Gordon. The Chair of the Board.

>>Applause

I also would like to introduce Leon Cournoyea, and Leon is no stranger to Iqaluit, or to Nunavut. A long time head of the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Leon Cournoyea.

>>Applause

I would also like to introduce some of the other members and I will call out their names. Tom Zubko.

>>Applause

Another person who is over here with Nunasi Corporation, sometimes the Canadian Airlines, the McDonalds' franchise, an excellent person, Kelly Kaylo. Kelly.

>>Applause

Another long time northerner, well known person Mr. Speaker, on NTPC's board. John Parker. John.

>>Applause

Andy Duvall. Andy. Thank you.

>>Applause

Ted Humphreys.

>>Applause

Eric Shouldice.

>>Applause

Christine Jacko.

>>Applause

Billy Shuman.

>>Applause

Ben Gee.

>>Applause

And finally, but not least, Christina Ford. Christina.

>>Applause

Those are your NTPC and your NPC Boards of Directors and employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to also express recognition and honour to an individual. Knowing that in the past, we did not always agree with the Government of the Northwest Territories at times, but however we worked together and went on to create Nunavut.

I think the driving force, one of the driving forces behind that whole thing was the former commissioner and now, private citizen, but he was always there to listen to the people and I think he was instrumental in making sure that when Nunavut was created that there was no risk and also in dividing up the boundary lines.

So, I would like to pay special tribute to John Parker, a long time friend of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Thank you.



>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were starting to have our first sitting in the Legislative Assembly for Nunavut we came here with no prior knowledge of procedures that we could follow through as MLAs. Some of us could not speak any English and not knowing any of the legislation that was all written in English and it was very difficult for us.

This lady worked very hard for us. Rhoda Perkison helped us to understand the system that we had to work with and it was very quick for us to learn because of the way she taught us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I hardly ever recognize any of our visitors in the Legislative Assembly but at this time I would like to recognize a person from Pond Inlet who is visiting here with us who is also board member for the Nunavut Power Corporation, Simon Merkosak.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Picco passed me a quick note, he missed one individual that is here with the Power Corporation group and that is Mr. Carl Bird who is with GNWT Finance out of Yellowknife. Good department.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Ng. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 153 - 1(5): Nunavut Tourism Funding**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

In regards to the Tourism Association in Nunavut, how is their organization funded. Is it

similar to the Yukon and Northwest Territories funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everyone. At this time our funding to support Nunavut Tourism is at the maximum, we fund and support them as much as we can. I will explain further when I am at the witness table under the Department of Sustainable Development budget. We have designed it for Nunavut and not by comparing it to the Yukon or the NWT.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding formula for the Tourism Association is quite different from other tourism associations. Is the budget for Nunavut tourism industry set up so that there will be enough for the organization to operate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are working on a partnership program to deal with tourism issues in our area. We are working with the governments of the Yukon and the NWT on how we can co-operate in this sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious that the tourism industry in Nunavut, especially people who are hosting tourists in our region is extremely important. Can the minister find better ways to make use of the tourism funding, not just the administrative activities of the association, but give more to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are waiting for audited statements from the Tourism Association so we can move forward. We will be looking for ways to organize local tourism businesses and local aspects of the tourism industry. We will be looking at how we can support the tourism industry locally so that they can make better use of this funding in Nunavut.

We will be looking at the funding and then decide on exactly what is the best way to approach this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that this is my final supplementary.

>>*Laughter*

Is the department going to be working with other departments perhaps the Department of Transportation, so that the local businesses and the hospitality industry will be able to work towards a more successful industry.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we'll be working with the stakeholders, and perhaps Nunavut Tunngavik will be working with us, we've always been working with Nunavut Tunngavik dealing with the tourism industry and they have assisted us in developing some of the policies required for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Question 154 - 1(5): Workers' Compensation Board Coverage for Hunters & Trappers**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure who will answer this question, it's about the Workers' Compensation Board.

The minister announced earlier that they'll be sharing some of the responsibilities of the Workers' Compensation Board with the Government of NWT and they'll be transferring the responsibilities here on September 31st, 2003.

Can the minister advise us about the recent review on the Workers' Compensation Board. It affects the regions greatly and also the operations of the Nunavut Government on the responsibilities that will be transferred to the Nunavut Government, when will that be happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've entered into an extension of the shared responsibility for the Workers' Compensation Board. The Government of the NWT along with the Government of Nunavut will continue to have a shared Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the answer. The Workers' Compensation Board deals with people who are earning income through wages, and how are you going to be dealing with those involved in hunting and fishing activities,

how will they be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the harvester's coverage continues on, the Department of Sustainable Development funds coverage for harvesters, if they were to be injured while trying to derive income from harvesting activities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Who is responsible for hunters' and trappers' coverage, is it the Nunavut Government or NWT Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are, the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I heard that the government is responsible for hunters' and trappers' coverage. Is there a written agreement, anything to deal with this particular responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu that was your final supplementary. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

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

### **Question 155 - 1(5): Fuel Assistance for Outpost Camps**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During a member's statement recently, I stated that I was going to bring up some questions to the Minister of DSD.

I talked about outpost camps and the fact that they receive some assistance, some money, but this money has decreased since we became a government. I think the assistance they receive is too small. I think they receive 50 dollars to transport their fuel each year.

It is a lot of work to bring fuel to the outpost camps I am wondering if there could be some more funds available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to keep saying this but we are presently reviewing the assistance that is provided for harvesters and I stated during an earlier ministers' statement that we are looking at different ideas on how to assist the harvesters.

It is called the Harvester's Support Program. I would just like to state that we are presently reviewing it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will smile. I was told to smile.

The minister replied by saying that it is being reviewed and we understand this differently or we could interpret it differently. To review something it is just looking at the document and my constituency, I interpret it differently so once the review is done in the year 2001 and 2002 once the review is done will the support for outpost camps be increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say when the review would be completed. We say the word "review" differently in Inuktitut so during my minister's statement I talked about the Harvester's Support Policy Review and once the review is done we will look at how we can better support the outpost camps and the harvesters in Nunavut. I can't say whether we can increase the amount that is given, but we will know better after the review is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister said that there is a review being started. When are they going to start the review.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the questionnaires were sent to the communities. So the communities should be receiving them in the mail shortly. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Irqittuq this is going to be your final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once this is complete, will we be able to find out if the support will be increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The review that is going

to be done, we can't say now whether we will increase the assistance until the review is done. So once it has been completed we will be able to inform you and the other members whether that is going to be decided. That information will be given to you once it is done. Thank you.

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

**Question 156 – 1(5): Name of Akitsiraq Law School**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. I asked him questions about the name of the Akitsiraq Law School. Has he researched the name of the law school, as he said he would. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we looked into the name of the law school and it wasn't put together by the Department of Justice. A committee from outside of the government named the law school.

I looked into this and found that the name of the law school was derived that way and so we would just like to leave it as it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): The name, Akitsiraq, I said earlier that it might be incorrect and the minister was going to look into this. Has he looked into whether it is incorrect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has different meanings, I guess for different dialects. I looked into what it means but we are already using that name for the law school and I would just like to leave it as it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Not a question but, I understand that but he is not going to review this or look into this further and I will not bring it up to him again but I will be expecting to get more clarification later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Nutarak . Mr. Minister would you like to comment on that. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have stated that we are presently calling the law school Akitsiraq and if we were to change it I think it would

confuse people so later on I think we would be able to review it again or look at the name and see if it needs to be changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

**Question 157 - 1(5): Summer Student Employment Outside GN**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little dull around here today, so my question today is to the Premier. This is the third year in a row I stood up and asked this question at the same time of year.

It is regarding our summer student employment. Can somebody on the other side of the House and I am directing this question to the Premier, have they come up with any kind of plan to employ summer students this year outside of the government.

In previous years, they used to fund through community government, through other departments with a fifty percent contribution to the hamlet to hire recreation leaders and people with the housing associations and various other organizations.

Does this government have a plan yet, to hire some summer students outside of the regular government of Nunavut personnel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Premier. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A good question the member raised. I remember when the member raised that issue during the first budget of 1999, as you may recall, we tried to scramble to put together something but we were a bit late.

Last year we had an actual, as members may recall in the budget speech, it was an announcement of summer student employment programs outside of Government of Nunavut and unfortunately, there was not a high uptake of that program from my recollection.

In this coming fiscal year Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that we put it back in because of the low uptake from the previous year. But I will just to make sure, check with the responsible minister who I believe may be myself, Mr. Speaker, and find out if that is the case and if not and there is a required need we can certainly try to be flexible in trying to address that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Ng. If you are going to redirect a question, please notify me. Thank you. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That may be my fault, Mr. Speaker, for asking the Premier but like I say this is the third year in a row I have been asking this question.

In previous years it used to be a federal contribution agreement to the municipalities to

provide 50% to outside agencies like the private sector. I think there was 75% to municipalities and I know in previous years in Baker Lake that we hired 10 to 15 summer students to work in the recreation field or to go out and take a census. It was a make work project.

So could the minister commit to notifying myself and the municipalities that this program is there that is available for municipalities that want to go out and put some of these high school students in grade 10, 11, 12 to work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not quite at our two-year anniversary yet, so I don't know how he could have brought it up three years in a row...

>>*Laughter, applause*

...but anyway, Mr. Speaker, I do recognize the validity of what the member is raising and we will check out what federal programs there are and if we can certainly contribute or else make sure that information is going to be available to municipalities, housing authorities, other non-profit organizations. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 158 – 1(5): Alternative Sentencing Committees**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. My question is about the Justice Committees in the communities. They are the way that the department is connected to the communities, in much the same way that education authorities are a connection with the Department of Education.

I wonder if the minister could update us on what is happening with the Justice Committees and how they are supporting the committees in recognizing the fact that they have a very important function. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we realize that definitely they do positive work in the communities. We did not feel that the money that they receive was adequate and this has also been communicated to me. This year during the budget session we will look at their funding again, because they do a lot of work in the communities. They have a very important role in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that they will



be giving more money. Have they thought about providing adequate meeting places or adequate office space. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as we discussed in the committee meeting, some of them are able to find adequate meeting spaces and we will be looking into better meeting spaces where they don't have one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to further ask the minister to tell us how many people have been dealt with rather than going through the courts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I can not give further numbers because there's been a lot of people have gone through these Justice Committees in the communities and I could reply to her in a written response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Question 159 - 1(5): Special Education Teachers**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education.

In communities, there are people who have disabilities such as those that are deaf and mute, or other disabilities, I just wondered how those individuals would be getting some tutoring assistance in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding those people with disabilities from the kindergarten and the higher grades, when they need some assistance in the school, they are often assisted by our department by bringing people that can teach those kinds of things for disabled students. This is done due to the shortage of specialists in Nunavut, depending on the type of disability that they have. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ones that have those

kinds of disabilities in the Nunavut area, I just wondered if the department has thought about hiring individuals to go around to communities to teach people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just about a week ago, I'm happy to say Mr. Speaker, the Council For the Disabled was here recently in town for a conference discussing this and other issues. We will be working with those individuals to see what kinds of assistance people of Nunavut can get in the schools, for people with disabilities. And we will be working with the council to deal with those kinds of things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, thank you for the clear response from the minister. Supplementary Mr. Speaker. There are people that are mute in the communities and they have to be assisted by special teachers that deal with the deaf and mute.

The reason why I am asking these questions is because there should be teachers for the disabled mute and deaf people in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not forgotten those people with disabilities and we will do our best to help them as much as possible by bringing in people that can teach those people with disabilities of that kind.

Our teachers do not diagnose which students they have, that have disabilities. We will work closely with the Department of Health, and the doctors once they find out which students have disabilities and then we can bring in professionals to teach those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Final supplementary.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are teachers that are outside of Nunavut and also some within Nunavut. Have you done any review as to whether it is less expensive to hire outside or inside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, perhaps if I could say to the member that indeed we do have limited amounts of funds and we try to do it in the best and most efficient way

We now have the Council for the Disabled for Nunavut and we will be working with them to see how we can best provide dollars to properly work with those children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 160 – 1(5): Resource Development Agreement**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. Last year when the minister spoke about the budget, he said that he was going to negotiate a memorandum or agreement for resource development in Nunavut. I wonder if the minister can tell us what work has been done to date on resource development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Minister of Finance. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been some initial discussions in trying to develop a framework for what issues we will try to transfer and in trying to develop a potential timeline in which to undertake the negotiations and assumption of responsibilities. So there have been some very preliminary discussions at this stage with some officials. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask a further question, I may make a mistake, but if so please let me know. In Quttiktuq, PanArctic has been working to explore for gas and petroleum products.

What plans are in place at this time, or is there anything in place to co-ordinate the exploration or resource development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't speak of any specific plans, it is not the government's responsibility to do that. There is private sector interest of course, they would approach right now the federal government, or if it were on land, there would obviously be involvement from the Nunavut Impact Review Board and through NTI depending on the location of the land and where people might want to undertake the exploration.

So there are certain processes that are involved depending on the specifics. I can't speak of any specific application that might be there or not unless the member has more detailed information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the minister's response. Last year in the news, I believe, we heard that the federal government made an announcement about the some exploration projects that were going to be happening in the High Arctic.

I'm not really sure if the Nunavut Government is involved in this. I think there was a stop put to the exploration at that time, so I'm not really sure what's happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again if the member has specifics, we can try to find out what actual information is, but generally, I'm not sure what project this is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have any correspondence but I just heard about it in the High Arctic. I heard through the media, they were thinking about doing exploration in the High Arctic.

Perhaps there has been a stop put to this, so I'm not really sure about it, so that's why I'm asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member may be referring to a proposal call from the federal government to see if there was an interest in exploration. I'm not sure if that's what he's referring to, but if it is, I understand that was not a formal request for exploration and permits.

Maybe the member can speak to me after the session if there's any specific information he wants to have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

### **Question 161 - 1(5): Hall Beach School Update**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct a question to the Minister of Education.

The capital estimates have been completed by the House, our school needs an addition and thank you that there is some funding set aside for the design for our school. However, in the 5-year plan, there is no money set aside, exactly what is going to happen with the extension of our school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was some money put aside for the design and the planning of the school extension for 75% of it in 1998-1999, but it was delayed during the division of Nunavut and NWT.

The member is right that there is nothing in the budget for that extension of the school but with the planning that we have, at this time, in 2002-2003, if there is some money it may be provided for the construction and completion of the extension of the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister just stated that if the money were set aside for that project then construction of the project would proceed in 2002 or 2003.

I would like to ask the minister what he means when he says " if the money is set aside ". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the budget for the new schools had been significantly increased from the previous year. The increases were targeted for renovations and additions, with Education as a priority. We are continuing to proceed under the plan for 2002 and 2003 for the beginning of the construction of the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am pleased with the minister's response on the construction for 2002 and 2003. However, I just wanted to get some clarification about his first comment.

He said if money is set aside, which to me also seems to imply if none is forthcoming the project might be further delayed. Is that the intent of the answer, " if money is set aside ". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the specific question that the member is posing in the case of the Hall Beach project, it had been planned for quite a while and the final plans completed for the most part now. As a result of the progress made up to today I would like to say to him right now that the construction of this project will be our priority. That is, if there is any money left over or carried over it will be put in that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Irqittuq your final supplementary.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again the minister responded by saying that “if there is any money left over”, then the school would be built. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask if the construction will actually commence in 2002/2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if no unforeseen events beyond the control of the government take place, the construction will indeed get underway in the year it is planned for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 162 - 1(5): Six Hundred Unfilled Positions**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, out of 2,789 positions within the Government of Nunavut, 2,195 are filled, that leaves roughly 600 PY's not filled, so my question today is to the Minister of Human Resources.

Out of those 600 positions that are not filled, what is stopping them from being filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Human Resources. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an ongoing recruitment process in respect of advertising and doing the screening and carrying out the interviews and those are the main issues really in trying to get people to accept job offers.

It continues to be actively pursued and as you note, the percentages are moving up, so there is progress being made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Koanna Uqaqti. Uqaqti, are any of these positions not being filled because of the unavailability of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No not as of today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Koanna, Uqaqti. Will there be a shortage of staff housing a year from now

and some of these positions will not be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if he is asking me a hypothetical question there which I wouldn't be able to answer, it would be my opinion. But Mr. Speaker, I would say that we are trying to address the issues of staff housing requirements as it relates to staffing up our positions.

As members do know, in some communities we have a bit more flexibility than others. So it is a matter of trying to balance those needs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Koanna Uqaqti. Uqaqti, I wonder if the minister would commit to this House that if there is a serious need for staff housing a few years from now, could the minister commit that the Government of Nunavut will not build or own staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all Mr. Speaker, I am not the minister responsible for staff housing, a very capable minister. I know that she is undertaking a review of the exact staff housing situation as it relates to our employees.

From a broader perspective as Chairman of the Financial Management Board, obviously whatever avenue is used to address staff housing needs, it has to be cost effective. So there will be all sorts of factors that will have to be taken into consideration when making a final decision.

I believe the member used up his final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Sorry, that was your final, I am sorry. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Question 163 – 1(5): Elders' Societies**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I think that there are elders' societies in most of the communities. Are they all operational. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question posed by the member. The elders' societies in the communities have not communicated

much me, but I do think that they are operational. I have not heard of any problems from the communities so I assume they are operating smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Are you going to be having an elders conference some time in the future, somewhere, possibly in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay or in Pond Inlet for that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be nice to have a Nunavut-wide elders conference. The Kivalliq elders are going to be having a meeting in Coral Harbour starting on March 21, today. In the Baffin region it will be on March 26. In the Kitikmeot area we are currently looking at the people that are going to be setting up the conference. They do not have an elders co-ordinator in the Kitikmeot, so I am not sure when the elders will be meeting in that region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Will all the Baffin communities be represented at the elders' conference for the Baffin region, , or are you just going to be taking representatives from the larger communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the elders' conferences we usually try to get a representative from each of the communities in the respective regions. There will be representation of all regional communities at the regional conferences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

#### **Question 164 – 1(5): Staff Housing for Decentralization**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is my day. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance, regarding decentralization of government jobs.

I believe it was last year or last fall we were told that they were sometimes putting government employees up in hotels because of a lack of staff housing. I would like the minister to clarify this point and let us know if the lack of staff housing is causing a problem in recruiting staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.



**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, right now we are able to provide staff housing for those that require it. It depends on which community again, that the member refers to. There are instances where individuals are placed in commercial accommodation while they are waiting for their personal effects.

Maybe while they are waiting for their house to be prepared if someone has been in it prior and it needed renovations or whatever. So there are examples of individuals that would be accommodated in private accommodations. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not asking about only one particular community. I am talking about Nunavut Government employees as a whole, because of course, we have to hire people that will work in the decentralized communities. Are there currently any problems with the lack of staff housing in any of the communities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Generally, Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, no. But I mean there are certain communities that have more pressures on them because they have more vacancies and needs that are more direct. As members know, with the decentralization targeted at decentralized communities, it is being phased in, so there is a bit more flexibility and a lot of the staff housing is available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the staff housing being built in the decentralized communities cannot meet the number of employees that are going into the communities. Mr. Speaker, are we not going to run into problems as the positions are being filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is what I referred to earlier, that the minister responsible is undertaking an assessment of staff housing requirements throughout Nunavut and trying to come up with solutions, if there are short or longer-term requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that brings up a question. Is the Minister responsible for staff housing the only one who knows what kinds of problems we have with staff housing, whether we can meet the demands or not.

Is she the only one who knows where we stand with staff housing. Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the minister responsible is very knowledgeable as members know, but it is outside of just her department. Although her department has overall responsibility, of course, decentralization secretariat under the Premier, because of the positions going there, Human Resources, myself because of the staffing requirements.

So other departments, because of their needs for staffing as well, it is government wide, it is just that the minister responsible, her department, Public Works and Services has the direct responsibility for staff housing.

So I thank the member for his very good questions and that was the end of question period. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. The time is up for question period. Moving on to the Orders of the Day. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 011 – 1(5): Kivalliq Partners**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my written question today is for the Minister of Sustainable Development. Uqaqti;

1. How many employees does Kivalliq Partners in Development have on payroll.
2. How much does it cost the Government of Nunavut for this function.
3. How many staff in Kivalliq Partners are on the Government of Nunavut payroll.
4. What are the specific duties of the employees of the Kivalliq Partners on Government of Nunavut payroll.
5. Do the Board members of Kivalliq Partners receive an honorarium.
6. If they do, how much per day do they receive.
7. If they did, how much honorarium was paid out last year in total.
8. What are the travel costs of Kivalliq Partners in Development per year.
9. How much outside of Nunavut travel did they spend in the year 1999-2000.
10. Will the minister give me complete details of all sources of revenue from outside agencies and how much.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Written Questions. Written Questions. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions.

We will go on. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 017 – 1(5): Letter from Prime Minister regarding Gun Legislation**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document. The letter requested by the now Speaker of the House, from the Prime Minister, regarding the gun legislation. I apologize for the delay, it was being translated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

#### **Tabled Document 018 – 1(5): GN Employment Statistics**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table the employment statistics for the Government of Nunavut as of December 31, 2000, broken out by department and by community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. We will go on. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills.

Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 3 - Utility Rate Review Council Act – Second Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East that Bill 3, Utility Rate Review Council Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes a review council that will have the ability to review and provide expert advice to ministers in cabinet on prices, rates and tariffs for goods and services provided by a variety of utilities. This bill will also replace the existing Public Utilities Board with an independent process that provides for public involvement in the review of rates and tariffs that affect Nunavummiut.

The Review Council process is a unique concept that reflects the situation in Nunavut and the requirements of this government to have an independent and public system to review utility rates and other rates and tariffs paid by Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee.

Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, I think that members will agree that we take a 45 minute break. Thank you.

I am sorry, I forgot something here. Please join me in the Tuktu room for lunch.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House recessed at 11.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.53 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Good afternoon colleagues, welcome back. We will be reviewing the budget for the Department of Public Works and Services. We will start the committee of the whole, main estimates 2001-2002. Ms. Williams what is the wish of the committee.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to review the main estimates, Bill 1, Appropriation Act 2001-2002 and also the capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Does the committee agree that we will be considering Bill 1, Appropriation Act, Department of Public Works and Services, main and capital estimates. Could the minister do her opening comments please.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't eat well because I left in a hurry. That's okay. Thank you I will be speaking in Inuktitut because we were told to try and speak our own first language yesterday when I was in Rankin.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make some introductory remarks on the 2001-2002 budget for the Department of Public Works and Services.

I will introduce my staff to you later. Sorry I passed that section. For 2001-2002, Public Works and Services has a total budget of 92.6 million which consists of 86.3 million for operations and maintenance and 6.2 million for capital projects. Our new budget has an increase of 5.3 million over our budget for 2000-2001. This increase is mainly due to new leases for staff housing and client department program delivery spaces, such as the new

Arviat Health Centre, the centralization of telephone payments for the Government of Nunavut and an increase in the use of informatics networks.

To update you on our staffing levels, Mr. Chairman, my department has a total 202 funded positions for the new fiscal year. This is down from 212 positions to reflect the transfer of technical positions to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Currently at headquarters 67% of our positions have been filled, while staffing capacity is at 56% in the Baffin, 83% in the Kivalliq and 64% in the Kitikmeot. A higher rate of Inuit employment remains a key goal for Public Works and Services. As of February 28, 2001, our departmental Inuit employment rate was 48%. While we have made some progress, the staffing of technical and Information Technology positions locally continues to be a challenge.

(interpretation ends) The combined salaries and operations budget includes 6.3 million for the Directorate. The Directorate includes the Deputy Minister's office and Corporate Services Division at headquarters. In the regions, the Directorate includes the Regional Director and the Finance and Administration Services Section. The Directorate is responsible for the Senior Management of the Department as well as advice, assistance, planning and implementation of human resources, finance and policy functions of the department. In addition, it provides government wide leadership in records management policy and procedures development and implementation.

Four point three million for Technical Services, which provides planning, design and management services for government projects carried out on behalf of client departments, assists clients in identifying their long term capital requirements and operational guidelines and develops government-wide technical standards for infrastructure.

Sixty three point three million for Operations. This division manages the GN's inventory of owned and leased facilities and the allocation of space, conducts inspections and reviews of existing and planned facilities to ensure compliance with mechanical/electrical codes and standards, purchases goods and administers the Eastern Arctic Sealift on behalf of the government. In consultation with clients, develops, implements and monitors contracting policies and procedures including the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti (NNI) Policy and develops contracting guidelines and procedures.

Eleven point two million of the O&M budget has been allocated to our Informatics Operations Division for the operation and maintenance of the GN data and voice networks. This includes Network Operations Centres in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, support centres in six secondary communities and office systems for all departments in over 50 buildings throughout Nunavut.

In support of decentralization, my department has been allocated 1.2 million for phase 2. We will be involved in the ordering of new office furnishings, the transport of new and existing office equipment and furnishings and the installation of new communication systems in the communities.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware the Petroleum Products Division is responsible for providing fuel to the communities of Nunavut. In 2001-2002, PPD has been allocated 5.2 million in capital funds for the maintenance and enhancement of bulk fuel storage facilities in communities across Nunavut.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, Public Works and Services has been allocated another 1 million capital for much needed upgrades to GN facilities.

My department continues to support the GN's Community Transfer Initiative, (CTI). Under this initiative the GN transfers ownership and/or responsibility for the maintenance of GN assets to community governments.

(interpretation) In October, my department signed an agreement with the community of Gjoa Haven under the CTI. It is my understanding that Gjoa Haven is doing an excellent job in managing their own affairs and I am proud that my department has provided its support. I look forward to entering into similar agreements with interested communities to further community capacity building.

Finally, as my colleagues are aware, the Canadian Coast Guard – Arctic Office's role in the administration of the Eastern Arctic Sealift program expired at the end of the 2000 shipping season. As a result, my department is currently preparing a contract to provide the sealift function which will include consolidating orders, marine transportation and delivery of goods. A contract should be in place by mid March and I anticipate that this will represent a reduction in costs from previous years. My department will continue to look for innovative and cost effective ways of doing business in the north.

(interpretation) I believe the initiatives that are being undertaken by my department will support us as we strive to become more efficient in our operations and the services that we provide to our clients. I hope these comments have been informative and will help you in your deliberations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. I will now ask the committee chair to do his opening comments. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Public Works and Services for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the issue of staff housing has been of great concern to Members of this Assembly. Our government faces many challenges when it comes to the hiring and retention of staff, and the lack of sufficient staff housing units adds to this challenge.

The Standing Committee was pleased to see that funds have been set aside for new leases for staff housing units in the upcoming fiscal year. We were also pleased to hear that the minister has committed to tabling the department's staff housing policy that was recently approved, in principle, by cabinet. The committee is looking forward to reading this policy when it is tabled.

The committee has noted, Mr. Chairman that the minister has yet to table the Petroleum Products Division Operational Review. The committee also noted that the Department of Finance's business plan states that it will be undertaking a review of subsidy programs for various utility services, one of which will be the fuel subsidy program.

Another report, the Ikuma Report, also makes recommendations regarding the Petroleum Products Division. There appears to be an overlap between the department's review and the others that have been mentioned. The committee would like to emphasize the need to coordinate these reviews and develop a long-term plan to establish a more efficient and effective PPD operation.

The committee would like to suggest that the Petroleum Products Division would be well served to be included in the government's major program review exercise that was announced in both the opening address and the budget address.

In its review of the department's budget estimates, the committee noted that the total expenditures of the Informatics Branch from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2002 will exceed 37 million.

The committee also noted that in the most recent supplementary appropriation, 5.8 million has been appropriated for IT operations. Large supplementary appropriations have also been made in previous years. The committee is concerned with what appears to be a lack of thorough budget planning for IT operations and we will be seeking a detailed explanation of costs in these areas.

The committee was pleased to hear that community capacity building is moving forward in Nunavut and we would like to congratulate the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven on its recent signing of a Community Transfer Initiative agreement with the department.

The committee is encouraged to see the government promoting the principle of self-reliance as set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the NNI Policy is approaching the first anniversary of its implementation. The committee noted that the NNI Policy states that: "A Contracting Policy Review Committee, consisting of representatives appointed by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, shall be established to review the implementation of the Policy...at least on an annual basis."

During the committee's meetings with the department, the minister indicated that a six-

month review was underway and the committee raised several concerns, for the minister's consideration, regarding the application of this Policy.

The committee looks forward to an update on both the previous and upcoming reviews of the NNI Policy as well as an update on who has been named to the Contracting Policy Review Committee and the Contracting Appeals Board that were established under the policy.

The committee has expressed its support for the transfer of responsibility for the Eastern Arctic Sealift from the Canadian Coast Guard to the Government of Nunavut. This transfer enables our government to better serve its people.

The minister has stated that the cost of this service will be considerably lower than in previous years. The committee would also like to recommend that a review of the costs take place following the upcoming sealift season to confirm whether these cost savings have indeed been realized and that the minister will report these findings to the Assembly in the fall session.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I am sure that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2001-2002 budget estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Madam Minister, I would like to ask the committee if the minister's witnesses could come forward to join her at the witness table. Sergeant-at-Arms please bring in the witnesses. Thank you. Madam Minister could you please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Ross Mrazek, Deputy Minister for Public Works and on my left is Patrick Galbraith, manager of finance and administration in Public Works and Susan Muckpa is also here with Petroleum Products and you will probably have a lot of questions for Roy Green who is with Petroleum Products.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Welcome. Madam Minister we are now going to be dealing with Public Works.

I would now like to draw the member's attention to the capital plan for Public Works page 6-5 which is overall details of expenditures. Members can make general comments for up to ten minutes. Are there any members wishing to make general comments.

If there are no members wishing to make general comments we will go into Public Works and Services expense summary.

Page 6-6 Technical Services. We were to start on 6-5 but we will start on 6-6. Total



capital expenditures, 1 million 80 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn the page, 6-7 Public Works and Services, we are going to be dealing with the details.

On page 6-6. If you go to the back of the document 6-8. I am just clarifying to see if there are any comments on these items. James.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is different. Does this include the offices that we rent.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. We'll get to that Mr. Arvaluk. We are on capital estimates. I am sorry I did not clarify that at the beginning. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman I would like to go back to 6-7. The total Qikiqtaaluk region is 870 thousand. There is a computer room for 100 thousand dollars. Where is this computer room located. Is it for all of Nunavut or I would just like to get clarification on where it is located.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): In the capital estimates page 6-7. Total Qikiqtaaluk region, 870 thousand. Madam Minister would you like to respond.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was totally confused as to where you were. Can you wait a minute.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are now dealing with Public Works and Services.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): I was not sure. I was looking at the main estimates and we are in capital estimates.

The question is to do with 6-7 computer room and it is in Iqaluit. I think that is the question, I will get Mr. Galbraith to respond. It is for computer equipment I think but I will get Mr. Galbraith to respond.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Galbraith.

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Baffin region we have a roof replacement 770 thousand for the Brown Building for much needed repairs as it is leaking.

For the computer room it is an expansion in the Brown Building, for much needed new servers that will be brought in from the Federal Building and another area to centralize the computer room. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I am sorry I did not pronounce your name correctly but I will try my best. Mr. Nutarak did you want to continue. No. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the computer room is used, or they are getting equipment and her staff stated that the computers need to be expanded. Could you clarify what they are really doing up at the Brown Building.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Madam Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff, the response that Mr. Galbraith just stated it is correct. I just want to state that his comments or response was correct.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Madam Minister. The Department of Public Works on the capital estimates and main estimates are quite hard to understand. They are quite confusing.

When it just states computer room, you do not know what they are doing to the computer room so if you go to page 6-8 it just states equipment acquisition and it does not state what equipment they are acquiring.

Also on page 6-10 it says ESA remediation, capacity code upgrade. I would not know what that meant or what it was for. I think the Department of Public Works and Services should clarify each item.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. We will start to clarify what each item is and explain better. I understand where you are coming from and so I will agree to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on 870 thousand, Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. Are there any other comments.

Please turn the page to 8-9. Public Works and Services, branch summary, Petroleum Products Division. Total capital expenditures, 5 million 165 thousand. Any questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get some clarification under 5 million 165 thousand. This branch acquires, stores and distributes petroleum products to those communities in Nunavut that are not serviced by the private sector.

So, outside of Iqaluit, anything outside of Iqaluit, will cost Public Works 5 million 186 thousand for all of Nunavut to put petroleum products into 27 communities. Is that how we understand it. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Petroleum Products is distributed in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Resolute Bay by private contractors. The other communities are through the PPD and through the contractors who are engaged in business with the PPD.

The 5 million 165 thousand is related to the capital plans and improvement of the existing facilities which are under the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** So, this 5 million 165 thousand dollars follows the 6-11, 6-12. If so I want to go through this first before we deal with that 6-9. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I think the member is asking to go to 6-10 first, public works and services branch summary, petroleum products division. Buildings and works, total headquarters region 455 thousand dollars. Are there any questions from the members. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Carried. Turning the page. Petroleum products division, page 6-11. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Mr. Chairman, that 455 thousand dollars, but we did not deal with anything else under the bottom of the 455 thousand dollars. That's what I was waiting for you to deal with. If 6-11 is part of that, part of the 6-10, then I'll ask questions on 6-10 and 6-11. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're almost to the page where you want to ask the question. Baffin Region, 3 million 40 thousand dollars, Qikiqtaaluk. I think that's where you have your question. If members have any questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think we can argue too much about the contents or at least the amount but here we go again. I have a problem, it's a problem with translations, it's more about trying to understand the meanings of those methods used to. I know that this is the capital budget and this is how they write it. If you're talking about details, then, 160 thousand dollars for example on page 6-10, Arctic Bay, increased capacity code upgrade, okay. So, it looks like the tank is being expanded outwards somehow so that it could hold more fuel and to thicken the wall so that it can be stronger for code upgrade.

Is there any way that public works can tell us in a very simple form like, are you building a new tank. Are you putting a new dyke. What are we doing here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can get into the detail of Arctic Bay increased capacity code upgrades. It's in regards to the tank farm over there but we can't provide you with the details on the substantiation sheet for that but this is why we have questions to us I guess so that we can provide details but I understand the frustration of the member. It's hard enough to try to translate technical sentences.

It's also difficult to try to include all the details in the capital budget for that specific area but we can come up with better wording if the member wants us to do so in next budget. We'll do that. I'll ask Mr. Galbraith to go to that specific area and just explain what the detail is for that.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Perhaps maybe if the questions are responded to in a proper manner and the person asking the question could ask the question in a clear manner. Thank you.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not asking for detailed information regarding Arctic Bay. I am talking about Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach, Qikiqtarjuaq, Sanikiluaq, everybody. It is in the same jargon that they use to try to say something that what they are doing in those communities.

It is so hard, I mean, is it so hard to say exactly what they are doing in those words, like for example, new tanks. What's wrong with saying new tanks or repairing the old tanks for 160 thousand for example is what I would like see. Instead of saying increase capacity, includes capacity, everything includes capacity but what are they really doing. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Which of your officials is going to answer the question. Mr. Galbraith.

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the honourable member that our descriptions in the capital are not as clear as they could be. To make it more precise to a person that is not in the technical field, specifically in the Arctic Bay situation. That is a study that will be done in Arctic Bay to determine the need for future tank increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I really appreciate that because if I was from Arctic Bay I would be expecting 160 thousand and new tanks or make the tanks bigger in fact what they are trying to say is that is the tank in that community will be big enough for the next 3, 4, 5

year capital plans that they are studying right now for 160 thousand.

In that case, I would appreciate it that other places like this could be explained so that real members can communicate with their mayors and say here is what they brought to us in the House. I will be asking a few questions what we said about it and if I do not know exactly what it is then it becomes problematic. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The individuals who come from that constituency or that community we will explain what the meaning of the, what it means in the main estimates. As soon as I ask my officials they give an explanation of what it means and I could also go to each member to explain to them what it means in the main estimates.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure the minister realizes that the minister knows that there are a lot of departments in the Nunavut Government. All the Members of the Legislative Assembly have to deal with the Main Estimates and we do not always like to ask too many questions of each department.

We have a lot of departments to deal with and I just want to make sure that the minister realizes that we have to know what they mean in the Main Estimates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. I just want to clarify what Mr. Arvaluk is talking about.

Will they be getting increase capacity code upgrade. Are they going to expand the oil tanks or are going to build a new one or will they make more than one oil tank in the community...

So, what I'm saying as well, following Mr. Arvaluk's comments is that we would like to have those explanations clarified so we can understand what the department is talking about. Thank you.

I wanted some explanation as well in regard to that. James already had his question. Turning to page 6-11. Various, Qikiqtaaluk, 3 million 40 thousand dollars. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Under 6-11, under various, Qikiqtaaluk, 100 thousand dollars. It says install outdoor measurers in Inuktitut. Can you explain what that means. Are they going to be checking how the weather is outside or...

>>*Laughter*

I wanted to find out what that means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manikot Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't understand it myself so, perhaps I can explain, these are the metres that are attached on oil tanks. They have to be installed and I'll get Mr. Mrazek to explain exactly how they're installed or what they're about so you can get better clarification. I'll give it to Mr. Mrazek. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try. This is a very complex technical project and I will try accomplish that under two minutes or less. As you know, every dispensing facility, before you stick the nozzle into the gas tank or oil tank, has the meter behind it. It used to be that the meter was installed and the meter was working regardless of whether is -40 or +20. It was indicating the same quantity of the fuel. Now with the temperature-compensating meter, the meter will take into effect the outside temperature and actually the temperature of the fuel and then properly distribute it. So what that means is using the ordinary meter, it will give you same amount, regardless of the temperature.

But with the compensating meter, you are automatically compensated for the temperature. So from that point, the purchaser who buys the fuel is getting exactly one litre or gallon or whatever he is getting from that point and therefore, we're minimizing the losses which have been incurred for the last number of years. Basically, giving more fuel than is one litre from that point based on the temperature. I hope I'm clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I now understand that these meters are going to be outside. They're going to be put on the tanks. I think that it would have been better if it was made clear in the estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. I think he got the response. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Keewatin and the Baffin and the Kitikmeot. I think 25 thousand dollars for the Kitikmeot, totalling 225 thousand to put in these meters. That is probably because you were losing too much fuel.

You fill up the tank and we used to lose money because of the shrinkage of the product. We lost approximately a quarter of a million dollars with this compression and you had to put in those meters because of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the fuel basically expands based on the temperature and to minimize this shrinkage and some portion of the operation and the losses the need for the temperature-compensating meter is absolutely needed. They have been installed down south all over the Canada and the United States for many, many years.

They are not exactly cheap but they are definitely working and there is a proper way to do it because we are minimizing the loss of the fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. That was a clear explanation. We are still on 3 million 40 thousand. Any other questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Keewatin, 550 thousand. Any questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kitikmeot 1 million 120 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total capital expenditures, 5 million 165 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total capital expenditures, 5 million 165 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page number 6-12 is an information item and then we will go back to Petroleum Products 6-9. Total capital expenditures, 5 million 165 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We will go back to page 6-5. Public Works and Services, program delivery, detail of expenditures. Total capital expenditure, 6 million 245 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We are now done with the Public Works and Services capital estimates. We will then go back to the main estimates.

Page 6-6. We are on the main estimates. Minister I would like to ask if we are going to have the same witnesses or officials while we are dealing with this. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. I will have the same officials at the witness table. Petroleum Products will be represented by other officials from that department whom we are still waiting for. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are on the main estimates, page 6-6. I believe you are on the right page by now. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 6-6, I am not going to be referring to the way the wording is used in the estimates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I will have to make comments before you make general comments. I was just referring to the page numbers. Public Works and Services, branch summary. Directorate, total operations and maintenance, 6 million 308 thousand. James.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the year 2000-2001, purchased services, it is not my dialect at all but there was 194 thousand for 2000-2001 now for 2001-2002 we have 2 million 185 thousand. This is an increase of about 11 times. Why is that the case. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): There is a huge increase in that line item because the telephone services for the government were separated and we had to re-do the whole system and it is now going through Public Works and Services. These are telephone services that were in the various departments before and are now in Public Works. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: So if you are going to be paying for the telephone bills for the different departments, how are you monitoring the proper usage of the departmental phones. Do the departments still have to certify them before you pay them. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question and I will refer it to our finance official, Mr. Galbraith.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Galbraith.



**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is our duty to screen the telephone long distance calls that we download from software. We identify any misuse and we send reports to the individual department managers for their approval as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. Mr. Arvaluk. General questions and comments. We are on 6 million, Public Works and Services, branch summary. Directorate, 6 million 308 thousand. Questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning over. Public Works and Services, branch summary, technical services. Total operations and maintenance, 4 million 299 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at 6-6 and 6-7, it's more of a comment than a question, but also on 6-5 we have the pie chart, it says 6% for technical services and directorate is 7%.

And it's 2.8 here when it says it's 6% so it seems like it's double when you look at the actual numbers. I'm sure that's for salaries and benefits but, travel and transportation and page 6-7, 414 thousand dollars, it's 800 thousand dollars, almost a million bucks for travel and transportation. Is that for travel for the technical services personnel or is there anything else included in that line. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Chair, the standard calculations for that is that, we estimate that there would be 3 trips per position at 3 thousand dollars per trip just for calculation purposes and that's for conferences and training etc. That's for travel as a calculated figure. That's how we calculate that. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Anything else. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Calculated from the compensation and benefits. Because for 2000-2001, you have for example 4.8 million dollars, you had 255 thousand dollars for travel and this time you have 3.7 million dollars, you have 414 thousand dollars for travel and transportation. How much of the calculations method has changed and why. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will refer it to our finance person.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Galbraith.

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the past we did not have a particular standard and that's why we implemented it this year so we can get some sort of idea and calculate it to the historical costs so that we can hit a particular line and once we have a historical basis, we can adjust accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** In the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government and now the Nunavut Government, we have seen a lot of the management of different departments, especially Public Works, historically, not necessarily this department and this department's personnel. But sometimes when you are in the field, I'm from Kivalliq, that you know, there would be some comments made that I still have 10 thousand dollars travel budget in three months before March 31st. I better use that up otherwise there will be nothing much coming next year.

I think this government cannot afford to have the government civil service to be given certain fixed amounts of that kind without strict guidelines for approval processes because we are still having a hard time building houses and schools and everything else.

I guess my question to the minister is, is there a policy direction from your directorate on an approval process for the travel and transportation to ensure that there is no freewheeling in your subordinates to take advantage of those budget allocations that you give them. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister advises me that travel is very well monitored out in the field and there is an approval process for people traveling whether it is through the regional office or headquarters. It is monitored very closely so that they do not abuse their travel benefits. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Anything else. Total operations, 4 million 299 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 5 million 379 thousand. Questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page 6-8. Public Works and Services, branch summary, operations. Total operations and maintenance, 63 million 344 thousand. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here under contract services, I support that the government is leasing from private companies for example Nunavut Construction Corporation to provide the offices and so on and I am sure that we are utilizing other private businesses and also leasing offices or office buildings for example in Coral Harbour.

I am not quite sure how the substantiation sheets work because I do not have a copy in front of me. But we were told that the office has four rooms that are being utilized by the Department of Social Services and there are three other Nunavut Government, three other spaces but we do not have any Nunavut Government employees in my community.

One of them is being utilized by the Hunters' and Trappers' Organization. One by the Community Economic Development Officer and also Tunnuq Harvest is renting one office and the Nunavut Government is utilizing one office.

The three organizations that are named have made an agreement with the Nunavut Government that they could use those offices rent free and I think that the Government pays 10 thousand dollars a month for three years and my question is, is this still going on and is that included in the 47 million 550 thousand dollars. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was very clear and I know the building that you are referring to in Coral Harbour, I know which building it is because of course the hunters and trappers had their meetings this summer when I was over there. If that building is going to be used for 10 years and we are referring to the same building, I could have my Deputy Minister look into it right away because he doesn't have the required information in front of him.

I think that was an excellent question and we will find out about this whole thing and the 10-year agreement and find out how many buildings are on these long-term agreements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for her concise answer and also the fact that I know that we have an office supplied by them in Coral Harbour. I do believe in Nunavut perhaps there is an office that is being rented by the government through rental lease agreements. I am not trying to point out deficiencies, but when we were under the GNWT, we were able to find out who we were actually renting office space from. Whether or not that office space is up to standard or not.

For Nunavut residents, under the contract agreement that building is owned by that company and that agreement was handled through the GNWT so I think Public Works should review these lease agreements to see if they should be renewed or if the agreement

is too steep or not for the Nunavut Government.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): I understand his explanation and concern. We are always concerned about if we are paying too much money for a particular building. My Deputy Minister just told me that some of the rental lease agreements are annually reviewed and we can always review them again to ensure that the money is not wasted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a different question. Under contract services, does that include government staff housing that the government pays for. The staff housing is paid for by the staff member that is leasing the house. Is that under the 47 million 550 thousand. Is that included there.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Yes. All the staff houses are rented by staff or by other departments and they are included in that amount.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So these are for the rest of the Nunavummiut for the purpose of using the good money of the government, at least the tax money that comes very little to Nunavut. What is the ratio between what the government pays for staff housing and what they actually charge to the client or staff member for using the staff housing. What's a fair return on average you get like for example, if your lease is 47 million 550 thousand dollars, what do you get in return from your staff. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My finance controller might be able to answer this question directly. I do not have the figures available since he works on this, he'd be able to answer it better. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Galbraith**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually don't have the exact figures as to what's staff housing, most of it is payroll deduction, which is taken off at the Department of Finance, payroll division level.

However, I will undertake to obtain those figures up to date and give them to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that. Perhaps I could ask what is the policy of this government, what they should charge their staff members for using staff housing, I'm talking about mostly Mr. Chairman, is for example new NTEP graduates in Chesterfield Inlet, I'll use that as an example.

First year teacher, as a first year teacher, they do not make very much money. Even the second year, even for six years they don't make very much money until they start getting some recognition as a specialist, specialty field, vice-principal-ship or anything, as long as they're staff members, they have a hard time paying for their rent.

Some of them have moved into public housing, because in public housing, the housing association only charges 25%. What is the policy of this government for the purpose of fairness for those staff members, especially low paying staff members who cannot afford those fixed rental scales for the staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has a staff housing allocation policy in place and a part of the policy is a rental rate, which the rent is collected per units, it's based on the square meters or square feet and it's been inherited from the GNWT.

We recognize that this is not ideal for the reason that rent is the same, like, under the new unit or the older unit disregarding the quality. However, in the new staff policy framework that is being developed it will take into consideration the revision of those rates as part of the things which have to be done with the new staff framework policy.

As far as the rent, I think we have two cases last year when the rate was excessive over 25 % or 30 % of the gross salary. There is a hardship allowance program that is administered, I believe through the Finance and Administration Department. In cases where the employee is making minimum money and will qualify because the rent is high.

But if I recall, I think there have been two cases across Nunavut last year in this situation. So I hope that answers the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that answers a question, but it still doesn't answer, because we traditionally have a method for Inuit that are living in northern rental housing and later on in public housing. The regular citizens who would be called staff that come from the south will be housed in those staff houses and they are charged for the rent as you described, based on the square footage of the building.

However, especially in the past two years, through your employment drive for aboriginal people in Nunavut, and your target of 84% down the road, that you have been successful enough to realize that these rental systems has, not on purpose, but has discouraged people from taking training and paying their high rent for living in government staff housing in comparison to public housing. Then again people who rent through the private sector especially in Iqaluit, you pay that much more even.

So I guess what I am asking the government, is there any way to recognize that there is a need for public housing for those who can find jobs and are already in public housing and those government staff members who should not be penalized on their rental scale, wanting to work. With the view that the government is responsible for both, the public housing and the staff housing, to make it fair to all citizens when they are setting up the rental scales, especially in the smaller communities where the options are not very high. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to remind you again that when you are going to ask a question, try to minimize your comments. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** We are already trying to harmonize the assistance for the public housing rent scale with the staff housing policy that is in draft right now. We are trying to make sure that it is consistent across the board, so whether you are in public housing or staff housing the rent scale is consistent.

Right now I have all the communities represented in Rankin discussing the rent scale and I do know that Public Works and Services staff is also working on that, the same work of the housing policy. So yes we are trying to address this issue. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): There are two questions, but that's fine. Mr. Chairman, 47 million 550 thousand dollars, I know you will try to address these issues but it would be good if you could tell me if you actually have a plan to do something about it to harmonize the public housing and the government staff housing, especially in the low market areas outside of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge.

Is this 47 million 550 thousand dollars total leases for government offices, staff housing and everything else that you rent on behalf of the government. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I must apologise James, I made a mistake. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I just want to say that I'm not only trying, we are already in the process of addressing the problem by hiring a consultant that is working closely with the housing rent scale policy and staff housing policy, so the same guy is looking at both pictures at the same time. So we're already doing that. I'm going to ask Mr. Galbraith to

help us to answer the details of which leases we have. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That the particular amount of money includes a multitude of contracts, obligations including staff housing, commercial housing, the maintenance of the offices including the cleaning contracts, security contracts and the contracts that we have for the maintenance of our owned building as well as our maintenance program is also involved with their operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Galbraith. Do you want to continue. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Galbraith just responded to the question I was going to raise. I wanted him to explain what that money is used for and I'm wondering if the leases that are going to be done if that's included in that but he responded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): We will be looking into this. The money isn't spent yet of course but we're working on the projected expenditures. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Do you want to continue Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff housing is something I've had interest in for quite some time. The deputy was mentioning earlier about the program where if employees were deemed to be making not enough money and the rent was too high that there was a subsidy there for them. I'm not sure the title of that program but in the past, if the rent was more than 30% of their income, then the government would subsidise so that the maximum rent of that individual was 30%. Is that the same program that he was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. yes, there is a program which I believe is called a hardship allowance. I think it's available through the Government of Nunavut through finance and administration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program is a program that we carried over from the NWT and has been in place since division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** I believe it is the way Mr. Tootoo described this. It was inherited from the GNWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program, is the onus on the employees to ask to find out if they qualify for this program or does the government say okay you make less here, you are paying more than 30 percent of your income therefore you can here fill this out as something is part of their documentation or something. Or is the onus, I am just wondering who initiates or provides information about that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. The question is directed to Public Works. I think it is under Finance. It is administered under Finance if I understand correctly but I will get Madam Minister to respond if she wishes.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** We are not sure how if it is initiated by the employees or it is the department that initiates that. It is probably from both ends. I would not know because it is not my department that deals with that. It is the Department of Finance. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to asking the Minister of Finance about that and that the numbers of people that are on it or eligible for it.

Mr. Chairman, the minister was asked, I cannot recall who had indicated that they're looking at setting some new rental rates. I am just wondering when they plan on or when do they hope they will be able to bring some new rates forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I may have confused the members by talking about the rent scale that is being set up that is being worked on this week by Housing Corporation in Rankin.

I was saying that it would have to be consistent with the staff housing rent scale and right now there is a big difference between the rent scale of the Public Works staff housing and also the Housing Corporation.

I could not tell you at this time when we would be able to implement that. Right now, we have delegates from all over in Rankin just looking at the whole picture and finding out what is the best way for setting the rent scale for public housing.

This issue of rent scales have been raised for staff housing in this House and it is



something we have to, I think we have to harmonize or talk with the Housing Corporation how we can make it consistent. I could not tell you how or when that would be implemented because we are just aware of the problem that needs to be addressed by both departments. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister was talking about the public housing rent scale and I was more interested in staff housing. How the staff housing rents are assessed and I believe Mr. Mrazek had indicated that we have basically adopted the scale that was brought over and developed prior to division and used by the GNWT and I'm pretty sure that I heard him say that they are looking at revising that scale.

The staff housing rent scale, I guess is the one I am asking about because I know there are some disparities in some of the staff housing that is available. If you take a look from anywhere like in town here, you have something in the High Rise, you know, an apartment to White Row that's, some older type units as opposed to the new Urbco units or NCC units up the hill.

I've had concerns raised to me by individuals living in those things that they, it isn't right that they're living in something that's 30 years old and paying the same rate as someone that's living in something that's brand new.

And I'm just wondering if something like that, those issues will be addressed in the formulation of this new way that they are going to be assessing staff housing rent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. That's the same question raised by Mr. Arvaluk earlier. But even though that is the case, I'll get the minister to respond. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** The member has raised a very good question on this. I know that there are employees out there that have had concerns over this for some years.

I will be coming forward with a response to my cabinet members and also to this Legislative Assembly in the fall session on the progress of what we have been doing in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the minister indicated the contract services that's 47 and a half million dollars, that's where all our leases are paid for staff housing and I know that, that's not all the leases, there's other leases and things in there as well.

But does the minister or her staff have a number of a total of what the Government of Nunavut pays specifically for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can get that information to the member as soon as we can get it from our finance person. I don't think we have it here right now. But we can get it to the member as soon as we get it. Could be this week. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to seeing it, I realize it's probably a substantial amount. With staff housing and the way that rents are collected, I'm just wondering, has the department, has there been more staff housing filled, say this year over last year.

What percentage hires are we with the staffing capacity that we're building up, what percentage higher in staff housing are we in staff housing over last year and do we have enough staff housing or the projected, what's the projections on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I'd like to remind the member that another member raised those questions earlier. Just to let the members think about questions that were raised earlier. We are dealing with the capital estimates under Public Works and Services. With that, I will ask the minister to respond.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 11 communities where NCC built staff houses. Some of the units aren't occupied yet. I can't really say whether there will be a shortage of staff housing units, but if they were to all be filled we would have to look into this. But to date they are not presently filled. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to smile because we are often told to smile. My question to the minister is, what kind of units are there in Iqaluit for staff housing. Because the staff members often pay the same rates and some units are new and others are very old. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities, probably here in Iqaluit also, we have a rate chart that we follow. This uses the square footage of each unit and there are set rates based on the size of the unit. The staff housing units follow the rates for square footage. In the spring I will be able to let

the members know what we are doing and give some clarification on what we have decided to do. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): That is very interesting I am glad to hear that we will get an update in the fall. Some staff members, there are a lot of good staff members in the communities and I think the units should be set up so that they get what they pay for. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member misunderstood me. We're not saying we're going to be renovating staff housing units. But what we've said was that what we do is we use the square footage of the unit. We're not saying that we're going to be getting some funds to build new housing units for staff or renovating the new ones. We're just talking about the amount of rent that staff are paying for staff houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood what she said but I'm just saying that I'm glad to hear that the minister is saying that they're going to be doing a review. Whether you be in Grise Fjord, Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit, the staff rents paid for units, she mentioned that it will change. I know that you won't be building new staff housing or renovating the existing ones. I'm just saying that we have to plan a better way of charging rent for our staff in staff housing. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): I'm saying also that we're not going to be providing new staff housing units but we're just talking about the amount of rent that the staff is paying for the staff houses. If there are any new staff houses available, we will be looking into finding units for them. In Iqaluit, if you're using an older house and if you're using a newer house in Rankin Inlet and if you're using an older house in Arviat, what we do is we go by the square footage of the unit for the staff to pay their staff house unit.

Even if I have a new unit or an old unit, I still have to pay the same amount because we go by square footage. That's what I was saying. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I don't have any more hands up from the members. Getting back to page 6-8. Total operations and maintenance, 63 million, 344 thousand dollars. Are there any questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 63 million 344 thousand dollars. Any more questions from the members. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page 6-9, Public works and services, branch summary. Informatics. Total operations and maintenance, 11 million 176 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under informatics, I think it's trying to say that it's got something to do with the internet. Perhaps if you can give some clarification, it's got something to do with decentralization. Last year it was 10 million 40 thousand, but they said that it would be increasing to 5 million something.

But this last year they expended 15 million 904 thousand dollars. That's 11 million, 176 thousand dollars for 2001-2002, is that going to be enough and the Minister of Finance said that they had to have some money set aside because there was an unexpected shortfall of 1 million 864 thousand dollars.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to get your attention and I will pass the question to Mr. Mrazek to answer.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I am sorry, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Informatics is dealing with all the telecommunications and the whole networks for the entire government. That would be a very brief description of the function of this branch. You will notice that we have 11 million 176 thousand dollars in the budget. This is the best estimate we could come to. We are making every thing possible to stay within the budget and we have a number of significant spaces last year regarding the additional work which has been looked into.

We have to co-operate with all the client departments and sometimes the expectations are too high. But I believe between the Chief Information Officer and the Director of Operations, which is between the two departments the funding will be achievable for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I hope I hear him correctly that there will no requirement for an additional 5.8 million in the middle of next March for the budget. This 11 million 176, that is the most accurate information that they have and they are not expecting acceleration of decentralization for this coming fiscal year. Is that what he is saying. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Mrazek.

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 5.8 million, which Mr. Arvaluk was referring to, was for additional expenditures for this fiscal year. The 11 million is our best estimate and providing the operations of the informatics remains the way it is, we strongly believe that we can live with that number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the compensation and benefits, different question Mr. Chairman. That 3.5 million, what does that represent, how many PYs does that represent. Are these PYs for that amount all in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have 49 positions, but 26 are filled and they are not all in Iqaluit they are from different regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I better come down to earth. It sounds very high for the size of the government and size of the territory and size of the population. Around 49 PYs working for informatics. Is that required. These are the repair people and technical people, fibre optics people and hardware repair people and that entire total for the GN. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I'm going to give it to. Could we call you Patrick, it's too hard to pronounce Galbraith right. (interpretation) I will give it to Mr. Galbraith to answer because he has the breakdown of the staff. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): He is your helper so treat him properly. Mr. Galbraith.

**Mr. Galbraith:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does not only encompass the repair people although there should be one repairperson and sometimes, a lot of cases two repair people in each community. We use the word repair people. But we're talking about data base administration, software administration, the telecommunications portion of the informatics and all the supporting staff. Forty-nine people, if you look across the board, compared to the Northwest Territories is indeed not excessive at all. In fact, it's lower. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Galbraith. Mr. Arvaluk. Eleven million 176 thousand dollars total expenditures. We have no more names on my list. Questions from the members. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 11 million 176 thousand dollars. Any questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Moving to 6-11, Public works and services, branch summary, decentralization. Total operation and maintenance, 1 million 200 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 1 million 200 thousand dollars. Any questions. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Petroleum Products Division. That has already been agreed to. Are there any more questions from the members. Five million 165 thousand dollars. That was already agreed to. Any questions on that page. Going back to 6-12, Public works and services, information item. Petroleum products revolving fund. Questions. Agreed. Opposed. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** On the 6-12, petroleum products revolving fund, last year, let me make this clear for the minister. In the 2000-2001 main estimates, we budgeted for 60 million, we have sales of 77 million, we end up losing 7 hundred and 74 thousand.

Was this foreseen before 5 cents and 13.9 cents was introduced or was it in, does this include smaller 7 hundred and 74 thousand include 5 cents and 13.9 cents. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to thank Mr. Galbraith for being able to be at the witness table, I'm sorry I wasn't able to say anything before he left. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): I'm sorry Mr. Chairman, I just couldn't get your attention and I have to get my other officials to come here to the witness table, Mr. Roy Green who is, who deals with Petroleum Products Division. I would like to welcome him at this time.

The question from Mr. Arvaluk if he heard the question of Mr. Arvaluk, he can answer the question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The actual loss for, I don't have the actual sales numbers because both numbers for 77 and the loss of 774 thousand it's not the actual loss

for the fiscal year March 31, 2000.

The actual loss that the petroleum products incurred last year was 342 thousand but if you look to the right here the 1.7 million loss was forecasted based on the prior without the 5-cent increase. So with the 5-cent increase it actually reduced the loss to the 342 thousand for March 31, 2000. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: What about after at 13.9. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green. I'm sorry, Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green is very excited today.

>>*Laughter*

So I hope to, he can't wait for this little light to turn on. So I'll just give the chair to Mr. Green. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This fiscal year without the 13.9 percent increase we would have probably incurred a loss. I think we discussed that in the session in the fall that we would have reported a loss of approximately 13 or 14 million dollars.

What the actual, with the revised 13.9 increase, forecast of loss for this fiscal year would have been 774 thousand with the 13.9 increase. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If your estimates are accurate to have a small surplus of 3.5 million for next year then if the oil prices don't sky rocket like it did last time, what are your plans to do something for the consumers. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: We are thinking of possibly decreasing the price of fuel this summer after we buy the fuel. We will be looking at if we can do something for decreasing the price.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Last one Mr. Chairman, I welcome that comment and even if it doesn't come true, I think the minister has a good intention of being fair to the consumers of Nunavut. Given these thoughts with consideration and compassion. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, for the other operations you have 11 million 761 thousand. This represents the bulging of the tanks, I mean the increased capacity and everything else that you have in the capital. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 11.7 million that doesn't include any expansion or upgrades to the tank farms. Basically, what the 11.6 million is, it includes the ongoing repairs and maintenance to the tank farms. It covers travel, it covers the purchase of services and supplies and various other expenses that are categorized into this one category. To answer the member's question, it has nothing to do with the expansion of the tank farms, but generally operating expenses. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to make that my last question but what this is related to is that all your tank upgrades and expansions that are built in the communities are done by northern contractors, 100%. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pass this on to Mr. Mrazek, and I would hope that NNI is being followed in this policy. I have the members shaking their heads, maybe they can concentrate on Mr. Mrazek's answer first before they start shaking their heads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mrazek:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of smaller value contracts in place for upgrades and expansion of the fuel tank facilities. I don't have the details with me, but the department is following the NNI policy as much as possible.

But in some cases, this work is highly specialized because they require pressure testing and pressure welding. The last contract if I recall, which was more than a year ago, was from the qualified contractor who was from Yellowknife. I don't think we have anybody at this time fully qualified for this type of work in Nunavut.

Usually the general contractor could be arranging for the specialized services, but again, I don't have the detail with me and I cannot provide that information right away. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I am very disappointed that we have no professional tradesmen in that field yet. Because as I understand it the Arctic College has been in existence for quite



some time now and we have qualified mechanics from Fort Smith and elsewhere and etc. etc.

I hope that the Public Works will be working with the Department of Education to get that specialized training done like they did with the nursing, teaching and now the law school. This is a very lucrative business because Nunavut is having an increase in size and population and will require, probably on an annual basis expansion of those tank farms in various communities. Is there a plan to have a training program to have those specialized training programs so that Nunavummiut can qualify and take advantage of this work that is made available by this government. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can certainly look into this and see how we can help in that regard with Arctic College. I will make a commitment to ask the Minister of Education about it.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green, since you have been with the Petroleum Products Division, it has been a great education for me. I think I know most of this but I am going to ask a few more question so that I am fully versed in it. Under salaries, 2.2 million. What salaries are those, are those your complete head office salaries or is that just another branch. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My information says that salaries are forecasted to increase by 250 thousand. These increases are based on the following filling of vacant positions; Finance Manager, Contracts Manager, Director, Secretary, annual incremental increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Okay. The 2.2 million, how many PYs is that and where are they. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Petroleum Products have 26 positions right now, we have 21 filled and I can't tell you where they are specifically. Mr. Green should have that detail about where those positions are located. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is fourteen positions at PPD for us in Rankin.

There are three positions at the PPD regional office in Rankin. There are four positions in the PPD regional office in Pond Inlet and there are three positions in the PPD regional office in Cambridge Bay and those are what make up basically the total staffing levels for PPD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** I don't want to nitpick here today, Minister, but under other operations and maintenance, can you give me a bit of detail, I don't want the detail right down to the penny, but can you give me some detail what that 11 million is billed to, the bulk of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that Mr. Green has more detail so I'll pass that to Mr. Green.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green. I think you're well versed in those, go ahead.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the 11.2 million dollars, 7.3 million dollars is paid to fuel delivery contractors in 24 communities to dispense the fuel throughout the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's roughly 4.5 million dollars, is that for travel and repairs and minor repairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The remaining approximate 4.5 million dollars, 2 million dollars of that is for repair and maintenance of tank farms and the remainder is used for office supplies, travel and purchase of services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the costs of goods, so 53 million 570 thousand dollars, could you give me a detail on what that is. I know it's the price of the fuel, is there any other costs in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The costs of goods are comprised of exactly what the member said. It's comprised of the cost to purchase the fuel and the transportation costs. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** On the 7.3 million dollars that the contractors receive for pumping the fuel, is there a uniform commission rate or do they vary from community to community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The commission rates vary from community to community. One of the factors that the cost varies from community to community is the number of assets that's required to provide a service like garaging, the number of vehicles and also the other fact that we try to take into consideration is the amount of fuel volumes that are sold in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read newspapers a lot probably, they only come one once a week but in the last newspaper I picked up there were tenders or RFPs, I think they're RFPs, for fuel contracts in the Kitikmeot region. They close I think in April or May. If the POL contracts, you add them all up when they're closed and you add them all up, if there's an increase in the costs of these contracts, is that going to be passed onto the consumers this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the commission would increase, under the new RFPs, then obviously it would have to be passed onto the consumer. At this point in time, our objective is to re-write some of those contracts so that they're written in favour of the government. We're confident that the competition that you see in some of the communities now that indeed we may indeed see reduction in commission rates and if we can get our commission rates then that as well will be passed along to the consumer.

At this point in time, you know, we're just in the evaluation stages. We're confident that if we can do some homework before we issue those contracts, in some cases we may get the commission rates down because that's one of our biggest costs that we've incurred now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** So you are anticipating that the costs, the commission rates on the current contracts are going to go down Nunavut wide so that will result in a fuel price decrease before we even purchase this next year's fuel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately by the time that we, all the RFP's are issued and the new contracts are not scheduled to come into effect until November 1. So basically, it is about the same time that we would be doing our evaluation for the annual adjustment for fuel prices. So that would be factored in what to do. We would look at the evaluation of the fuel prices in the fall, the change to the commission rates would be a component that would be factored into the overall costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this will be my final question today on PPD. These existing contracts were tendered out in 1991, for 10-year periods with an option for five. If I remember correctly, there was a lot of controversy over these contracts when they came out. Ten years ago I don't know what the numbers were I never even saw it I didn't even really inquire about it, but I know there was quite a bit of controversy on a few of them.

So what you are saying is that the commission rates that were charged ten years ago, and the commission rates that we may get this time may be lower. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I evaluate some of the contracts that were signed in 1991, some of those contracts were issued where the commission rate was 5 cents. But because of some of the clauses and the acquisition of assets during that ten-year period, most of those commission rates have doubled and tripled over the past ten years. So we are basically not looking at a commission rate that was set ten years ago. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Minister, there has been a lot of talk about Article 24, NNI and things like that. These contracts are to provide a service and they are mostly labour only. To start with I know that you went to RFP or tender in the Kitikmeot. There are a lot of businesses in these communities that are starting up and are trying to get their foot in the door to do things.

Like I say I don't want to see the old GNWT policy come over to Nunavut, erase GNWT and put Nunavut on it because that's what we have been doing for the past two years on a lot of stuff. The thing is when you are doing these RFPs, and I haven't seen one yet, I will probably table it in Cambridge Bay once I get hold of one, I will be chasing one down.

I will table it in Cambridge Bay, so you are forewarned. But is it going to be possible for the little guy, the little guy on the street, that wants to start a business or is already in a small business, is it going to be possible for them to bid on these contracts and be successful or are we going to throw enough hoops and the bureaucratic bunk at them, that

they are only going to be eligible for a certain group or one or two people in the community to receive.

Or is it going to be wide open for everybody to have a good hard look at it and be able to tender and then if somebody else is given a chance to bid on these contracts, is it going to be possible. I think the intent on tendering is to get the best possible price for our government, is that going to be a case where everybody is going to be given a chance on an equal footing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have it wide open for anybody to compete with it so anybody can try for these fuel contracts in the community. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McLean:** So, my fear here and I'm going to be very candid is that if some big development corporation in Nunavut comes along and bids out every one of them and because of their economic clout, the little guys aren't going to be eliminated.

So, if a small guy comes along and has the best price possible and shows that he can, they've got the proper accounting procedure and can run a business that they will be successful over the big conglomerate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even the Finance Minister is saying of course, of course, everybody is frequently saying of course, so, of course, yes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, I take that everybody is getting an equal chance and NNI will play a factor in the contracting and awarding procedure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you. That's a policy we have right now and that's a policy we will be using. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to an item that was being discussed earlier regarding RFPs and tenders and so on that is put out

by your division and of course we were told that there's nobody who can do the job up here because they are so technical.

The jobs require that they are very specialized services that have to be provided and we have to get personnel from the south to do the job. Some of these contracts are for five years. In my community we have contractors from the south who are working on the pipes of these tanks.

How, do they have a five year contract or, well it's for both Sanikiluaq and Hall Beach and Arctic Bay and there's a large chunk of money that is going to be used in these communities. How long are these contracts for, is it renewable on an annual basis or is it five years, or how many years are these contracts good for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We didn't know which item you were talking about. Is it something that was approved by the committee earlier. That was a very good question. But, we do not have the information as I don't have the information in front of me that says how many years those contracts are good for. But we will look into it.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Arvaluk was requesting some information on the construction planning for tank farms. I'm just following through with this questioning. How is the arrangement for contracting for five years or maybe renewed annually, is that renewed annually.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for two years, I'm told. Which of the communities were you referring to, I can give you the information on either of the communities but in most of them they are arranged for two years.

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

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our contract services are handled by the Co-op and now would be open to any person following through with McLean's questioning.

If it is going to be open to the general public and the ones who are experienced in handling those contracts and the people who are have quite a bit of money and clout and this for people who have no experience are you expecting to get contracts from those, get those contracts awarded.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think he might have missed some of the translation here on that question. I know that it is very good question. His concern was that whether the people who are rich will be able to get the contracts or just anyone can apply for this contract.

The local business people will be the ones that will be considered not just necessarily the ones who have a lot of money or people who are just starting up their business. For anyone who is private, has a private business license they will be eligible under the contract arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What she is talking about is that they will be taking training for some of the contractors or whoever applies for this contract for private sector contractors for fuel price delivery.

For people who want to take more courses in handling these contracts, would that be too late to apply for the contract in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): I did not say that we would be training the private sector. When people acquire the contract then we try and train them on handling their finances. It is only after they have been eligible to get the contracts not just people who are rich but we will be awarding this contract using the NNI procedures. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Alakannuark. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the 1.173 million under page 6-12, debts forgiven, can you give me some details on that. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green can answer this question. He has the figures in front of him.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** The 1.173 million dollars that the member is referring to are the subsidies that we pay to the revolving fund. The subsidies for Resolute Bay and for Cambridge Bay in the situation where the private contractor's operating expenses exceed the retail price so when that situation occurs PPD has to reimburse the contractor for those additional costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** But the operator still gets the percentage, under the contract to collect the full amount that he would get even when the government ends up paying for subsidising that particular community whereas other communities don't get that kind of subsidy when they balance their books out. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you look in my direction please, Mr. Chairman. I was signalling that Mr. Green would answer this question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. You are the minister and you have to answer, not just your workers. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Unfortunately the contracts for Cambridge Bay and Resolute Bay and Iqaluit, are a little bit different than the way that the remaining communities are administered. What happens in Resolute Bay and Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit is that PPD buys the fuel and they sell the fuel to those communities at the cost that we buy it for. Then what those operators do is that they have their own operating costs such as the inventory carrying costs, your own costs to administer and deliver the fuel and the repair and maintenance.

What happens is that the way the contract is structured is that when all their operating costs, if their operating component exceeds the retail price that is approved by the Financial Management Board, then they have to be reimbursed by the government. So it's just the way, they're kind of privatized and it's just the way that those agreements are structured. Whereas in the other communities, some communities they're making money, in some other communities we may be losing money. The ones that are controlled through the revolving fund, PPD, they balance each other out.

But when it comes to the private operators, they have to go outside the petroleum revolving fund and the government has to reimburse them when their costs exceed the retail price. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. I apologize for my previous remarks that I shouldn't have uttered. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Let me try to get this, under the accounting term or accounting system that you have with the private contractor services. This is not really a debt payment as I was complaining about earlier you know about your explanation system on this budget, whatever.

Could it be written down differently so that I can understand what the accounting terminology is used or how the system is used to come up with 1.173 million.



Okay, so in this case, in my plain language, is that purely a payment to the contractor after the service is done and this is what you know that in the beginning of the year that you know that you will pay him approximately at the end of the year. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Unfortunately, it's not as simple as that process because what happens with those private contractors, when we buy the fuel and we turn it over to and sell it back to the private contractor. If their operating costs exceed it, continue to increase, but at the same time we don't increase the retail price to offset those additional costs in a sense we have to reimburse the contractors.

Those are the additional, these are the additional monies that we had to pay for those private contractors where their operating costs exceed the retail price and we don't know that. We really don't know that until each year when we take all, we get the financial reports in from those private contractors and we know what the price of fuel is on the world market. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman operating costs could be anything. Anything at all. Let's look it up in the accounting book or bookkeeping or dictionary. In other words, if you sell the fuel to this contractor and if you tell the contractor here's how much you are going to sell it for in Resolute Bay for example, if we decide, his operating costs include a brand new truck and one building and other things that requires him to operate that contract, then you give him 1.173 million dollars.

Unless if you could explain to me what the operating costs entail that requires you to pay more that was not planned by the government rather it was planned or incurred by the contractor.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess what I'm trying to explain to the member is the fact that those three communities operate outside, there's a contract between the Government of Nunavut and private contractors for them to operate the facilities without intervention from the government with the conditions.

The conditions of those contracts are that they are not allowed to set the retail prices after the Financial Management Board approves them. Also in the contract it states that they can recover their inventory carrying costs, they can recover their financing costs, they can recover the costs for them to store the vehicle, the cost for them to hire personnel to live.

But those are the costs that are written in the contract and so each year when their cost if their costs component exceeds, exceeds the retail price then they, we have to subsidize them. On the other hand if the retail price is higher than their operating costs which

includes their commissions, whatever, then they would reimburse the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Do you want to continue Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, if a person a contractor decides to set up a small store selling oil products and windshield wipers and starter fluids and what have you, these are his operating costs in selling gasoline to the customers on this contract.

These should be considered as an operating cost or are you saying, are you telling me if you set a price for 50 cents and if he has been selling it for 50 cents then their furnace broke down it cost him more now to recover his operating costs because the furnace broke down. Which one is it. What he plans to do something while they have contracts or something that happened that will not make him meet or honour the contract.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically the way the contracts are structured is that when they were originally signed, the contractor, there was a commission rate established, that commission rate is set, so that covers their operations and maintenance.

So the only thing that really effects the price of the subsidy to the private operators is the price of fuel and the transportation cost that more protects the price the subsidy change each year on the international markets and inventory carrying costs and the financing costs. The rest of these costs like a vehicle financing cost, all that is tied into a commission rate that was fixed at the time the contracts were signed.

So what we are seeing now in a lot of the cases is that the cost of the retail prices of fuel increased on the international markets and with the retail prices the level in those communities are uneven. Those two communities are unable to recover their operating costs and in a situation like that this is where we reimburse. Basically we are paying him for the extra cost that he incurred for the fuel, the transportation, and the inventory financing costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Green. Mr. Arvaluk your time is up and I think you had two more questions so we will let you go ahead and continue with your questions before we move on to another member. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Then why are we budgeting 1.173 million dollars as a write down by itself rather than including it in the cost of goods sold. The second question Mr. Chairman is that will this 1.173 show in the audit. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Green.

**Mr. Roy Green:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 1 million dollars that we are referring

to, those are out of the numbers but at this point in time they are only estimated numbers. What those numbers are based on right now is the current, the resupply costs that we bought for fuel last year. If we buy the fuel this year at the same price that we got it last year then we would have to reimburse those contractors 1.173 million.

If the price of fuel goes down that means we would have the subsidy go down. If the price of fuel goes up that number is changed. It is only an estimate and it is all given that the cost of fuel probably makes up 60% of their budget, those numbers are subject to change depending on the price of fuel on the world markets when we buy in June, July of this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I was going to ask a question regarding write-downs but I have that, I got the response so I will leave it.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question has to do with if the contractor's working in a community and they're delivering fuel and if there was a mishap or a bankruptcy, what would be done in that case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think perhaps Mr. Alakannuark is confused. We didn't say that the contracts are given for two years but we stated that the contracts to build tanks is probably two years and the fuel delivery contracts are for about ten years. Our staff is able to go into the communities and work with them and train them when a contract is delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't get the response I was asking for. When a contractor is holding a contract for ten years, before the ten years is up and something happens and a contractor is unable to deliver, I realized that there's assistance or the staff is available to assist the contractors but what would be done in that case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't heard of such a case but if something like that happened, I think we'd work with the Department of Sustainable Development. We deal with each contractor and are able to assist them. Our staff are able to go into communities to assist contractors and I can't project what will happen so that is my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. I don't have anyone else on my list. We are on 6-12, information items. These are just information items. Turn to page 6-13. Public works and services, information item. Public stores, revolving fund. On page 6-14. Public works and services, work done on behalf of others, information item.

Turn to 6-15. Public works and services, distribution of budget. Information item. These are the information items. Go back to 6-5, public works and services, program summary, details of expenditures. On 6-5, total operations and maintenance, 86 million 327 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 92 million 572 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We have completed this department. I'd like to thank the minister and her staff for appearing in front of the committee. Madame Minister, final remarks.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate the questions and concerns raised.

I'd like to thank Mr. Mrazek, Mr. Galbraith, and Mr. Green, Susan Makpah and I'm glad the members are able to work with them and thank you for dealing with my department.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. We will now take a fifteen-minute break.

*>>Committee recessed 3.46 p.m. and resumed at 4.18 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. We have completed the Public Works and Services Department and we will be moving on to a new department. Before we go on to dealing with the department, I would like to ask the minister if he has opening remarks. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): I do have opening remarks Mr. Chairman. Can I begin.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On November 6, 2000 I had the very great honour of being appointed Minister of Sustainable Development. So I am pleased to make my first appearance before Committee of the Whole and present the Department of Sustainable Development's budget for 2001/2002.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Sustainable Development's budget for 2001/2002 is 33 million 835 thousand representing 5% of total GN expenditures.

(interpretation ends) In the Bathurst Mandate, we agreed that an Economic Strategy for Nunavut was needed and I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress on this in the last year. Later this month the Conference Board of Canada will release Nunavut's first Economic Outlook which is a project that we have worked on with NTI and DIAND. The Economic Outlook will address the question that we frequently hear, particularly from those watching the development of our new Territory – "is there an economic base in Nunavut and what are the prospects for economic growth and diversification?"

We know already that economic growth and diversification in Nunavut will require an investment in infrastructure to catch up with the rest of Canada, so to advance this dialogue, we will be releasing a document next month called "The Road to Canada – Opportunities for Public Investment in the New Nunavut Economy".

Mr. Chairman, I believe that both these documents -the Economic Outlook and the Road to Canada - are needed to advance discussions with Ottawa on an Economic Development Agreement. In the meantime, the Department of Sustainable Development will undertake our own economic initiatives this year.

Mr. Chairman in his budget address, the Minister of Finance stated, and I quote: "ultimately...our future social and economic success will depend on the initiatives we design in Nunavut". The Department of Sustainable Development's budget for 2001/2002 includes a number of "made in Nunavut" economic initiatives.

In the Department's business plan for 2001/2002 we noted that one of the critical factors that must be addressed in our economic initiatives, is our young population. In the past year we introduced a new program on a pilot basis called the Nunavut Job Corps designed to help our young people gain a foothold in the economic life of their communities. The Department has continued this program for next year, setting aside 175 thousand dollars for the co-ordination of projects, largely in our non-decentralized communities.

We know that some "made in Nunavut" economic initiatives must involve direct investment in job creation, such as our investments through the Nunavut Development Corporation. This year the NDC was successful in obtaining EU certification for its meat processing facility in Rankin Inlet. In 2001/2002, 350 thousand dollars has been added to the NDC budget to expand their meat processing capability in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, and to provide for new investments in non-decentralized communities.

>>Applause

We know too, that "made in Nunavut economic initiatives", must involve our economic partners. Mr. Chairman, this year my department provided the Nunavut Arts and Crafts

Association with core funding of 100 thousand dollars. This funding allowed them to leverage another 250 thousand dollars for arts and crafts projects from other programs that, we as government, cannot access. In 2001/2002, the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association budget will be increased to 150 thousand dollars, so that they can expand their capacity to deliver programs in more communities.

In my two appearances before the Standing Committee I have been urged to examine the needs of our tourism industry and in particular the role Nunavut Tourism plays in the development of this growing area of our economy. Earlier in this session I announced that the department and Nunavut Tourism is in the process of completing a tourism strategy. In 2001/2002 Nunavut Tourism's budget has been increased by 179 thousand dollars so that they can expand their special event marketing, and promotional efforts for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, in his budget speech the Minister of Finance noted that our potential for natural resource development was impressive, although still largely untapped. In 2001/2002 the Department of Sustainable Development's investment in uncovering our mineral wealth will continue through our partnership with the Canada/Nunavut Geoscience Centre, for which we have set aside 450 thousand dollars, and through the Nunavut Prospectors Program, for which we have set aside 150 thousand dollars. Both of these are "made in Nunavut" programs.

Our "made in Nunavut" economic initiatives must also have an eye on the rapidly changing developments in what is termed "the new information economy". Earlier in this session, I spoke about my department's work on the Nunavut Broadband Taskforce. The department will continue its work in 2001/2002 working with the Government of Canada on bringing affordable high-speed internet service to Nunavut.

In the Bathurst Mandate, we agreed to introduce simpler program delivery to Nunavut. Early in the new year I will be introducing changes to how we deliver our loan programs that will strengthen the role of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in the delivery of lending services to our business community in Nunavut. We will also begin a comprehensive review of our business development programs.

The role of the Department of Sustainable Development in building healthy communities is to support communities in providing their citizens with choices for participating in our economy. Communities must lead this process. To support these efforts, the Department of Sustainable Development provides funding to Hamlets to hire Community Economic Development Officers, we call them CEDOs. In 2001/2002 the department will be providing Nunavut Hamlets with 1 million 963 thousand dollars for hiring and supporting CEDOs.

Planning for, and realizing economic opportunities in our communities requires an investment. In 2001/2002 the Department will continue to support community economic development initiatives by investing 2 million 715 thousand dollars in the Community Initiatives Program. Within this program, I will set aside 200 thousand dollars for an

Economic Initiatives Fund for the communities impacted by the recent reduction of polar bear quotas in the M'Clintock Channel.

Which brings me to the department's responsibilities to our wildlife and our environment. Members will note that the department has been successful in obtaining funds from the Government of Canada's Climate Change Action Fund, so that we can make a contribution to the national effort to reduce climate change impacts.

Mr. Chairman, as members know, the Department of Sustainable Development along with our partners Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will begin community consultations this month on our new Wildlife Act. Two hundred thousand dollars has been incorporated into the 2001/2002 budget to ensure these consultations are thorough and comprehensive.

(interpretation) The department's contributions in support of harvesters such as HTOs, RWOs, the Fur Price Program and the Community Harvester Assistance Program has remained unchanged in 2001/2002, and there is a reason for this. Earlier this week I advised members that the department is finalizing a comprehensive review of our programs in support of harvesters, which has been done by talking directly with harvesters, and our programs partners, NTI. I expect to be introducing changes to our harvester programs in 2001/2002.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, as members are aware, during my recent Kitikmeot tour, I committed to increasing the department's emphasis on the collection of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the context of our wildlife research program. In 2001/2002 I have set aside 50 thousand dollars for an IQ study in M'Clintock Channel in collaboration with NTI, and 30 thousand dollars for work in Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay on Peary Caribou.

Mr. Chairman, three non-decentralized communities in Nunavut are currently not served adequately by our wildlife service, so in 2001/2002 the department has budgeted for the hiring of a wildlife officer in Sanikiluaq and part-time wildlife officers in Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet.

Before I conclude I want to speak briefly about the department's capital budget for 2001/2002, which is 2 million 800 thousand dollars or 8% of the department's budget. The department has a capital plan for three purposes: the first purpose is to support the ongoing requirements of the Nunavut Wildlife Service, in replacing equipment used in monitoring, enforcement and training.

The second purpose of our capital plan is to invest in the development of Nunavut's tourism industry. Mr. Chairman, a successful tourism industry is built up through small investments in such things as information signs, the development of attractions such as Thule sites, parks, exhibits in our airports, and in visitor centres.

The third purpose of our capital plan is to support our traditional economy through the

display of arts and crafts in public buildings throughout Nunavut and we have budgeted 50 thousand dollars for this purpose. When the public enters our public buildings they should be greeted with a showcase of our artists that brings recognition to the important contribution they make to our economy.

Mr. Chairman, this is a summary of the Department of Sustainable Development's budget for 2001/2002. I would be very pleased to answer any questions at this time. Nakurmiik.

>> *Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. It is nice to hear your comments for the development of Nunavut. I would ask the Chairman of the committee to give his opening remarks. Mr. McLean.

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

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

I would like to begin by thanking the minister for providing a prompt written response to the comments and concerns raised by the Standing Committee when we met to review the department's mid-year progress report for the 2000-2001 fiscal year and their preliminary business plan for the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

The Committee would like to suggest that other ministers follow the example of this department.

The committee was also pleased to see the minister table, for the first time, the 2001-2002 business plans for Nunavut Tourism, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Nunavut Development Corporation.

This gives all members the opportunity to review the business plans prior to approving the transfers to these organizations, as laid out in the department's 2001-2002 main estimates. This is also another step toward the general transparency of this government.

In its review of the department's budget estimates for 2001-2002, the committee stressed the need for increased support for Nunavut's artists. Many Nunavummiut are struggling to make a living through their art and they are not getting the assistance they need.

The committee was pleased to see the department respond to this concern by increasing the funding for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. The committee would recommend that the department work closely with the association to ensure that the



artists in the communities be involved in deciding how the funds are to be spent.

The committee noted that funds have been allocated in the 2001-2002 fiscal year for the Nunavut Art Bank. The committee would like to stress the need for a clearly defined set of selection criteria that can be fairly and consistently applied when purchasing art from throughout Nunavut.

The committee also looks forward to seeing the department participate in other initiatives to assist Nunavut's artists, such as quarrying soapstone.

The committee is also looking forward to seeing the detailed plans for the community consultations that will take place for the new Wildlife Act. The committee noted that, in a previous minister's statement, a commitment was made to begin consultations in January of this year.

The committee hopes that this will be a thorough consultation process with all stakeholders involved at an early stage and that some of the problems encountered with the review of the Education Act will be avoided.

The committee noted that efforts are being made in response to the need for a Climate Change Strategy in Nunavut. The committee was also pleased to see that the department is incorporating IQ into its development of a Climate Change Strategy through its meetings with Nunavut's elders.

The committee hopes that these consultations will be substantive and not simply symbolic. Nunavut will suffer, in future years, from tremendous impacts as a result of climate change and there is a pressing need for Nunavummiut to prepare adaptation plans. The committee is looking forward to seeing the Climate Change Strategy initiated.

In its meetings with the minister, the committee noted the lack of economic development opportunities in non-decentralized communities. The committee went on to stress the need for a focus on non-decentralized communities to assist them in increasing their self-reliance as set out in the Bathurst Mandate.

I might add this was written before your statement so I see that you did commit to helping the non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

>>*Applause*

The committee was pleased to see that the department has responded to this issue by setting aside funding through the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to focus on non-decentralized communities.

The committee looks forward to receiving a detailed report on the economic development projects initiated in non-decentralized communities.

The committee is pleased to see the department undertaking a number of reviews of its programs and services. We would hope that these reviews would be substantive and not only measure merely activity but also results and outcomes.

The Committee looks forward to the public release of these reports, such as:

- The report on the Review of Grants and Contributions;
- The Nunavut Economic Outlook report;
- The Road to Canada: opportunities for Public Investments in the New Nunavut Economy report; and
- The departmental review of programs relating to the support of businesses and community development that will be conducted in the upcoming year.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2001-2002 budget estimates. I may also add that I like what you have done with the M'Clintock Channel polar bear issue. You have dedicated money to that also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean for your opening remarks. We will have the minister and his officials go to the witness table. Thank you. The Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce my officials. On my left is Katherine Trumper and on my right is our Finance Director Jim Martin and we also have other officials sitting in the gallery. My Assistant Deputy Minister, Peter Ittinuar. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have not really recognized other people before while sitting in the committee chair. I would like to recognize Katherine. When I was younger, I met her and I didn't think that she would be working in the Nunavut region and I'm glad to see that she is now working with the Nunavut Government and I'm sure she's very knowledgeable of the needs of the people of Nunavut.

I wanted to congratulate her for appearing in front of us also. Now we are discussing with the minister, who is the youngest minister of the Nunavut cabinet and he has learned a great deal in such a short time.

>> *Applause*

I would wish that we would deal with his department as soon as possible. I will ask the members if they can begin with the details of expenditures. I will give the members ten minutes for their general comments at this time. General comments are now open for the members before we go to the capital estimates. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and committee chairman. I'm going to be talking about several things but I'll skip the ones that Mr. McLean already mentioned.

I will not be talking about Mr. McLean's comments but I have comments on the minister's opening remarks especially about 43 million 835 thousand dollars.

As well, I would be talking about the economic strategy that was done during the Bathurst Mandate and we find the implementation of it too slow. The process is too slow. Also, there's also some stuff that we would like initiated as well that have not had a budget put aside for them during 2001-2002.

We expect that these economic initiatives will begin as soon as possible for the future of Nunavut. Especially in regards to the economic strategies for the communities and for the non-decentralized communities. So, especially if the Keewatin fish and meat plant could get some assistance and the harvesters program in Coral Harbour. If the department can set aside some money for, say for instance for Coral Harbour harvesters' program or to get a meat plant established in Coral Harbour.

In the minister's opening remarks on page three, he stated that made in Nunavut economic initiatives is what they want to do. In regards to Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association and the others such as Nunavut Tourism, and that's the question that I had this morning that he told me that there would be another 179 thousand dollars allotted for 2001-2002.

I will be asking the minister questions on that and the other one that we have been expecting and is expected by the carvers in Nunavut are the soapstone quarries and we expect that this will be developed as soon as possible. They set aside only 450 thousand dollars for that for the carvers to be able to purchase soapstone and there's a lot of Nunavummiut that are taking carving and jewellery programs and we should have this started as soon as possible.

In the summer time, people go out on the land and it would help if we can get this program running as soon as possible. Again, I will be asking the minister about the Nunavut Broadband Task Force as to what state it is at right now and when it will be implemented.

The reason why is, Mr. Chairman, is that the people that have computers, they're not using television as much as they did before but they are using internet services more in Nunavut. Especially the children, because they learn a lot more on the computer with the internet service rather than watching TV. I am in support of this task force and I wondered if those dishes could be in place rather than the others that we're using right now. I think we have had a lot of problems with television being in our communities because it has robbed us of our language in a sense and robbed us from going out on the land like we usually do as Inuit people. Instead, we have been watching more television

than ever before when we should be out.

In the middle of page 4, the community economic development officers, I know that the minister and myself have been economic development officers in the past and now I'm happy to see that the hamlets have taken over the community economic development officers. It's nice to hear that. Perhaps I could let the government know that if they give money out to the hamlets for the use of economic development officers and when they know the community CEDOs, they are aggressive in helping the people in the community and for the government to have enough money set aside for the program.

Another item that I had wanted to mention on page 5 in the middle, the Fur Pricing Program and Community Harvesters Assistance Program. The minister stated that they will be working with Nunavut Tunngavik and I am happy to see that the price program is a very good program because there's a lot of people that have trapped white fox, about 3 thousand this year, in Coral Harbour up to about 50 dollars each.

Those people who have been getting assistance from social assistance and income support program when they start getting fox furs, it's very good to see the people trying their best to sustain themselves. In a month, one person gets about 200 hundred white foxes in Coral Harbour and this income support is very good for the people to be self reliant and not try to get money from the government.

So, for that reason that money, I think was about 29 million for the social assistance payments would probably decline when people start to try and make money on their own whether it be through hunting or through trapping foxes.

And as well, my last comment. We talked about the development of the Nunavut tourism industry. We would expect that program would be running especially for tourists that come to the north to take pictures and to go see the scenery and it will put more money into the communities when those tourists start coming into the communities. And we would hope that tourism industry becomes aggressive in the north. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome. I'll be making a brief comment on something that is very important to the High Arctic region, in my constituency.

We would like to make sure that the CEDOs are doing economic development work at the community level. Usually the CEDOs are funded by the hamlets and looking at the opening remarks, we're looking more into harvesting programs.

We are concentrating on harvesting programs and the communities have to have some more benefits going to their communities. Especially for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord with the caribou project.

Also another one that I would like to mention and what was also in the opening comments is the outpost camps. There are a few of them but they do need support and I think that we have to promote that further. I think there was a question on the issue of outpost camps but we want to make sure that your department gives further support to the ones that are established and another issue is environmental protection, which wasn't mentioned by the minister in his opening comments.

But in our communities, especially in the community of Arctic Bay and Resolute Bay it's something that is very important and we have to look at environmental protection when there's mining companies involved in the vicinity of these communities.

I think it's also important that we look at environmental protection, because of course it affects the animal habitats and so on. I think it is the Department of Renewable Resources that is working on this issue but it is kind of hard to see who is exactly responsible when you live in the smaller communities. It is something that has to be promoted by your department to make sure that the environment is protected and we would also like to make sure that the mining companies had a plan so that the environment is protected.

My fourth comment that I would like to bring out is, there are quite a number of communities that are given heavy-duty sewing machines but I do not know whether these women are trained on how to operate these heavy-duty sewing machines. Of course, they are very expensive and they are not being utilized because the women are not trained in operating these machineries.

I think that we should do something about that because it is self-sustaining and since the wildlife, since we are people who live close to the environment and to the animals around us we can bring in additional income through these types of activities.

We also have to make sure that the environment and the wildlife are protected. Your department, I believe, have to concentrate on these issues. Those are some of the comments that I wanted to make Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I am very proud of this young man who is the Minister of Sustainable Development.

I will make a very brief comment and it is in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the wildlife species in Nunavut. I think that your department should integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into your department. Some of the wildlife species migrate and they go through different areas of the land in certain times of the year and there is more in one year and less in the other.

The people do the population studies study in one area and then they say that there is a depletion in a certain species because they stay in one area for five years and of course the wildlife has moved away to richer grounds.

In the rivers and lakes that are stocked with fish, there are fluctuations in the fish population and because of course they migrate too. I know the animals out there. There is always a fluctuation of species like foxes for example. They are migratory and they move around to where the food is but what the biologists do is that they concentrate on one area and then we are told that there is depletion in a certain species.

Also the weather patterns, the climate is changing. It is very different from the time when I was young. Those are things that we have to be aware of.

Also, in Taloyoak, I would like to thank your department for looking into the polar bear issue, for doing a polar bear study because of course we hear that the numbers are decreasing and I am glad that you are going to do something about it and doing a study.

I will just leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I am also glad that Mr. Akesuk was appointed to head this department and they've done a huge job since he went on. He has a whole variety of activities in his department from wildlife to tourism and possibly marine species also.

I congratulate the minister for doing a good job and to his officials. The Deputy Minister, I've known for quite a long time. When I was trying to set up my small business and I received a letter at one point from her. When you have your own small business, you have to do so many things.

I was very pleased with your opening comments and it's going to be a boost for the Nunavut territory and I'm very well aware that in my constituency, you stated that you're going to be looking at economic opportunities. Not only for my riding but also the communities of Nunavut that are non-decentralized. They're going to see what kind of economic development ventures could be started in these non-decentralized communities. This issue and this study or review into the smaller communities is something that I'm looking forward to and it is something that's not going fast enough.

There's no new meat processing plants in some of the communities, there are no fish plants that are built in the communities and it's a lot harder for those communities. We used to have it easier when there were no plants around but now that they have a harvesting program in Coral Harbour, which my colleague, Mr. Arvaluk was happy about because there's a meat processing plant in Rankin Inlet and I am happy for the people of Keewatin.

The smaller communities who do not have any plants of any type, are going further down hill because the majority of the opportunities, the employment are going to those communities that have plants. Pangnirtung has one and I think it's been three or four

years that we were not able to sell our fish. In my riding, we can harvest caribou but since those meat processing plants and fish plants were established, there's less opportunities for the other communities.

I think your department should also look at other ventures that are being established down south for example, the fox farms that are established down there which is taking out some of the revenue that we might be generating up here. They completely brought down the economic opportunities that we could have gained because they have fish farms and fox farms and so on established down south. Using the fish roe and starting hatcheries down south and I think that we should be aware and keep a keen eye on what's going on outside of Nunavut because they're taking out fish roe, taking them down and putting them in hatcheries and growing char.

So we have to safeguard what we have up here because we are losing economic opportunities that we should have gained from. Especially the communities that do not have fish or meat processing plants.

Tourism in the smaller communities is not doing as well. I'm sure the tourists go to the places that they want to see if it's got mountains and majestic scenery but there are some of us who have flat lands but we do have an abundance of big and small game.

Maybe it's the smaller communities fault because they are not doing enough marketing but tourism didn't seem to quite get off the ground in the smaller communities not only for Hall Beach but also for the smaller communities.

I am very glad that we will be able to ask questions to your department on our concerns and my last comment that I would like to make is in regards to the outpost camps and they are suffering because we don't give them enough financial support. There, I don't know whether there's been a decrease in the outpost camp funding, but I think that we have to think about the outpost camps.

There was a problem last year where the outpost camp funding was approved but we weren't able to bring gas, heating fuel to the outpost camps because the ice was not in good condition anymore, by the time the money was made available to buy the gas for the outpost camps. So we have to look at that so the money goes into the communities in a timely manner so that we can bring in their necessary supplies. I tried to keep that as brief as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. If I could ask you to sit as the Chair for the Committee of the Whole.

**Chairperson** (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): I believe that Mr. Iqaqrialu would like to make a few comments. I have the chair. So you have 10 minutes Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll keep a close eye on my allotted time. Last year or since that time that Nunavut Government was created in 1999

we've been in full operation for the last two years and we have seen the change in the whole of Nunavut. We have seen some changes and we hope to keep this accelerating in the future.

I was brought up as a hunter, as a harvester, as a full-time hunter and I was taught the hunting techniques and everything else related to the land and the environment. As Mr. Alakannuark stated it's very, very true, the wildlife species migrate, so the numbers are never consistent in one area.

Also the animals move around following the abundance of the food. They eat themselves out of house and home so they move to another area. It's never a constant number in one particular area because they're migrating. When we see a report that was compiled by southerners or people that who were not brought up here, their studies seem to be so true but we know that they're not and it has a huge impact on the harvesters.

Also, we see studies that have been put together by people from outside of Nunavut which has an impact on the economy of Nunavut and we're told that these studies come from us but in truth they didn't. Also, the harvesters are not being listened to, they're not participating in the study. But they do know everything about the wildlife and their environment and habitats and so on. I think the people of Nunavut should be the ones who are doing the studies and keeping a tab on what's happening with those species so I think it's necessary that we do that.

Using my community as an example, Clyde River and Broughton Island, both have an abundance of polar bear and the policies have been changed where you can harvest male bears and not females. How it has affected me is that if we should harvest too many male bears, the reproduction would slow down because of course the large mammals reproduce very slowly and if there's too few male bears, the reproduction might slow down. My area is a breeding ground for the polar bears and sometimes it gets quite dangerous because sometimes they go right into the community. We've never had a mauling to date but it's a danger.

I would also like to tell your department about the polar bears and how they put the polar bears to sleep in order to do studies. That hurts the animals. It also damages them mentally and physically because of course, polar bears think like humans. They have human behaviours, and when they're not mentally stable, after they've been put to sleep, they get very skinny and their behaviour becomes erratic. There are a large number in my community and the older bears are very skinny because the small animals that they feed upon or eat are depleting. We have seen bears that have died naturally out there in the environment.

Another one that I would like to mention is regarding the wildlife in Nunavut. We have had test fisheries done in our communities. I have been involved in those. The fish migratory patterns, they migrate very far and they also go to different lakes and because of that, some of the lakes seem to have less fish than before because of course they have migrated to another lake. It would be very helpful if we started our test fisheries again



and we have seen that actual experience in my community. This is something that we've learned from including myself and how we can increase the population in those lakes.

Also Economic Development, we have had a few problems with that but even if that is the case, it has been a booster to the communities. Anyone in Canada, whether you be in Nunavut or outside of Nunavut can start a small business. We have the freedom in Canada because of course, the outside world does not have that much freedom and there is starvation and negative things out there.

As people of Nunavut and even though we have a shortage of money we could look into developing our economic development and we can help the poorer countries out there. It is something that would be very important because we cannot grow vegetables and we can only harvest the wildlife that are up here.

The minister and the Department of Sustainable Development are looking at a whole variety of opportunities that can be gained by the Nunavut communities and I am very proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any further comments. At this time do you want to return as Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): For the Department of Sustainable Development. Under the details, branch summary on page 11-9. We are going to the page Kivalliq Region, 325 thousand. Any comments. Questions. Under page 11-9. Olayuk did you want to make a comment.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we could start off on page 11-7. Before we get to the Keewatin and Kivalliq region maybe we could start off on the branch summary in 11-7. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. I apologize I opened it on that page. We will start off on page 11-7. Sustainable Development branch summary. Buildings and works, 695 thousand. Total headquarters region. Any comments. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): It is carried. We will go to the next page 11-8. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region, 695 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be good to under the attraction development Grise Fiord and Hall Beach. What is the actual, the attraction development on the Paumaktuk Park and Sylvia Grinnell Park, what is the actual development on these.

In Iqaluit, Grinnell Park has been developed gradually before Nunavut came about and

it's going to be ongoing development in that region. What kind of development are they referring to under attraction development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the attraction development this is ongoing maintenance in Isabella Bay under the sanctuary. They are looking through to see what kind of tourism attractions they could develop in the Sylvia Grinnell Park.

It was not completed. The development there, the attraction development there was not completed. So this is to complete the development that was ongoing for parks interpretive attractions under development attractions.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Not just on the attraction development but also other development under 11-9 also and page 11-10 in Baker Lake, Coral Harbour, Rankin Inlet what are the actual projects so that we'll know.

Can you, because on the heritage site in Baker Lake exactly what kind of development are they going to make, are they going to make Inukshuk's or it doesn't describe what types are being proposed for these areas. I also asked that question to public works.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, of course. When it's written down that way, next time you have these information we'll put more details into it for the main estimates. The capital estimates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. For total Qikiqtaaluk, 695 thousand. Any further comments. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Sustainable Development branch summary for Kivalliq, 325 thousand. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kitikmeot region, 270 thousand. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total building and works, 1 million 985

thousand. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Sustainable Development. Total headquarters region, 135 thousand dollars. Do you agree. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this 58 million 233 thousand dollars, equipment replacement, parks, campgrounds, how come these were not already in place in Qikiqtaaluk, Keewatin and Kivalliq whether if they're just not going to go into just one area.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): The amount of money allotted for equipment replacement, for various regions in parks, campgrounds and also, review of the monitoring of the houses. These are for various regions, not just necessarily for just these two areas, regions. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. James Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, they have been audited. In the audit report, when it's tabled, I'll ask more questions on those. Thank you,

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the 12 for parks that have been recognized as heritage parks, there are 12 that have been placed for their maintenance and repairs for equipment there. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Under the total headquarters, 135 thousand dollars. Questions. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Qikiqtaaluk region, 60 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Also, total Kivalliq region, 80 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kitikmeot region, 40 thousand

dollars. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like further clarification on this Inuktitut. I'm sorry, I think we went through that before. Sorry. It was in the Kitikmeot Region. The question that I was going to ask is on the previous page.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I don't want you to be left behind. While we're still the same department, we can go back to the next page that you wanted to ask questions on. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to return to 11-9. The Inuktitut part that says Pusiiksainiq under the attraction development, but it says office and garage underneath the writing. These are the questions I want to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question is about the 50 thousand. In Kugaaruk there's a protected area in that region, 100 thousand for the wildlife officer who has no workplace. So, that 100 thousand will be used to build a workplace for the wildlife officer and garage.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. This page has been dealt with so, we'll go back to 11-10. Total Kitikmeot, 40 thousand. Do you agree.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total equipment acquisition, 315 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three regions; Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, Kitikmeot all these have mobile equipment for motor vehicles and they're all under the mobile equipment.

In the Inuktitut part there's nunasiuti, maybe the next time you can state exactly what the actual equipment is rather than this mobile equipment like exactly under the Kugaaruk in Inuktitut is Arviluqak, can you have that spelling corrected.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It just says mobile equipment so we will be able to, it's for snowmobiles, boats, trucks that's what it would be used for.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. Total equipment acquisition, 315 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Carried. Sustainable Development branch summary. Sustainable Development details of capital. Total headquarters region 500 hundred thousand. Agreed. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Equipment European Union certification, can you clarify that under headquarters region.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): It's in order to market country food from our meat plant such as caribou meat, musk ox it has to be certified to be sent out of Canada. So that's what it means.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Two hundred and 50 thousand is a lot of money. Is this for staff travel or staff, what would that 250 thousand be used for.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's towards three areas. It's divided into three. The Kitikmeot meat plant, to inspect meat and in Rankin Inlet the meat plant, 125 thousand dollars will be used in the Rankin Inlet meat plant and 100 thousand dollars is towards Cambridge Bay's meat plant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. You want to continue Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Equipment upgrades, arts and crafts facilities. For which communities would that be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): That's also divided amongst three communities to upgrade equipment at the Jessie Oonark Centre and the Uqqumiut Arts and Crafts facility needs to be expanded, there's 10 thousand dollars for the review of the centre in there's another centre that it will be used for expansion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Nutarak are you done. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that is divided amongst the three communities. If there was a request to build a new centre would that be for all of Nunavut, would we have to request more funds.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we start dealing with main estimates, we'll be able to look into the question that Mr. Arvaluk raises.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Do you want to continue Mr. Arvaluk. Total headquarters, region 500 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total contributions, 500 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total capital expenditures, 2 million 800 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We'll go back to page 11-5. Sustainable Development, details of expenditures. This is where we started. On page 11-6. Total capital expenditures, 2 million 800 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Go to the next page, 11-5. Sustainable Development program summary. Details of expenditures. Total capital expenditures, 2 million 800 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Excuse me, I apologise, I raised my hand when I shouldn't have.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Capital expenditures, 2 million 800 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Carried. We'll move onto capital expenditures. We'll go onto the main estimates. Page 11-6, main estimates. Page 11-6. Is everyone on page 11-6. Sustainable Development branch summary, corporate management. Total operations and maintenance, 3 million 296 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 3 million 296 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn the page 11-7. Sustainable Development, branch summary. Sustainable Development. Total operations and maintenance, 28 million 236 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we go onto 11-7, I'd like to go through 11-8, 11-9 and 11-10, 11-12 and so on. I think we should go through the details before we go through 11-7.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We'll do that. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. If you will now turn to page 11-8. Sustainable Development, branch summary. Sustainable Development. Any comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the community economic development officers when Mr. Akasuk and I were CEDOs we couldn't go over 5 thousand dollars. I wonder if they could look at this again to see if they could increase the 5 thousand.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that when we were economic development officers this money was not very much but to start to give grants to small businesses that's the amount that is best presently.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that amount is less than 5 thousand, if it's going to go over 5 thousand, the proposals, I think they are called proposals would have to be done. There are some individuals that know about how to work with numbers but I'm not too good at putting it on paper so, I wonder if this will be able to be increased.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 5 thousand dollars is for small businesses and we will be able to discuss it further on 11-15 and that's for the business development fund, more than 5 thousand dollars. We'll be able to discuss that further.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk do you want to continue. We are on, turn to page 11-9. Any questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fur processing program. Grants to harvesters. Is the 120 thousand enough to, what does that cover, for example, the fur price is 25 bucks and right now if they are selling for 20 dollars, then your 120 thousand dollars will cover that 5 bucks. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk:** We are paying currently right now, 30 bucks a sealskin and I believe we also have a revolving fund on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Maybe I didn't explain myself very well. What I'm saying is, is that 120 thousand for 25 dollars for a fox pelt, white pelt for example, 30 dollars for a seal skin, we know all those things. Is that what it's supposed to cover, those two. Or is it supposed to cover the balance in case the hunter does not get the value of 25 or 30.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, the money we used was 200 and the money came back to us so that the 120 dollars for 2001-2002 we feel is adequate although when we get to 11-18, you'll see the information again, and that is the way we have it figured out right now Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I know about the 11-8 but that 120 thousand dollars, is it just in case it's not adequate, will you be able to be okay with the 120 thousand dollars, when the 120 thousand dollars is used up.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can go over 120 thousand dollars if we have to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the limit you can go over if you go over 120 thousand dollars. To your estimates, how much would you go.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 11-18, it states that the authorized limit is 900 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk.



**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's very good to hear. Have you considered whether the 25 or the 30 dollars could be increased when you assist the trappers and the harvesters of seals. You don't usually provide income support, I mean social services does not provide income support as much. Have you considered increasing that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking into this at this time and in purchasing the fox and the sealskins, sometimes they go by the quality of the seal and the quality of the fox pelts. We will be providing some information on that at a later date to the harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to be able to speak. I have to reiterate what my colleague, Mr. Arvaluk, has been talking about. Over the last six months, there's been a renaissance in the fur industry, in the world right now.

There seems to be the acceptance of people wanting to wear fur again, it's not a dark, deep dirty thing that it has been for the last 15 years. People in Europe, which is a major market, are starting to see the fur industry as being positive again.

I don't think they have the attitude towards aboriginal people in the way they harvest the fur. An example, you know, it's different but over in the NWT the diamond mines have got a little polar bear on the diamonds now and that's to show that the diamonds aren't coming from South Africa where slave labour and child labour and things like that.

That signifies the diamonds coming out of the NWT and, has your department tried to re-focus or reload on making the fur industry purchase or be more acceptable to our industry. Have there been any extra efforts or are we just letting the status quo. I think my colleague from Coral Harbour was saying that the white fox pelts are gone up to levels that make it attractive for the subsistence hunters and trappers to go back out on the land where they like to be and to make a buck again. Which is great.

I'd like to champion the cause of the little guys like Mr. Arvaluk is, the seal skins, I brought this up last year and I said that you know, if we can sell more then that all falls in together with what we are trying to do up here. For most traditional economies, there still has to be more emphasis, and I have to reiterate this and this is the second time that I have said this in two years, that the sealing industry has taken a large hit but the sealing industry up here is totally different than what it is in southern Canada and other places.

These skins that are coming from Nunavut and if they are being bought, and I think the Premier was telling me that he took some seal skin products over to Japan with him and gave them out as gifts and they were very well received. I don't want to sound like I'm

constantly harping on the department about the traditional economy but, it's outside dollars. And you have been involved, your families are involved in the traditional economy, Mr. Minister and the previous minister has been involved in it.

But it just seems that the department is going in the right direction, they are listening, your department is listening but, I just want to go back and say can we sell more products are we going to promote more, where the industry is being sort of revived today.

But the problem here is that these seal skins come from people that have lived off them for thousands and thousands of years and it was their food, clothing and shelter. It's not like the seal skins down south that are relied on because of monetary gain.

So, I'm hoping I'm not going to beat this one much longer and that you got the message that this time next year if the fur industry keeps where it's going that we could look at this and say yeah, we bought four hundred seal skins this year or we subsidized four hundred.

But next year we are going to subsidize three or four thousand and that will start building capacity in our communities again about hunting if we can only get the permits to buy the bullets. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are promoting seal skins and the fur industry, there's going to be a fashion show of seal products in Montreal and whoever wants to come and see the fashion show in Montreal is welcome to come down there.

We are going to be promoting the Nunavut people not slaughtering seals but rather hunting them the way we have always done and we will be showing that film called Waiting on the Ice, just to let all the people in the world know that we are not slaughtering our seals.

So, there will be a fashion show in Montreal in May and we will be promoting that as well. In regards to the comments by the member, if we start buying more seal skins, and fur products, this will be promoted by our department and the money that we will be giving to the harvesters together will be 290 thousand dollars when we bought a bunch of sealskins in Nunavut to sell down south. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good answer. You're spending more. On this fashion show in Montreal, I'm sure all the members would like you to make our reservations and give us all our plane tickets so we can show up to it. Thank you very much, send my ticket.

But going back to the Montreal fashion show, is there going to be buyers from Europe

there. The places where the market should be. I know in Montreal, there's probably pressure from Newfoundland and places like that to buy seal products but are we actively pursuing the European market for seal products and fur products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that's all I got.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the largest fashion show that we're going to be having in Montreal and it will help out the people of Nunavut. We would like to see in the future, to be able to do some showing in the European countries of our animals, such as seal and fox in European countries to promote the harvesters of Nunavut and to have them purchased by those people that live there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. There's a motion on the floor to report progress. It's not debatable.

Does the Committee agree. Thank you, Minister of Sustainable Development and his officials. We will see you tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

At this time, we will get the Speaker to come to the chamber.

**Speaker**: We'll continue with the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, 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 and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: There's a motion on the floor. Who's to be the seconder of the motion. Ms. Manitok. Thank you, the motion is in order. All in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion carried.

We'll go on with the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier. I'm sorry, Mr. Ng.

### Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

#### Bill 2 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2000/2001 -Third Reading

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 2 has had third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Back to Orders of the Day. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk (Mr. Quirke):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment & Sustainable Development, tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock in the Natsiq Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, March 22, 2001:

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

Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until March 22, 2001 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

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



