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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday March 28, 2001**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Ireqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Uriash Puqignak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Kattuk to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, members. Just before we proceed, I would like to acknowledge and thank Mr. Haviyok and Mr. Puqignak while I was away and also let the people back in my community know that the operation my daughter had last week in Toronto went well. We hope that within the next few weeks she will receive some of her sight back.

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Item 2. Mr. Anawak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 055 – 1(5): Canada Summer Games 2001

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on August 11th, Nunavut will make its national debut at the Canada Summer Games in London, Ontario. I rise to ask Members of the Legislative Assembly and all Nunavummiut to recognize the work of Sport Nunavut staff and volunteers in preparing Team Nunavut for this exciting opportunity.

The Arctic Winter Games are the circumpolar world's ultimate sport and cultural event. The Canada Summer Games are our nation's most prestigious multi-sport, multi-cultural event. Athletes participating in these Games are aspiring to even higher levels of competition, such as the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics. This year, for the first time, Nunavut will send a small representative team to the Games. Team Nunavut will consist of a Wrestling team and representatives in the Fine Arts/Cultural program. Also, we have eight seats reserved at the Athlete and Coaching Educational Symposium for four sport youth leaders and four developmental coaches who have shown dedication to sport in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) For Nunavut, the Canada Games is not just about elite athleticism,

but also a first-hand experience of the benefits of sport in developing healthy attitudes. Pride, self-esteem, commitment, teamwork and dedication, all so necessary to building our Pinasuaqtavut vision of self-reliant individuals and healthy communities, can all be fostered through sport programs such as the Canada Summer Games. Nunavummiut participants will have the opportunity to see the advantages of striving toward goals they have set themselves, as valuable a lesson in life as it is in sport. The Canada Summer Games experience will leave a lasting impression in the minds and hearts of our young participants.

(interpretation) Team Nunavut clothing and promotional items are now being readied; the Mission Staff has been selected and will also benefit from the training opportunity offered by these Games.

From August 11-25, the eyes of all Canadians will be focused on the Canada Summer Games. Nunavummiut can be assured that Team Nunavut will represent our territory with dignity and pride as they proudly carry the Nunavut flag for the first time in Canada Games history this summer in London, Ontario. We are extremely proud of our athletes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 056 – 1(5): Mining Update

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be giving a mining update. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I had the opportunity to represent Nunavut at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada annual convention in Toronto. The PDAC Convention is considered the world's largest and most influential gathering of its kind, bringing together more than 7000 participants from the mining industry. I had the opportunity to meet with representatives of many of the mining companies now operating or exploring in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I would like to provide members with an update on the mineral exploration and mining sector in Nunavut, and a brief outlook for the next year.

This past year has seen a restart of the Lupin Gold mine following its shutdown in early 1998. Echo Bay Mines Ltd. confirmed their commitment to the Lupin mine and Nunavut by re-engineering the operation to reduce costs so that the mine can continue to be profitable with the low gold prices the industry now faces.

(interpretation) The year also saw full operation at the territory's two zinc mines Nanisivik and Polaris. As the MLA for Quttiktuq is aware, this July will mark the start of the last year of operations at the Polaris mine. (interpretation ends) All three of Nunavut's mines are more than 20 years old this year and while these mines have proven that

mining in Canada's Arctic is not only possible, but profitable, we are now ready for a new generation of mines to be developed here.

First, in the new generation of mines, is the Tahera Diamond project, which is in the regulatory phase of development. This mine, though modest in scale, will be the first mine considered under the regulatory structures created in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the members and staff of the co-management boards who have worked so hard to make our regulatory structures effective and efficient.

Last year exploration companies invested almost 40 million dollars in their search for mineral deposits in Nunavut.

The most promising exploration projects in Nunavut are; the Hope Bay Gold project, south of Cambridge Bay; the Meliadine Gold project near Rankin Inlet, the Ferguson Lake Nickel and Platinum project west of Arviat, the Musko Nickel and Platinum project and the Knife Lake Diamond project south of Kugluktuk, the Jackson Inlet diamond project west of Arctic Bay, the Meadowbank gold project north of Baker Lake, and the zinc projects of Cominco and Noranda Limited north and west of Resolute Bay.

This year, through our Nunavut Prospectors' Program, 50 Nunavummiut were motivated to explore the land as independent prospectors. In my term as Minister of Sustainable Development I expect to have the opportunity to inform the House about great new discoveries our prospectors will have made.

This year we will continue our investment in learning about our geology. The Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office completed its first year of mapping in the central Baffin, west of Clyde River. In response to their preliminary maps, three major companies have acquired exploration rights in this area and we look forward to the potential for new discoveries.

I want to stress that while the existing mines in Nunavut are closing down, a new generation of projects are being explored to take their place in a new business environment of partnership and environmental responsibility. We will work to develop these new projects to ensure that our residents and communities benefit fully from these opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 057 – 1(5): Community Radio Questionnaire

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The voices that are heard on Nunavut's community radio stations are very important voices.

They are the voices of elders and the voices of youth and they are speaking in the language we strive to protect and promote. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, my department provides financial support for community radio through our Grants and Contributions program.

We are revisiting the structure of this program to see how we can further help the development and delivery of community radio in Nunavut. This Community Radio Questionnaire has been sent to all hamlet offices.

I ask all the honourable members to encourage their constituencies to complete this questionnaire. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 058 – 1(5): Minister Absent from House

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to advise members that Minister Kilabuk may not be in the House today because his flight is on mechanical right now and he is awaiting another flight for his return from Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 157 – 1(5): Nunavut Youth Abroad Program

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome you back to the House. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a very worthwhile initiative for our youth -- the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program.

Many youth in our communities have difficulties making the transition from their home communities to communities outside of Nunavut when wishing to pursue educational or career opportunities.

The Nunavut Youth Abroad Program is aimed at providing young Nunavummiut with experience in southern Canada and abroad. The Program's mission is to foster leadership, cross-cultural awareness and personal development in our young people. It is an excellent opportunity for our young people to gain important skills and self-confidence.

Each year, approximately 14 youth aged 16-21 are chosen from Nunavut. In their first year, they live for six weeks in a southern Canadian community. These same youth are then eligible to participate the following summer in a developing country.

Most of the work for the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program is performed by volunteers. In the past two years, with the support of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and federal partners, 24 youth from across Nunavut were able to participate. Funding support from Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has been essential in leveraging additional funding from the federal Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

Mr. Speaker, the support of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is essential if this program is to continue. In 2001, students from Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Kugaaruk, Gjoa Haven, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Coral Harbour, Pond Inlet, Repulse Bay, Hall Beach, Igloolik, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung and other communities have been selected to participate in the Canadian phase and the International Phase of this very worthwhile program. Over time, the program wants to involve youth from every community.

I would like to congratulate two students from my communities; Sandra Lyall from Taloyoak and Flora Arqviq from Gjoa Haven for being accepted into the Canadian Phase of the program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in urging the department to support the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program in the coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, member. Just to remind you that you passed your time limit by a good portion. But being that you did take my chair this week, we'll let you go on this one. Member's Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 158 – 1(5): Community Radio Stations

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to your Chair, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Puqiqnak was talking for about half an hour so I am going to talk for another half hour.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Peter Kattuk, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth for making his comments on the community radio questionnaire. I would like to thank the minister for making that announcement because it is extremely important and something that I worked hard on. My community and the Tikirajuaq Radio Society worked extremely hard.

The radio society has to be congratulated because they tried to get off the ground even though they went through extreme financial hardships. It is very hard to do fundraising in the smaller communities. But Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the community radios are extremely important and essential, especially when there is a search and rescue going on because they use the radio to keep the community informed about what is happening.

Usually the community radio keeps their station open day and night. The community radio is also used for rummage sales, and to keep the communities informed about activities and the news that is happening at the community level.

The radio society, again using the local radio, let the elders talk about the weather or give traditional weather observations. Again, with our Inuktitut language it is something that we would like to promote and retain and usually with the community radio stations, the elders give advice on the proper usage of the Inuktitut language.

They use the radio to promote the Inuktitut language. If you don't mind, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to my colleagues. I would like to thank you all. Community radios are extremely important for myself personally and also to the other people out there. I can use an example, in the English culture newspapers are extremely important and of course to some Inuit I am sure. But in the English culture they function more in the written form and with Inuktitut it has always been oral history.

Our traditional language is still alive today because of our oral history. Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say is that the community radios are extremely important to the Inuit who understand the language or even if they don't. The local radio stations are essential to both the Inuit and non-Inuit. Like I said, I would like to thank the people of Tikirajuaq.

I heard that they received a grant of six thousand dollars for their local radio station. But the six thousand dollars didn't go very far. For example in Tikirajuaq the radio was closed for approximately three months. Their equipment is extremely old so they had to spend more than 10 thousand dollars to buy a new system. That is way over the amount of money that they raised. They also have to pay for the rent and maintenance of their radio station.

The people of Whale Cove worked extremely hard to raise those funds. The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Peter Kattuk knows exactly what hardships the radio societies go through so he made a small contribution. I would like to thank you very much Mr. Minister for the survey you announced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 159 - 1(5): Nunavut Youth Abroad Program

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement will be very brief today. But I want to reiterate my colleague from Gjoa Haven on the Nunavut Youth Abroad Program.

My community was one of the benefactors of having sent Abigail Noah from Baker Lake to Africa last year. I urge the minister responsible to fund this program for the 2001 fiscal year.

Because Mr. Speaker, not a lot of our youth get to travel across the world and experience other cultures and lifestyles. Today Mr. Speaker, I am pretty disappointed. For reasons I don't know, this program will not be funded this year. But I will be asking the minister in the House why that program hasn't been funded this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 160 - 1(5): Community Radio Stations

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth because the local radio stations are one of the issues that I have addressed as well. As I stated before Mr. Speaker, most of the radio equipment is antiquated. There are not even any monitors for the sound systems.

It is good to hear this issue being addressed. There are definite problems with the antiquated equipment. Sometimes you are trying to come on and it gets switched off by mistake. These radio stations are really useful to both Inuit and non-Inuit in the communities.

The government officials that go into communities, say for instance the Deputy Ministers, when they go to the communities they use these local radio stations. I am sure that the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and his department will be estimating the capital budget for next year. So I would like to see this included in the capital estimates. Again, I wish to extend my thank you to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and I hope they work to improve the situation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 161 - 1(5): Grave Workers in Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome back to the Chamber. Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly comment although this is not a return to a question about the Commissioner but I will want to have unanimous consent to continue with my remarks if I run out of time. Now I want to again raise an issue that I have reiterated over and over in this Chamber about the graves that were relocated in Hall Beach. I want to repeat my comments and I would like to ask unanimous consent if I run out of time.

These graves had to be moved because they were too close to houses that were being built as the population grew. Back then a while ago, Inuit buried their loved ones close by

and even though the ground was flat they still buried them there. These graves were not too close to the community.

But as the population grew and the houses were being erected they came very close in no time. When these graves had to be moved they had to look for someone who had to move these graves and they found...my time is up Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to continue my remarks.

Speaker: Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the members. Thank you for consenting to my request to extend my speaking time. Back then those guys that were hired to move the graves were the only ones who were able to do the work. I don't know if it was in the 60's or 1970's but there was no equipment available to dig up these graves to move them. So, these men shovelled and dug up the graves and moved them.

Back then the graveyard had to be increased. Back then when there was illness such as smallpox or measles back in the 1960's, what we would deem as many Inuit died in the summers in the 1960's.

Afterwards, as usual, life goes on, we live and we die, and as people pass away there are newer graves. Now those people that moved the graves, as Inuit we are always closely related to each other in the small communities. Those people I am speaking about live in Hall Beach and have relatives there. They worked hard to survive and to help the people of Hall Beach.

Sometimes on hearing their stories, they had no choice but to do the work themselves. When they had the unpleasant task of moving the graves, they had to wait until the ground thawed enough to dig up those graves. As I said before it is impossible to exhume the boxes out of the frozen ground.

It was only after the ground had thawed enough that they were able to dig out the graves. They did a good job of it. They used their own dog teams to transport the graves to another site. Some of them had to wait until the ground was thawed enough and had to deal with things like corpses thawing out and flesh falling off and very putrid smells.

They had no choice but to do this job. Some of the blood that melted off these corpses ended up on their mitts as well, not just their kamotiks but also on their mitts. After they had transported the corpses they couldn't eat for days afterwards because the smell of death was so strong, and the sights had been so horrible. They couldn't eat.

These people should be commended for having the courage to do a very unpleasant task. When they were hired to do this unpleasant task, they were told that they would be given a substantial amount of money. This was not done. Now in the communities, before they became a hamlet, the settlement council back then was responsible for having the graves moved.

The priest of the Roman Catholic Church back then was also a member of the settlement council. This is one of the reasons why it was believed the Catholic Church were the ones who initiated the move of those graves. Mr. Speaker, I want to try and straighten out the record about this. It is not true that the Americans ordered the graves be moved. The Americans set up camp about two miles away. There was a single grave at that site, and they did move that grave. That has caused an erroneous belief that it was the Americans who took action on the primary gravesite, even though this particular grave was not part of it.

Mr. Speaker, after meeting with the Minister of Health he said that there is funding available now to be accessed to help pay for these types of projects. So I informed my constituents that there is funding available and that they can apply for funding by filling out a form. I also informed my constituents that they would finally receive payment after the application is properly filled out.

Of course, that funding is supposed to be used up by the end of March, so they have until the end of March to use up the funds. The men who had the courage to move these graves have never yet received any payment. So Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my gratitude on behalf of those men for the funding that has been made available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 162 – 1(5): Language and Use of Inuktitut Words

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to talk about a language issue, the language of southerners. Many southerners miss what is said in our language. It's very hard to interpret some words like if you say sarimannaq, or naglinaq in Inuktitut, there's some words that we could interpret into our language, like igloo, qajaq, ulu, inuksuk and others.

But there are some words I think that we have used in the past and they seemed to make sense then but today it doesn't sound right. Even when you're working with southerners, or if your spouse is white or non-Native, sometimes Inuit might say qablunaaruluit, qablunaaruluk, and a non-Aboriginal might not mind hearing that, not knowing what it means.

But if a white person were to say Inuruluit, the Inuk person would be offended. But there are some words that are used in the Inuktitut language that are unwelcoming. I think we need to watch what we say sometimes. Sometimes we say certain words and unintentionally hurt another person, and I truly believe we need to be more sensitive about what we say as Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 163 - 1(5): Equipment in Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Deputy Speaker for sitting on your behalf when you were out of town. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to talk about equipment that is going into the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I've often talked about equipment that we are purchasing in the communities. Equipment or material that we have never seen before. Equipment that is essential nowadays, like HF radios that are very important to Inuit. When you buy an HF radio there are so many things that you have to do. You have to get a licence and you have to be respectable when you are speaking on the radio. I feel that those kinds of materials have been introduced to the Inuit. There seem to be a lot of blocks that we come across.

So Mr. Speaker, as the Government of Nunavut I'd like to try to provide communities with equipment that are needed in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Moving on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 055 – 1(5): Community Radio Stations

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a response to a question asked by Jobie Nutarak on February 28, 2001. Mr. Speaker, I think today is community radio station day. I would like to update the members on the community radio station review as per Mr. Nutarak's question regarding community radio stations.

Our department sent out a questionnaire to all hamlets in Nunavut. We have received some responses but not all of them. Once we have received all the questionnaires, I will share the results with the members. I will ensure the member gets the information in the middle of April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Return to OQ 102 - 1(5): Kugluktuk Language Bureau Trainees

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question by Donald Havioyak on March 8, 2001. Mr. Speaker, I am responding to Mr. Havioyak's

request regarding training in our language bureau in Kugluktuk.

Currently we have no training positions in our language bureau as our interpreter/translators are qualified to fulfill the job requirements. However, we are working with Human Resources to conduct a needs assessment for training opportunities for our entire department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Kattuk.

Return to OQ 110 - 1(5): Historical Resources Advisory Board Meeting

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was asked by Jobie Nutarak on March 9, 2001.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Jobie Nutarak on March 9, 2001 concerning the Historical Resources Advisory Board meeting. We are scheduling the Historical Board Advisory Meeting in the last week of April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two people from my constituency. The first is Lottie Toomasie, Mayor of Qikiqtarjuaq, welcome. The second person is Monica Kooneeliusie, my CA in Qikiqtarjuaq, welcome.

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual. I hardly ever have a chance to recognize people, but I would like to recognize this person from our department. Just recently, during the youth conference in Pond Inlet he was in attendance. Israel Mablick, welcome.

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Israel Mablick. He worked with my son at the gas station and when my son was homesick for our home community, he was very helpful in keeping him happy here. I would also like to say hi to the community of Rankin Inlet, especially my cousin Misha.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize an individual that has already been recognized, Mr. Speaker, Israel Mablick. He is the Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Arreak's grandson and I'd like to welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize an individual in the House, William Amagoalik, originally from Resolute Bay. He's at the window. He's living in Iqaluit. The reason I want to recognize him is because he's President of the youth organization. He's worked a lot with the youth in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I'd like to welcome you back to the Chair. I hope everything is well with your daughter after her operation. I understand it was good news.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome to the gallery, several people. First of all, three individuals that just came into the gallery awaiting their opportunity to be in committee of the whole with the health budget. I know I told them to be here at 2:30. We're going a bit late, they'll have a chance to meet you later.

First of all the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Andy Johnson sitting directly to the left of the window. Next to him in the middle, Mr. Don Maychruk, our Director of Finance, and next to him, a very recognizable individual now, in the Baffin, especially here in Iqaluit, Mr. Glenn Thompson who is the director of the Baffin operations for health and social services.

Mr. Speaker I'd also like to welcome in the gallery, a writer, a professor, a person originally from England, she's been doing many, many studies on the form of government that we have here in Nunavut.

She's sitting next to a guy who I've caught lots of fish with, I've camped with him, he's stayed at my house, he's an old family friend, many times we've had good conversations. He was based in Igloolik, I think he's still Igloolik. He works for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, excellent youth representative, Israel Mablick.

Directly behind him, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an old friend of mine from the Baffin Region Futures Society, back in the late 80s, he used to be the vice

Chairperson, I was the Chairman, Mr. Lootie Toomasie to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize an individual that is from my constituency, Sandy Akavak. He was an RCMP officer, and the individual sitting beside him, I welcome them both to the Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 199 – 1(5): RFP Kivalliq Dental Services

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome you back and hope your daughter recovers successfully, I think she will. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health. Last week I was asking him questions on Kivalliq dental services.

Today Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Health, I know there is an RFP going out for Kivalliq dental services. When the RFP goes out, can the minister make sure that the communities in the Kivalliq get more dental visits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this gives me an opportunity first of all to clarify an answer that I gave on Monday to Mr. McLean. Indeed, we contract Nunavut Dental Services, NDS, for the delivery of dental services in the Keewatin. Of course the fee schedule is set by the NIHB.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we would be looking at in the RFP is to increase scheduled visits from where we are now, to where we would like to be with the dental services and where it is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the answer I was looking for so I don't want to belabour this question any more. Can he affirm that Baker Lake will get more dental visits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I can confirm that now Mr. Speaker, the information that I gave the member the other day is that based on the schedule, we had 85 visit days I think it was, in Baker. That has been moved to 108 days for this fiscal year. So he has his increased dental services.

Though I can't say categorically at this present time that the services will be increased a huge amount or anything. The RFP is not out and that's not going to be done for another three months. But it would be our intention Mr. Speaker, to do exactly what the member has asked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it is a hard question to answer. But if there is a need there, if my constituents need more dental visits and the dentist is there and we are paying their airfare from Winnipeg and we are paying the hotel accommodations, I don't think it would be a great, great expense to have them stay there and do the work that is needed for the community.

So can the minister confirm that the dentists will finish the work that has to be done in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A Member: Hear, hear.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 200 – 1(5): Mental and Physical Disabilities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health & Social Services. In Nunavut, there are a lot of people that have mental illnesses and some of them have physical disabilities.

I just wondered how those people could be given more assistance and what things has the Minister of Health been doing to assist those people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question correctly, the member is referring to mental disabilities. Mr. Speaker, it is fair to say in

the context of the question that the member asked that the government has not done enough in the way of mental services over the past X number of years. Not just now with the Government of Nunavut, but with the Government of the NWT.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, as we know there isn't one mental health facility anywhere in the territory. At the present time we have one room set aside at the Baffin Regional Hospital for people when there are problems with mental illness. That has to change. That's why Mr. Speaker, in our budget we have put money aside to renovate and enhance the old women's shelter for Nunavut for mental illness.

Everyone in this House knows that some people at BCC have mental illnesses, that's the reason why they are there. So Mr. Speaker, we have put mental health workers in most of our communities, in some cases Mr. Speaker, we have actually put psychiatric nurses in communities to help deal with some of these problems on the ground at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some people don't just have mental disabilities. There are also people that have physical disabilities. The people with physical disabilities should also be assisted more in Nunavut. I just wondered if that has been the work of the Department of Health and Social Services to see what kind of further assistance they can receive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know one of the first initiatives of the Government of Nunavut was actually to fund the Nunavut Council for Disabilities. The first Executive Director was Meeka Kilabuk who now is President of QIA. They have been proactive in some of the work that they have been trying to do. I have met with them and indeed Mr. Speaker, a week and a half ago many of the members here were supposed to meet with the Council, but because of some itinerary problems, that meeting couldn't be held.

Mr. Speaker, we are following up our work with the Council for Disabilities for those people who are suffering from physical disability. We are working proactively with them. It is an initiative Mr. Speaker that goes government wide. Not just for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the response. But would there ever be a facility for those people with disabilities here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes Mr. Speaker, we do have those facilities right now in Nunavut. An example Mr. Speaker, for severely mentally handicapped people, young adults and children that we have talked about in this House Mr. Speaker, is St. Therese's Home.

Here in Iqaluit we also have some homes as well in the Keewatin, where we have homes set aside for people with severe physical disabilities. One of the things we'd like to do Mr. Speaker, when the new Baffin Regional Hospital is built for this region and for Nunavut is to have some type of physiotherapy set up there on a permanent basis where we would be able to do some physiotherapy work with people with physical disabilities.

That is the goal Mr. Speaker, of the Department of Health and Social Services. At the same time Mr. Speaker, we do provide physiotherapy whether it is in Winnipeg for the Keewatin residents or in Yellowknife or indeed in Edmonton for the Kitikmeot residents. The Baffin region has the actual hospital here with a regional physiotherapist or in Ottawa for people that need that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to get some more clarification from the member. Would you be able to look into all the communities in Nunavut to see what kinds of mental illness the population of Nunavut has and the kinds of disabilities there are in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the answer to that question is in two parts. One Mr. Speaker, is that through the home and community care program that we are launching in partnership with the regional Inuit organizations and NSDC, there will be an opportunity where we will be able to train people at the local level.

Their salary dollars will be budgeted through programs from the federal government to be able to deliver care and other services for people who need that at the community level. The second part of the question Mr. Speaker, depends on what facilities we have at the local level. For example, in the member's community we do have a good operating wellness centre and programming in Clyde River.

That type of program and services maybe if we move farther along Mr. Speaker, we would be able to enhance the programs and services at that centre to all the residents. That is something that we are looking at throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 201 – 1(5): Funding for Youth Abroad Program

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My clock is not working, so I don't have a time limit. I made my member's statement on Nunavut Youth Abroad. I think we have to make sure that the young people of Nunavut can take advantage of youth going abroad in Canada and other countries.

My question is directed the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I think that the Nunavut Youth Abroad program is being funded by his department. In 2001/2002, will there be any more funding for Nunavut Youth Abroad. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program, Nunavut Youth Abroad, I'm not sure what the numbers are but there is some funding available to Nunavut Youth Abroad. Perhaps if he could clarify his question, exactly what he's talking about, which youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a member's statement earlier on about the Nunavut Youth Abroad program. They travel to the provinces and they go abroad to European countries. That's who I'm talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the 2001/2002 budget, Nunavut Youth Abroad can request funding from my department. We will be providing information through Nunatsiaq News and other media. Last year we provided up to 15 thousand dollars for this program for Nunavut Youth Abroad. But at this time, April 23 will be the last day for them to request funding from us. Those 14 youth that are taking training in the Canadian cities, we assisted four of them to go abroad. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to thank the minister for the response he gave me. As I understand it, are you saying the funding will be available after April 1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am saying is the deadline for applications for funding is at the end of April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): The way I understand it, say one of my communities, Taloyoak for instance have applied for 58 thousand dollars to send students on exchange trips. They have requested funding. The proposal has been rejected. I do not know why the proposal was rejected. Could they be given a reason why their funding was not approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These applications for funding are for anyone who applies for it. If they wish to apply for funding, they could still apply for funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 202 - 1(5): Radio Questionnaire

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want a clarification because I posed some questions to the Premier and he told me some ministers were going to respond to my question. So I thought my questions were going to be disregarded. So I will just put my questions together.

I thought my questions were going nowhere but apparently, there was a response to the question that was posed on February 28 and again on March 9. I want to thank the minister for responding to my question. The minister made his remarks about the radio stations. I was glad to hear his response to my question.

Now this letter has been forwarded to the hamlet offices in the communities. There are communities who have radio societies in their communities and there are some communities who don't have radio societies. Will those radio societies be getting a copy of this letter that Mr. Kattuk sent to the Hamlet Councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to his question, we will be forwarding a copy to the Hamlet Councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How long will it take for radio societies to receive this letter. Will it take a whole year or two years. How long. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are questionnaires in the communities already. Some have already been returned. Some of the questions on the questionnaire have been answered and returned. Perhaps in the next month we will have a better idea of what issues there are in every community in terms of radio, local radio stations and radio societies.

Now I'm not saying exactly when these projects will take place but somewhere in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there was a question posed to him earlier he mentioned somewhere in May. So it will actually come true after May, when he's consulted with the communities. After he's reviewed the questionnaires are we going to see something in place by May.

I know that this is my last supplementary but he said that he will be sending us information out by mid-April. Will he be informing us when we have our next session in Cambridge Bay. Will he give us information or update the information as to what has taken place so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated earlier when the members return to their constituencies they could help me, if they are willing to help me, they could ask their constituents about the questionnaires. If the community has not sent in their response, the members could help me by asking their respective communities to submit the questionnaires.

I'm not exactly sure how many questionnaires have been returned but if their communities and their constituents have not returned this questionnaire yet, I would like to ask their assistance in getting those questionnaires back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 203 - 1(5): Funding for Grave Workers

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last Friday when I spoke in English I told my colleague that I hoped he would sleep well after and I am back here today. Now, in regards to my earlier remarks, I have a few more questions because we are nearing the end of March. We are very near the end of March.

Yes, I made some remarks but I just wanted to add that these men were temporarily employed for about two weeks. Back then they were still travelling by dog team. These men had to take two weeks off their hunting to provide for their families in order to move

those graves.

This employment opportunity was appealing because they were promised a substantial amount of money. Since not all of the funding has been used up, is there any more funding for this type of work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased the member went home and had a good holiday and he's back and again asking some of these questions and I'll try and answer them in as much detail as possible.

I think the member is referring to the contribution agreement money that we have for wellness and healing. There is some money left in that fund for this fiscal year.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, that money as I said, is used for closure, for bringing closure for community wellness issues. For example, we helped out with a reunion with that money. So I hope that answers the member's question.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the minister is saying that there is still some money to compensate the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I said, the member asked about the funding and I explained the situation with the fund. I believe yesterday, from the Premier's office, we've been in contact with the Hamlet of Hall Beach who have sent written documentation to me as the Minister of Health & Social Services on some of the information surrounding the burial.

Mr. Speaker, I have that in front of me. The member has seen it. The hamlet did not approach the Government of Nunavut for funding to pay for salaries. What the hamlet had asked for, Mr. Speaker, by motion was a little bit different than that. Mr. Speaker, I can table the document I guess later, but the motion asks for, the hamlet council asks; Therefore be it resolved that the hamlet council asks for support and that they be compensated being the gravediggers, by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Speaker, what I've been talking about, what Minister Anawak talked about when he was the Minister of Justice previously and Community Government & Transportation, and what we asked the hamlet yesterday is how can we help bring closure to this traumatic incident with the people in Hall Beach who had done an excellent job in the 1960s, I'm not sure of the date, of moving the graves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. He stated that the assistance would be made available. So will the assistance be made available to the individuals that moved the graves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, we've had some high level discussions with the Hamlet of Hall Beach. The Hamlet of Hall Beach on behalf of the grave diggers have asked us to support them to be compensated for their salaries from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Speaker. And we will do that. Mr. Speaker, I will write the Minister of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Robert Nault, on behalf of the grave diggers as requested by the hamlet, by their motion.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, we've contacted the hamlet to see if we could help bring closure to this. Some type of wellness program funding, which is what the contribution monies that we talked about were set up for. Like a workshop or something like that. Those discussions are being held right now, Mr. Speaker, with the hamlet officials. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister, when I raised some questions to him yesterday, he responded by saying he would write me a letter regarding the issue. Today he is stating that he is going to be writing a letter to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and will be working with them.

Mr. Speaker, it was going to go through at one point and he stated at an earlier date that they'd be able to receive their money and today there seems to be other things that need to be done before the individuals get their money. We seem to be hitting more roadblocks. He once told me that the hamlet could send him a letter and that they'd be able to receive the money after the letter was received by the minister.

I am not sure what we have to do now. Do we have to wait for the hamlet's letter. Do we have to wait for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I am starting to get confused. So could he clarify what is going to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member. I will try to clarify. Mr. Speaker, the hamlet has sent the proposal explaining what they have done with the movement of the graves back in 1968. Mr. Speaker, the hamlet in a formal motion has asked compensation to come from Department of Indian Affairs and Northern

Development for the salaries. That is what they are asking for. So I have said to the member that I would support them in their request to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

I will as the Minister of Health and Social Services for the Government of Nunavut write to Minister Nault and ask him to help compensate for the salaries. At the same time Mr. Speaker, I said that the Department of Health and Social Services, we realize that it was a traumatic event here moving the bodies as Mr. Irqittuq has said now in his second statement today. It was quite traumatic in some regards. The Department of Health and Social Services can help with that type of closure through some type of wellness or healing or something like that.

Yesterday, some of the senior officials from the Premier's Office spoke to the SAO about that proposal for the hamlet. So both those things are occurring right now. So I hope that clarifies. On the third point Mr. Speaker, the member asked me about the letter. I told the member yesterday in the House that I would have a letter to him before March 31st and Mr. Speaker, I will, I have seen a draft. He might even had it tomorrow morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 204 - 1(5): Update on Employee Assistance Contract

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question that I'd like to direct to the Minister of Human Resources. There is 750 thousand dollars directed towards contracts for health prevention. I'd like to know how well this money is being spent. If he could give me an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the member may be referring to the employee wellness program that the department is initiating in co-operation with Health Canada.

If that is the case Mr. Speaker, the plan is to utilize their services for employee counselling assistance and start up for a full year, starting April 1st. The members may know that we have undertaken a pilot project this current year. I believe it was about 3-6 months using the services and it seems to be working right now. But the long-term plan of course is to establish a service directly in Nunavut based in Nunavut for our employees that will be able to assist us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. Can the minister tell us how effective is this program or service to our people in Nunavut. Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's really hard at this point to quantify, to be objective on how effective it is given that right now as I indicated there's been test usage over the past three to six months.

We know that there has been usage by our employees, but you really need a longer time frame and the feedback, obviously from individuals, employees that may want to give us feedback on the services before you can start to analyze on how effective it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's a very good program and it's a lot of money for three to six months. When I called it as I mentioned it yesterday, when I called it, they told me that it was not their priority.

That Nunavut government was just tapping into their telephone thing. To me this 750 thousand dollars is a lot of money. So I think this House needs to know how effective I feel they are when I call them.

My further question, when the contract starts April 1 as it was approved yesterday, how long will the contract be going for. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the amount of 750 thousand dollars is for the whole fiscal year starting April 1, of course, a few days from now.

Mr. Speaker, I guess, if there are concerns about the adequacy of the service, if we hear of feedback that it isn't doing the job then we'll obviously assess what our options would be. Because obviously the service is there to try to assist our employees that may require assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik Uqaqti. Just before the expiration of this contract, can we be assured that we will have this service in Nunavut. Are they planning to do that now so that we could do it April 1, 2002. Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

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

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

Question 205 – 1(5): Staff Training for Interpreters

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Today, in his return to the oral question by Donald Havioyak, he stated that currently we have no training positions in our language bureau as our interpreter/translators are qualified to fulfill their job requirements. However we are working with Human Resources to conduct a needs assessment for training opportunities for our entire department.

So, my question is Mr. Speaker, the assessment that will be done, will it include interpreters that interpret for the health centres or courts or to be able to be certified in those fields. There are individuals that would like to be certified in different fields in interpreting and translating. So will that include those different fields. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a very good question. My response to Mr. Havioyak, he was concerned about the Innuinaqtut language and my response to him is that the interpreter/translators are qualified to fulfill their job requirements as Innuinaqtut interpreters or Inuktitut interpreter/translators.

I also said however, that we are working with Human Resources to conduct a needs assessment or training opportunities for our entire department. I haven't really thought of what he brought up but I'll keep that in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that but the department usually plans for what they're going to do for the year. It's called a business plan. So does the department plan to spend money on doing an assessment for different fields. I'm just wondering if that will be in their business plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My response to Mr. Havioyak was to respond to concerns in his community. The needs assessment for training opportunities, I welcome any ideas or suggestions on how this assessment should be done. This was a response to Mr. Havioyak's concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could clarify my question. If this is a concern in Kugluktuk, I'm sure it's a concern in Igloodik or Pangnirtung. In the decentralized communities, I'm sure this is a concern and Inuit, when we talked during member's statements, Inuktitut languages were encouraged and some of

the ministers even talked about encouraging Inuktitut language being used more frequently.

So, is the minister going to be working on getting the interpreters certified and for them to have a certificate recognizing that they have these qualifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that my colleagues were in support of encouraging the use of Inuktitut. I feel that it is very important that we are able to speak our language. Within the Government of Nunavut we encourage people to be able to speak our mother tongue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk. Final supplementary.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard what he said. But he hasn't responded to my concern. He said that the departments are going to be doing their business plans and the departments went through their main estimates. Your department will be going in front of the Committee in the future. Will those concerns be brought up so that adjustments would be made for the needs of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could respond by saying the committee, I know the standing committees have concerns on the future of Nunavut. We have to look at different ideas or suggestions as to how we can make life better in Nunavut. So Mr. Speaker, when we meet with the committees I will be able to discuss it with the committees and get some ideas as to how they feel this assessment should be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 206 - 1(5): Status of 2000-2001 CLEY Grants & Contributions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Speaker, last year 2000-2001 the department had just over 3 million dollars in grants and contributions, both capital and O&M. I'd like to ask the minister if he is aware if his department will have expended all those dollars in that fiscal year or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank him for his question. I think responding to a question yes we will try to expand it and see if it's better for the

government or our departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo you may want to clarify your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question was not expanding. I'm sure every minister would like to see their grants and contributions expanded.

I'm just wondering if the department will expend, will it have spent all the money that it has in grants and contributions and so on and capital that it had allocated for that purpose for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry about the misunderstanding. For the year 2000-2001 to date, we have spent the entire grants and contributions budget. Probably we'll do the same for the 2001-2002 budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, then I assume the minister is indicating that they won't lapse any grants and contribution funding dollars from within the department this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Mr. Speaker, I hope not but we'll see how we do this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if the minister or the department do they provide him with I guess, variance reports we call it to show how much money they have left in the different categories.

I'm just wondering if the minister is aware of you know, these reports if they get them on a regular basis, like do they get them on a quarterly basis, monthly basis and if they do on the last ones that were provided by the department, how much was left to be expended in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding for 2000/2001, last year the money for grants and contributions has been expended but this

year there have been some requests for funding from my department.

Because we have not gone through the approval of the budget but as far as I know, last year's has been expended. But we don't have anything for, we don't have any reports up to today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I miss hearing you say that Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they indicated that they have, I guess, the minister indicated that they have spent all the money that they had allocated for the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

Does the minister, does his department know who they gave that out to. I guess, I know that's something that I have been asking about and I'm just wondering if they don't, how long does it take for them to take a look and see a list of where those dollars went. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the list of the people that were given funding. If I have to read them line-by-line, there's too many of them. So, like I mentioned before to the member, I would table this information perhaps, if it's okay, tomorrow. If it's appropriate, I will table the information in the House or if I'm not able to table them tomorrow, I will table them in May during the Cambridge Bay session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 207 – 1(5): Renewable Resource Officer Trainees

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, a number of years ago, I think it was approximately 1989, in Baker Lake we had two renewable resource officers stationed there. Due to the government cutbacks and the shortage of funding, one of the positions was eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, if I remember correctly, the reason we had two renewable resource officers there is because we had the Thelon Heritage River that comes all the way from Yellowknife. We got the Hizan Heritage River that flows all the way from Saskatchewan, we're just on the brink of having Wager Bay declared a national park plus we have Baker Lake that empties into the Hudson's Bay which is a large body of water.

Over the last few years, with the creation of Nunavut, there's been an increased flow of traffic, tourists from the U.S. flying in on aircrafts, chartered aircrafts, dropping down doing whatever they wish. The overworked renewable resource officer there now and the hamlet council are very concerned about this. The hamlet council wrote the minister a

letter requesting that it would be appropriate to set up a training position in Baker Lake to help this tremendously overworked officer in our community. Has the minister considered this yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still doing the research on this. We have currently three training positions for wildlife in our department and we are still working on where they are going to go. I'll get back to the Member for Baker Lake once I get the information. I'll take this question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The question is taken as notice. There will be no further supplementaries. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 208 – 1(4): Five Year Capital Planning Process

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. Last month, the communities received a letter from his department to be involved in a 5-year capital plan.

How will the mayors be assisted during the planning of the 5-year capital plan and how will they be planning with the department for the 5-year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome. The 5-year capital plans that we prepare, I know there's a lot of different priorities that we have as communities and the Nunavut government. We used to work in the communities as mayors and councillors and we were given the opportunity to be involved in the 5-year capital planning. But it's slightly different today how we want to do the 5-year capital plan.

The councillors in the communities will be given information or we will be corresponding with them about the 5-year capital plan. But there will be changes expected from both sides. So what we are going to do, if it has something to do with health and safety aspects of the community then we will have to prioritize them on that basis.

If the communities tell us that these are the priorities that we have, we will try to accommodate them. That is what we want to do by working with them on the 5-year capital plan. We will also involve the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on the 5-year capital planning. But we will listen more to the councillors in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were under the NWT government there were numerous things that were delayed in the communities. Projects that were delayed. Now that we have the Government of Nunavut, I just want to get some reassurance that these projects that have been delayed should be continued. All those projects that were delayed in the communities that were already in the 5-year capital plan. I wonder if the Government of Nunavut will make them happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to be able to continue with them, but as the Government of Nunavut there is a 12 million dollar capital budget for this coming fiscal year. That is the only problem that we have. What we want to do is keep in mind always the health and safety aspects of each community when we are planning the capital projects for the communities.

But when some communities are asked what things are your priorities we try to keep those in consideration. In the 5-year capital plan, in which we will be involving the communities, if they want to change their priorities we can talk with them. I know there are a lot of projects that were delayed before. But we only have a limited amount of money for capital projects. But we will talk with the communities to find out from them exactly what priorities they have.

As long we follow the health and safety aspects for each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the health and safety issues are going to be a hindrance, then I would like to see the plans move forward regardless. If we are going to have projects deferred to another year or if they are just going to be forgotten then the constituents are not going to be very happy. It would be good to see these plans move forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. This is not a hindrance. We have to think of the health and safety standards and prevent dangerous situations. For example, if a community needed a loader, but instead they had to prioritize and defer the purchasing of that loader to get a much more urgently needed water truck then those are the kinds of emergency situations that we are going to have to take into consideration.

We have to prioritize projects on an as needed basis. Of course we'll always need funding because there's always a shortage of funding. But that has never hindered the projects or programs. The health and safety standards always have to be a priority. Yes, we will

always strive to meet the needs of every community. But we have to go with what funding has been allocated.

If we have to look for more funding to gain capital items then yes, we will continue to seek that funding. For example, as the Department of Community Government & Transportation we will continue to seek funding for the capital projects in Mr. Iqaqrialu's riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Report 004 – 1(5): Review of Bill 6

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 6, *Nunavut Power Corporation Utility Assets Transfer Confirmation Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services, and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 6 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a request to move to waive Rule 68 (5) so that the standing committee report can be referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Bill 6 stands referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Minister Akesuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 020 – 1(5): Annual Reports; Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and entitle these in Inuktitut. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the 1999/2000 Annual Reports for the Nunavut Development Corporation and the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 12. Tabling of Documents. Item 13, rather. Item 14.

Notices of Motions. Mr. McLean.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on March 30, 2001, I will move the following...

>>*Laughter*

How can you tell he entered the session.

I give notice that on March 30, 2001, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that notwithstanding rule 4, that when the house concludes the sitting in Iqaluit this week, hallelujah...

>>*Laughter*

...it shall be adjourned until May 16, 2001 and further, that any time prior to May 16, 2001, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the executive council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon, the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time.

I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. McLean.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. McLean: I ask permission to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to deal with his motion today. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour.

>>*Laughter*

It is the end of all long session isn't it. Are there any nays. Motion is carried. Mr. McLean, proceed.

Motion 005 – 1(5): Extended Adjournment

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I say, it's the end of the session, how can

you tell. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding rule 4, that when the house concludes, hallelujah, the sitting in Iqaluit this week, it shall be adjourned until May 16, 2001.

And further, that any time prior May 16, 2001, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the executive council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at that time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it has been duly adjourned until that time Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. We'll try this again. The motion is order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 and 6 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority vested in me, by Motion 002-1(5), the committee of the whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. Before we proceed, we'll take a much needed break for 20 minutes and return to committee of the whole. Thank you.

>>House recessed at 3.45 p.m. and resumed at 4.19 p.m.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, members. Welcome back to committee of the whole. We will call the committee to order. We will be dealing with Bill 1 and Bill 6. What is the wish of the committee. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to deal with Bill 6 first and then move on to Bill 1 and review the Department of Health & Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does the committee agree that we deal with Bill 6. I would ask our legal counsel to join us. Thank you, Mr. Chandler, welcome. The Minister, Mr. Okalik. I apologize, Minister Picco. We also work with both ministers so bear with me if I ask the wrong minister to go ahead. Minister Picco.

Bill 6 - Nunavut Power Corporation Utility Assets Transfer Confirmation Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize I have a cold so please bear with me (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the members of this committee for this opportunity to discuss this important piece of

legislation.

The proposed bill will provide for a number of essential authorities that are required before the Nunavut Power Corporation can effectively and legally be the power provider in Nunavut on April 1, 2001.

First, the proposed bill confirms the legal transfer of all NTPC assets located in Nunavut, to the Nunavut Power Corporation. This ensures that all the assets that NPC requires in order to operate, legally belong to NPC. Negotiations for the transfer of assets have been ongoing for some time, but a final agreement has not yet been signed. Final discussions on the Transfer Agreement and negotiations on the financial issues, such as the division of the long and short-term debt, will commence tomorrow. Agreement in principle is expected before April 1st, but there is no guarantee that all will be completed before NPC takes over responsibility for power generation and distribution in Nunavut.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, the proposed bill allows NPC to assume responsibility for any contractual arrangements between NTPC and the customer base in Nunavut. Essentially, this gives NPC the legal authority to bill customers and receive the revenues generated as a result.

Thirdly, Mr. Chairman, the proposed bill allows NPC to assume the rights and responsibilities under any franchise agreements between NTPC and Municipalities in Nunavut. In effect Mr. Chairman, it allows NPC to operate in the communities where there is a franchise agreement in place.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, the proposed bill provides notice to the legal registries in Nunavut, that registered assets in the name of NTPC may be changed to reflect NPC as the legal owners, and that there will be no fees or costs to NPC associated with the change in ownership.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very brief summary of the provisions contained in the bill, and I look forward to any questions or discussions that the Committee may have. I should also point out Mr. Chairman, that we had a good meeting last night with the Standing Committee on Government Operations on this bill and I really appreciate the questions and indeed, the debate and the discussion with the actual Chairman of that committee. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Does the Chairperson of the committee have opening remarks. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I thank the minister for his opening remarks and indeed, it sounds like he didn't have very much sleep last night, I don't know if he is nervous about today or what, but I sure hope that he gets well soon.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services had the opportunity as the minister indicated to meet with him and his staff to review Bill 6,

which was introduced earlier this week.

Members accept the government's explanation that this piece of legislation has been introduced as a precautionary measure in the event that negotiations on the division of assets and liabilities do not result in an agreement prior to the birth of the Nunavut Power Corporation on April 1. While it is unfortunate that the parties involved have not been able to reach agreement, members recognize the need to ensure that the start-up of the Power Corporation proceed as smoothly as possible.

The Standing Committee recognizes that the provisions of the legislation, which allow the minister to make orders related to the transfer of assets, may never actually be acted upon. However, in the event that it does become necessary for the minister to exercise powers under this Act, the Committee is of the view that the government has a responsibility to keep all Members of the Legislative Assembly informed in a timely manner of any actions he takes in this area, as well as progress in the negotiations as a whole.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would draw the attention of members to section 8 of the Bill, which permits the Commissioner to repeal the Act or any provision of it. While the Committee understands that this is not necessarily a unique provision, neither is it a routine one. Normally, and appropriately, it is the legislature itself that repeals Acts or parts of Acts that it previously passed. We did this on Monday with section 25 of the Interpretation Act. The Standing Committee would recommend against this sort of provision being included as a routine matter in future pieces of legislation introduced by this government.

That concludes my comments, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee supports Bill 6 and recommends its passage by all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman Tootoo. Will the minister be joined by his officials. Mr. Picco. I would like to ask the members if the minister could be seated at the witness stand with his officials. Agreed. I made sure that I did that very quickly.

Could you introduce your officials, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me today is the extremely capable legal counsel Mr. Ralph Armstrong, and the equally capable Deputy Minister of the Executive, Ms. Anne Crawford.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Before we raise any questions or review the bill, I would like to ask the members if they have any general comments on the bill. General comments. If there are no general comments, do the members have any questions on the bill. If there are no questions, we will go through the bill clause by clause.

Bill 6. Page 1. Nunavut Power Corporation Utilities Assets Transfer Confirmation Act.

We will start from the first number. Any comments on Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 5. Any questions. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 6. Any questions. Do the members agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I want a clarification on it. Maybe I am reading it wrong. The agreement for the division of assets and liabilities of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation was entered into with the Interim Commissioner. So you are referring to negotiations and agreements entered into before the Nunavut Territory. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. That refers back to the transition agreement that we signed off with the Interim Commissioner. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Do you want to continue. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 8. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill as a whole. Bill 6. Nunavut Power Corporation Utilities Assets Transfer Confirmation Act. Bill as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do the members agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 6 has been agreed to. Nunavut Power Corporation. I'd like to thank the minister for appearing in front of the committee. If you would like to have closing remarks. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Just a quick closing remark. That is to publicly thank Mr. Peter Scott who has been with us on the NCCIS and as the new Nunavut Power Corporation closes down, winds down as of April 1st. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Scott for the work that he has done under the NCCIS. He is in the gallery today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Scott for your assistance. We will be seeing you as this is going through. Thanks to the minister and his staff. Thank you. I'd also like to thank our legal counsel Mr. Chandler for joining us and we'll see you again.

Does the committee agree that we'll be going on to Bill 1. Main estimates for 2001/2002 and we'll be dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services main estimates. I'd like to ask Mr. Picco if he'd like to start off with his opening remarks.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to present to you, to the committee the 2001-2002 main estimates for the Department of Health & Social Services.

Before I begin, I would like to introduce the members of my staff who are with me today; Mr. Andrew Johnston, Deputy Minister who's in the gallery there, Mr. Don Maychruk, who's our Director of Finance and also the Director for the Baffin regional operations Glenn Thompson.

Mr Chairman, as you know I appeared before the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health in January to review our business plan and our estimates for 2001-2002. I appreciate the support and comments offered by the members of the standing committee.

The standing committee provided me with their comments regarding a number of issues including: the three health facilities; our ongoing review of boarding homes; efforts to increase support for Inuit nurses in the nursing program; and funding support for

committees of council just to name a few.

Mr. Chairman, I anticipate further discussion on these and other items as today's review of our main and capital estimates progresses. The Department of Health & Social Services impacts on the lives of all Nunavummiut through the provision of a range of services and programs that promote health and wellness for individuals, families and our communities.

Mr. Chairman, our department has the second largest budget of all departments of the Government of Nunavut and as such, we are very aware of our responsibility to manage these funds we have with due diligence, while at the same time, maintaining an acceptable level of health and social services across the territory.

Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated to the standing committee, we have five primary goals consistent with the Bathurst Mandate. They are;

- To improve the health and well-being of all Nunavummiut,
- To provide a supportive environment for individuals, families and communities in making decisions Mr. Chairman, making decisions that effect their health and well-being,
- As well as to deliver integrate and co-ordinate health and social services to individuals, families and communities,
- To develop policies relevant to the needs of the population of Nunavut,
- And to deliver flexible, culturally sensitive programs and to demonstrate the effective use of public resources.

Mr. Chairman, I am certain that all the members in this room are aware that there are immense Mr. Chairman, immense challenges in managing health and social services systems across Canada.

Some of the challenges for us here in Nunavut include;

- Fierce competition, Mr. Chairman, with other jurisdictions for the recruitment and retention of health professionals, particularly our nurses,
- The complexity Mr. Chairman, of providing a comprehensive range of health and social services over a wide geographical area that are consistent, effective, efficient and affordable,
- Fulfilling our stewardship responsibilities for the use of public funds while being responsive to the needs of individuals and our communities,
- And Mr. Chairman, building individual and community capacity to enhance health and wellness for all Nunavummiut.

With this in mind, Mr. Chairman, our total departmental budget for 2001-2002 is 123.4

million dollars, which includes 119.2 million dollars for operations and maintenance, and an additional 4.2 million dollars for capital projects. Of the 119.2 million dollars for operations and maintenance, one time funding for new initiatives in the amount of 2.5 million are included.

While the former health boards have been fully integrated into the department, savings from administrative efficiencies have been offset by increases in the population and rates of illness which continue to put pressure on the department to ensure the ongoing health, safety and protection of all residents within Nunavut.

To ensure that our department remains responsive to the needs of individuals and communities, we will continue to provide some funding support to the committees of council to assist us in addressing local needs. Similarly, we will continue to seek the wisdom and advice of elders to ensure that our services and programs are culturally relevant, and incorporate traditional practices and knowledge into service delivery and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the design.

Mr. Chairman, our capital plan is to be funded at a level of 4.2 million. Capital projects have been outlined in our five-year capital plan and include such things as renovations to a number of community health centres and other facilities. In addition, three new health facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay are to be designed, built and leased back to the department. The annual lease payments for these facilities will be paid from the department's operations and maintenance budget in future years.

Ongoing funding support will be provided to Arctic College for the nursing program. As well, Mr. Chairman, we're excited to say, we've begun training for community health representatives as well as x-ray technicians. These courses have begun.

Funding for new initiatives and projects in 2001-2002 includes vaccinations for pneumococcal disease. Yes, Mr. Chairman, we're going to do those vaccinations for all Nunavut children age 2 to 19 years and to all adults over 49 years. As well, Mr. Chairman, as announced in this House earlier, tuberculosis control and surveillance will continue by hiring additional community health nurses and undertaking a concerted public education program.

Mr. Chairman, in early January the department's health promotion program kicked off the tobacco cessation campaign with the release of a number of visually descriptive posters and fact sheets regarding the harmful effects of smoking. In 2001-2002, we will continue public education campaigns of this nature by purchasing additional media airtime to reach all of Nunavut through television, radio and newspapers.

The department continues to face a challenge recruiting and retaining nurses to work in Nunavut. As such, we are examining options for other incentives, we're examining options and other incentives, Mr. Chairman, for nurses to come to Nunavut and to stay for extended periods of time.

Mr. Chairman, nothing is more disheartening to Nunavummiut than to hear about the tragedies leading to suicide and its impact on families and communities. In addition to the support and training that was provided this past year for mental health and suicide prevention, the department will - in consultation with local communities and elders - continue to implement a comprehensive mental health strategy for Nunavut.

With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to address the committee of the whole today. I look forward to your questions and comments as we review the departmental estimates in detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I'd like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health for his opening comments. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health has reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Health and Social Services for the 2001-2002 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The Standing Committee notes with concern that, despite one of the priority objectives of the Bathurst Mandate being "healthy communities", and despite the ongoing pressures on the Department, the overall budget for Health and Social Services has not been substantially increased over the years. Members continue to have concerns that programs and services will suffer or be cut if the Department enters into a deficit position. In addition, the Committee will be seeking clarification as to how the recently announced GN-wide Program Review exercise will impact this department, which still accounts for almost one out of every five dollars spent by the government.

The Committee has recommended in the past that the Minister try all possible avenues to access additional funding and Members were very pleased to hear that the Minister has had some success in his negotiations with the federal government. Committee Members congratulate Minister Picco and our Member of Parliament, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, on the result of their efforts to expand the Nunavut Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi Telehealth Network.

The Standing Committee supports the Department's intention to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in policy and practices although the Business Plan does not specify in great detail how this will be accomplished.

Staffing and retention of health worker positions continues to be a concern. The Department's budget shows 600 thousand dollars for another year of the Nunavut Nursing Program. Committee members are pleased that the Minister has acted on the recommendation to increase support to this program by allocating an additional 166 thousand dollars for health training. Members are hopeful that this will result in more health worker positions being filled by Inuit.

Members encourage the Minister to explore sponsorship options for nursing students along the same lines as sponsorship being provided to students in the Department of Justice's Law School program.

The Standing Committee continues to have concerns about the services provided in medical boarding homes and has strongly recommended that the Department review and evaluate these services. Members look forward to seeing that review tabled in the House.

Mental health issues are a continuing concern and members note that a new initiative, the Iqaluit Homelessness/Psychiatry program, has been allocated 300 thousand dollars to begin to address some of these issues. The Committee encourages the department to continue working alongside the Departments of Education and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth on the issue of suicide. The important role that elders can play in suicide prevention must not be overlooked.

The department's budget includes an amount of 5 thousand dollars for each Committee of Council for a total of 130 thousand dollars. Members feel that this amount may fall short of the actual needs of community committees and recommend that the department review this allocation at the earliest opportunity.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, there are still many unanswered questions on the three new health facilities. They do not appear in the department's capital budget at this stage. Members have requested that the minister provide information on the planning and funding for construction, operation and staffing of these facilities on a regular basis.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. I would now like to ask the minister if he could take his seat at the witness table. Minister Picco, I would like to invite your officials to come up to the witness table.

Do we agree that the officials can go up to the witness table. Please introduce your witnesses, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me today, is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Andy Johnston. He is seated on my right. On my left hand side is our Chief of Finance, Mr. Don Maychruk and in the gallery, is our Director for Baffin operations, Mr. Glenn Thompson.

Speaker (interpretation): Please say thank you at the conclusion of your sentence so the light at my end will go on. I would like the members to move onto the capital estimates for the Department of Health & Social Services. The page number is 10-6 and 10-7.

General comments for the members. The members can make their comments up to ten minutes. We will then move on to 10-7. The members have 10 minutes to make their

general comments. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you Mr. Picco and his officials for going up to the witness table. He made very good opening comments as the Minister of Health. Mr. Chairman, I'll try and make it as brief as possible. I'll make them brief.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, in your opening comments, the minister stated, I was very glad with the minister's speaking notes and it outlines some of the concerns that we had as people of Nunavut. But, today, I think that we need additional support because of the concerns and problems we have in Nunavut.

Today, it seems like the people of Nunavut are not getting attention from the medical personnel and if they're well, they don't get to see a medical person for 6-7 years and I believe I'm quite accurate in making those statements. The reason why I'm saying is that there are too many people out there who have cancer and other diseases that you can't do much about.

I believe that's because they don't get annual checkups. I'm sure the nurses are working very hard. But at times it's too late by the time they diagnose the patient. I'm making those comments because I believe that all people of Nunavut should at least get annual checkups or have wellness clinics to make sure that they get diagnosed right at the beginning or at least lower the number of people who get cancer and stuff like that.

We spend millions of dollars on people who are diagnosed too late with cancer and they have to go back and forth from their community to larger centres or to southern institutions for checkups and radiation and so on. I think that annual checkups and wellness clinics will alleviate some of these problems and I think we will save money if we start these types of things. Also Mr. Chairman, today we notice the problems because of the lack of nurses. There are different dialects and different ways of saying nurse. I think there is a severe shortage of nurses in the Nunavut communities and that is part of the problem. We have to have adequate ratios between the nurses and the number of residents.

For example because of the severe shortage, they are over tired and over worked. I can use the example of the time that I mentioned about the nurse and the health centre that had to be closed for a while to give the nurse a break. Mr. Chairman, I am sure you are doing the best you can. But the nurses are being overworked, getting over tired and of course things tend to fall between the cracks when you are over tired and over worked.

We all know when you deal with people and when you work in the frontline, it is very tiring and it takes dedicated staff. Maybe the reason why we have a severe shortage of nurses is because of the lack of dollars that are allocated for the medical personnel. Maybe we don't pay them enough or compensate them enough for the amount of work that they do. When I was talking to your departments and other departments I was told that it was hard to find nurses who would be willing to work up north. They even have to

look for nurses internationally because they don't want to go up north. You have to be well compensated to want to work hard. That is today's attitude whether you're an Inuk or Qallunaaq. When you are well compensated you will work hard. That is part of the problem. I believe they are not paid enough and they are not compensated enough for the amount of work that they do. Maybe that is why we have some of the problems.

Mr. Chairman, this is just part and parcel of the comments that I made. I think we should increase the salary that is being paid to the nurses and we should increase the number of nursing staff that we have so that there is earlier diagnoses and better medical care for the residents of Nunavut. Only then we will start saving money in this department. It might cost more to increase their salaries. I think that if we have earlier diagnoses we'll save money in the long run because of the long-term care that needs to be done when you find out too late. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and make it as brief as possible. The department of health has a lot of responsibilities here in Nunavut. When there is something wrong with us or if we need treatment, the nurses are the only ones that we approach in our communities.

We have to go up and see the nurse if you get a cut for example. If you get hurt, that's a part of life. For that reason, your department is extremely essential for the people of Nunavut. In your opening comments, I was very pleased with the comments you made.

You stated that you have huge responsibilities and I believe in that. Your department is the one with the most money that's been allocated within the Nunavut government. With that, Mr. Chairman, my colleague just made some of the comments on the problem areas.

There are not enough doctors in the Kitikmeot region. We rarely ever get a doctor's visit. For example, there's one doctor that's there and there's over six thousand total population in the Kitikmeot. In the south, one doctor, the ratio is one doctor per thousand. But seven thousand for one doctor is way too much.

Because we don't have enough doctors, and because we don't have enough nurses, there is late diagnosis of diseases. The Nunavut Government Department of Health and Social Services I believe need our full support so that we can get more doctors and more nurses established in the communities. If it's possible, I'm looking forward and I hope my colleagues look forward to getting more nurses and more doctors.

There is a population explosion up here in Nunavut. I believe we have to get more nurses and doctors so that there's a proper ratio between the medical personnel and the population here in Nunavut. With the shortage of nurses and doctors, that is one of the major concerns that we have.

Also in the regions, I could use my community as an example where people get sick. For

example, a woman might be waiting for her appointment for the visiting doctor. She's told that her appointment is for January 20 and that she'll be going down to Yellowknife to meet with the doctor but if there's a blizzard and the plane can't come in, her appointment then is deferred maybe to March, a couple of months later. The woman is ill, maybe that's because there's a shortage of doctors.

That's one of the problem areas we have where the appointments keep getting deferred because there was a blizzard on that one particular day, the plane can't land for that one day, so that patient has to wait for another two or three months for her next appointment. So those are some of the problems. It seems like we're not getting proper attention. It seems like, I'm sorry but we can't do anything about your illness at this time because we had one day of bad weather. It seems like there's apologies but we're not getting proper medical attention. This is just one of the examples. If the plane doesn't come in for one day it could come in the next day, because this is getting to a critical point. I'll make some more comments later once we go page by page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reading through the minister's opening comments, on page 3, the chairperson of the standing committee also made opening comments. I don't quite know, on bullet number 4, page 3, well I understand it but the way I understand it is, you don't have policies yet.

The Department of Health and Social Services doesn't have policies yet that are relevant to the needs of the population of Nunavut and then right underneath it says again the same thing. It's written in Inuktitut but in the English, it doesn't have quite the same meaning. I think due to the minister not making it clear in these bullets number 4 and 5 it doesn't say here what you mean by relevant to the needs and flexible, culturally sensitive programs to develop these policies.

It's been approximately two years that we have been a government. So, from what I read here you still don't have any policies that are developed. That's how I understand it in English. So, the question would be why is that we don't have those policies developed yet that are relevant to the needs of the population. For example, what I'm trying to say here, the first two members who made those statements and listening to the contents of it.

The Inuit who go down for medical treatment, who make appointments with the nurses go down but they are taken care of without using culturally sensitive programs. But we don't, we find a lot of sadness when we hear things from the people who are medically treated that they have nothing good to say. There was anxiety and everything else, when this has been going on for too long, some of the patients get anxiety and they don't want to go through the whole process again. Sometimes even when their appointment is due they have every right as Canadians whether to go meet their appointment or not.

We have been talking about the Canadian freedom of speech and rights and everything else for the last thirty years. You can believe in any religion that you want. So that's

always in there. That becomes the foundation on whether to say yes or no and they exercise that when they're feeling anxious about meeting their appointment and they exercise that right and say no.

When you are a patient and when you're making an appointment, it makes you anxious, it's something that you don't want to go through. Even when we're looking at this and we're looking at the number, the amount of dollars that we're going to use, the people out there, the hospital, the nurses, the boarding homes and the patients who utilize these services and when you look at these it's just paying lip service.

If only that's implemented then we'll be happy with the types of services that we get then your department and the members will start saying positive things about the experiences that they've had while they're utilizing these services. The diagnoses of their illness and the time and manner that they're taken care of. So once all of this is implemented, the friendliness, the proper treatment taking care of people, mentally and physically, and wellness is a holistic approach that is used by Inuit.

Here in the opening comments, that the minister made, it doesn't have anything like that in there. Maybe because the officials don't know about these things. It's not written in here but when we were going to school in university, we know and read and understand what we're going to be saying. (interpretation ends)...its programs and to ensure the effective use of public resources.

(interpretation) But when you look under there, there's nothing else to explain what that means. It's not written in the business plans either, so what we're hoping to see is that, and when these come back, we'll have to find out exactly what it means and how it will affect the patients that utilize these services and again, Mr. Chairman, I'm running out of time.

When you're looking at the estimates, on 10-5, and the other again in 10-5 under the O&M, those are going to be used. How much of that will be used for wellness for treatment, and portion of that will be used for those types of services and what is going to be used, what portion will be used for administrative services. I think we use a huge chunk of those dollars for administration.

I think we're going to have to look at that again. The person, whether they're in Grise Fiord or Pond Inlet, has to utilize those hospitals and the services and we have to place those people as a priority and put paper work as second. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Those are very interesting comments that the members are making. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really happy to see that a lot of money is put forward for health. It's exciting to see this whole lot of money and other programs that are being delivered for health. I would like to today, elaborate on social services.

I know throughout the documents, social services, is just a term and for example, I don't see anything that has said anything about child welfare, young offenders, foster homes, aged and handicapped, family violence in this departmental plan, which we need to look at very carefully. I can only echo what James Arvaluk said. We're going to need to see more of a break down and also what the budget is for social services. For example, under the child welfare act, or now the Child and Family Services Act, it's about three years old. It would be interesting to know how that act is working compared to the other old acts before 1998.

It would be good to see periodic conferences for foster parents, which has been needed for a very long time, so they can know what they are to be working with to feel some sort of support from the department. This has not been identified in any of the documents that were provided to us.

Under the Young Offenders Act, I know, I'm not sure if the dedicated probation officers that we've hired as a government in some of the communities, I don't know if they automatically become youth workers. If not, the social worker is the youth worker in the community. How far along is the federal government with the Young Offenders Act. I don't know about this one.

Social workers need to know all these things and they need to feel that they are supported. I would like to elaborate just a little bit on being a probation officer or child welfare worker. You go into homes to do protection on the child you may have to apprehend. You might not have to but let's say there's a young offender in that home or in a family and that person is charged. The same person who is protecting the children is asked to do a court report for the offender. Those are very difficult and conflicting situations.

The officials need to know and the ministers need to be concerned about that. I know that the government department of justice and the department of social services, are working together to have probation officers in place. So that's very good, that's down the road. I know there are still quite a lot of social workers that are doing this role.

Under the family violence, which is also never mentioned in the opening remarks or throughout the two documents that we have. There needs to be a lot of work on family violence. For example, if you could do good family violence work in the community, if you can prevent it, a lot of the money that went to health wouldn't need to be there because people would not have to be medivaced out from getting beat up. Victims would not have to be relocated if something could be done at the community level through social services. That could only happen if the department is fully supporting the program and the workers in the communities.

I also want to mention telehealth, which we all know or the health department knows that the communities in priority need to have telehealth if they're going to be implemented. One of the communities like Grise Fiord, the plane will not go in there if there are 60 km winds. So to have something like this, it would work for them but it needs to be put in

place to make sure that it's working. I know one of the projects you want to do is in a bigger community, which probably has better access to health services.

Under the nurses responsibilities in the communities I've talked about this before. I've mentioned this before. Now, under the organizational chart that was approved by the cabinet, the nurses who are very busy, who have no more time are given an extra responsibility to provide administration for the social workers. Some of the communities have nurses who are there only for a short period a time. But that person has to do the administration for the social workers. So that needs to be looked at again. Maybe it could be taken back to the Cabinet and redo the organizational chart. Having done this work for 14 years in a community I don't know who dreams it up to make it happen that way. It needs to be looked at and I know speaking like this I know I have support from both nurses and the social workers in the community.

I know it is probably easier in the administration part in the Headquarters level or the regional level. But it doesn't work so well in the communities. There is a lot I could say about social services. I am happy to see that there is a lot of money for health. I think this department needs to take a look at what it is doing as far as social services. Because it could prevent problems and improve the well-being or self-reliance for example, linked to suicide issues.

Does the social worker have good support and help in the community. Some of these things can be looked at before they happen. Family violence is a big issue and drug and alcohol is a great big one in the communities. We felt in the budget yesterday from Finance that the liquor sales are increasing. We could interpret that there is more violence that is happening and there are going to be more people in jail. We need to take a look at this whole picture of social services.

I think I could go on all day about this but it is good to see some of the start. Also the issue of a Mental Health Act. I am not sure where the Mental Health Act is now. But what used to happen when a person attempted suicide they would send them down to the hospital under the Mental Health Act and a couple days later that person is sent back again without really any good follow up or any plan. That has to be looked at. I am also interested in seeing what kind of contract we have with the Clarke Institute psychiatry department in Toronto when we go through the pages. So I should have a lot more comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the department of Health and Social Services who deal with difficult times in life. Mr. Chairman, I would like to elaborate or comment on the Department of Health and Social Services. I want to support this department as much as I can because they deal with very difficult issues because we as Inuit get illnesses that cannot always be cured. This Department of Health and Social Services as I see it has areas where their services could be improved.

Today in Nunavut we are lacking in major hospital facilities whereas we could have surgeons available at all hours. Our culture never had these. Every time a person needs to see a specialist or see a doctor they have to go down south. Although the Nunavut population is not very many people, we still use up a large portion of the budget because our transportation costs are among the highest. In years past, the patients who have been waiting for tests or diagnosis of their illnesses have lost out on the treatment that could have been crucial to their lives, and you know, we have lost many loved ones because the nurses or the medical field, the lack of doctors are not there to diagnose these illnesses.

Now as the Department of Health and Social Services you are aware there is a severe shortage of nurses and doctors, we would like to see a facility where people can come and get the medical treatment that they need. That could probably help save their lives. Some of the funds allocated have been allocated for programs that are health programs that we are supposed to see in the future, but who knows, maybe those programs might not go ahead.

We are trying to make life easier for people of Nunavut and you mentioned that you are looking at building hospitals in the three regions. If we are going to see hospitals in these three regions then we also want to see budgets for capital items. Because, this is, that is a perfect way to help the people who will need medical attention and they can get it more immediately within their own territory.

As for dental therapists, we have some dental therapists but we don't have eye or ear specialists. There are many kinds of illnesses that need specialists but we are lacking those specialists. Mr. Chairman, I want to reiterate that people of Nunavut should be given the opportunity to train to become doctors or nurses and I would like to see a facility that would help start to train Inuit in becoming doctors and nurses, to become professionals in the medical field.

Mr. Chairman, when we go through a difficult time in life and we suffer trauma or other difficult times, then it is painful to see a loved one who is going through an illness and it is hard when a person, when you see a loved one deteriorate rapidly before your very eyes. Due to these factors, Mr. Chairman, it is essential also to have mental health provided for in the health programs because when the mind is affected it affects the rest of the body.

So, within Nunavut where we have winters, of course, transportation will always be affected, how can we better plan for the future to ensure that even if there were delays in medical treatment to have it continued immediately as soon as possible.

This should be provided to any individual be it the elders, adults, youth, children. They are still affected by this traumatic time in their lives. To see a loved one deteriorate or to know that someone could have been saved or cured before the illness gets out of hand. It would help a lot of people if people received medical attention almost immediately after they are diagnosed. To see a loved one not get proper medical treatment or proper medical attention, it is very painful to see that we'll be left behind. This is the case for all

individuals in the whole world not just Nunavummiut. Everybody uses medical professionals. Everyone requires medical attention. They feel the same pain as we do. They have similar illnesses. While we are in our lives, we like to accumulate as much money as we can to better prepare for the future. In this little part of our world we are working towards having better health services in Nunavut.

We will have to ensure that the funding is appropriately distributed and used. To the Minister of Health and Social Services and his witnesses there, I am not opposing you I am not trying to win against you. I want to assist you as much as possible to the best of my ability. I am not putting you down. If we are going to stay divided then we are not going to go anywhere. But if we work closer together. Then we will get somewhere.

In the years past when we fought for Nunavut, we fought so we can improve the situation amongst our people and our culture. I have interacted with non-Inuit even when I was a young person because I was in the hospital myself. There was a time when I had to serve as interpreter to the best of my abilities. I want to thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to make my remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Any more comments. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: My comments are going to be brief. We are on almost on our second anniversary of Nunavut. I know the minister strives tremendously to recruit health care professionals, especially caregivers, with limited success. I know there is a shortage of nurses all around the world and social workers are getting harder to attract also.

I am a little perturbed with the lack of success of the social service program and the nursing program that we got started. I am wondering if we are really trying to accomplish and I say we as a government trying to accomplish and I am pointing my finger at the department, if we are really trying to be successful in training nurses and social workers. We know it is not going to get any better to attract health care professionals from the south. So the minister has got to re-evaluate the programs that are being offered and who is offering them. Whether it is Arctic College or the Department of Health.

You have to put more emphasis on trying to get our young people and I said it the other day, that there's over 12 thousand young people in Nunavut in schools that are going to be needing jobs. So I think it's an education process of trying to get these young people, we have career development officers in most regions and communities.

It's got to be a partnership and I have to reiterate what my colleague Mr. Iqaqrialu said, that we're not here to attack you, we're here to work together to develop Nunavut. I don't think there's anybody around this room that didn't run for the reason of making Nunavut a better place for all of us to live in because we all live here.

Mr. Minister, you have lived in smaller communities and you know what's happening as much as the rest of us. Sometimes when we get outside of our community, we realize that

we get into the capital we lose our urgency of what's happening back home. That's why I'm one member that doesn't like to spend a lot of time in this community. Not because I don't like the community, but because I like the community I live in.

The nurses are working at a tremendous pace. We're burning them out. If we can only get through to the young people in Nunavut to stay in school, that there's job opportunities there for them, tremendous job opportunities there for them, and beneficial careers in the health profession. I don't think it's something that we're promoting enough in the schools through our career development officers. I said that in my opening remarks on the education system. We're not attracting young people to the teaching profession. The teaching profession is a very good profession and one that people would probably get some satisfaction maybe at the end of the year when they see one of their students move onto another grade, that they've accomplished something.

I'm sure that, I know people in Nunavut, communities, really want to go out and help. I know our people there want to help their own when they're working with them even in the health profession and the social workers profession. I know it's only two years and we've got a few more years left and I know you're trying your best to get people into positions where they're providing the best health care that we can possibly provide.

I think that there has to be an emphasis from this government, not just your department, the Department of Education, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to put emphasis where it's needed. I know it's important to go out and start other programs. Create other opportunities for other people in Nunavut. But the fact of the matter remains, I think nurses, teachers and social workers are very important to us at this point in our territory.

I'd like to see the government as a whole focus on training nurses and social workers and really make it serious. When we're talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and getting elders involved and the social worker aspect, I haven't seen that done yet. I fail to see where we've moved anywhere in that respect. I know, young people, and you know this as well, young people like to talk to their parents or their grandparents or something like that and that's maybe all we need. I'm going to leave it go at that but I'm going to emphasize that over the next few years, what are we doing to attract young people into the social work profession, what are we doing to attract young people into the nursing profession and what are we doing to retain them.

I look at a stat here under 4, representative public services under health and social services, 25% Inuit. Which is probably the lowest in any department. I know there's a reason for that. I know what the reason is. There's a tremendous job opportunity for a lot of young Inuit people if we can only get them interested in taking a career in the health profession. Your department has the second largest budget. I know in standing committee meetings you says that it's not enough. We all know it's not enough. If we had more money, we would probably give it to you. I for one would give it to you. I'm not the finance minister, and the finance minister has a deficit budget so, we have to do what we have to do with what we have.

The other issue that I want to bring up is tuberculosis. I grew up in the Maritimes as a wee lad and you grew up in the Maritimes as a wee lad and we know that we had tuberculosis on the east coast. We knew when you had tuberculosis back then you were taken away and put in a sanatorium. We all hear about what happened up here and people fear tuberculosis and I think it was one of the, you know I still hear stories in my community from people about tuberculosis and what it did to people. People were taken away and we never saw them again, you know, people were herded into halls and fed pills and things like that and it's starting to roar back.

I know you have dedicated a couple of nurses to it and things like that but I think you should instruct your department to go out and test everybody. I think it's been hit and miss testing right now. I know in my community there was only a selection of people tested and then they started testing more and more and more. But I urge you, urge you to test everybody in Nunavut if we have to. Because it's a sickness that I thought was gone, we all thought it was gone and I know it's popping up more and more.

So I'm urging the minister to be more vigilant on this tuberculosis issue. That's about all I got for you today. I will wait until we get into the departmental plan, I have more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I don't have any more names for the ten-minute opening comments and I would like to get to the department.

There's also information in the appendix under A21, some information items and the Five Year Capital Plan just to let the members know. There's information in the back of the capital estimates. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Total operations and maintenance, 4 million 200 thousand. We're on that page but we will just leave that page for now and we will get back to it. So under the capital estimates, we're dealing with the capital estimates at this time.

We were on, we are now on 10-6 under capital estimates for Health and Social Services, branch summary. Directorate. Total capital, 4 million 200 thousand. We'll leave that for now and we'll go to directorate on the next page under 10-7. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want some clarification on capital. I'm not picking on any community here I just want to know, replacing health centres, to replace health centres.

When we are replacing health centres and I heard the minister say it in a standing committee meeting, I think, I could be corrected. When we're building these health centres and replacing them are we going to integrate the social workers and the nurses in the same building so it's sort of like a one-window opportunity there. Or are we going to return to when we are doing new health centres are going to have the health, the social workers and the nurses split up.

Would the minister clarify that for me and is this reflected in these new health centres.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nuvaqpunga mamianaq. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. In the facilities that we are attempting to bring online we would like to have dedicated space for the Health and Social Services contingent in the community out of that facility. One-stop shop as you might say for the delivery of services and programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just before we continue with the capital estimates. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, that's good vision. I think the social workers and the nurses should be in the same building because, like, I think it's a step in the right direction. In my community, I got the social workers in one building and I got the nurses in the other and I've heard comments that it would be great if they were all in the same building.

So I praise the minister for this initiative in the communities that presently have social workers outside the health centre. I hope that in future years you consider putting them all together in one building for the benefit of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have in capital.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: I have no comments Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. At this time we are on capital estimates. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this for Igloolik on page 10-7, 650 thousand and Pond Inlet 650 thousand and Repulse Bay 700 thousand. All these designs, maybe I'll skip Repulse Bay for now but the top one 650 thousand each are these designs for future years to replace those centres. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Buildings and works, Baffin Region. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the member is correct that's for the study for the previous design of the functional program for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if they are similar or completely

different health centres but the costs are very similar for those two places. Is there anything that can be done to cut down on design expenses.

There's more than half a million dollars you know, to, I guess, what I'm saying is that in the past GNWT made a generic model for most of the schools in most of the communities is there a similar thing, do we have any kind of reference that can cut down costs on designs.

When you total up all the capital designs in Public Works & Services and elsewhere that amounts to a few dollars that could be used elsewhere, is there anything that the government can dream of to cut down on design costs. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the member brings up a good point. If you look at the budget for the 650 for Igloolik and the 650 for Pond Inlet and following down the page to 700 for Repulse, you'll note that the money there for those three communities, the plan is to give us the design for facilities that we can use.

The concern my understanding is Mr. Chairman, the concern is that with health facilities you really can't just take one off the shelf and build them like schools, because each community seems to be quite different on the needs and so on. But that's a good point and it's well taken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman I asked the question if the government could dream up something to cut down on costs, that was my question. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: When will the yes be activated or are we expecting for next year for other centres. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Capital plan as I indicated what programs what projects that we are bringing forward. Is there a specific question on a specific project. If the member re-asked his question. I didn't quite understand the question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Anything further. Ms.

Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was the same question that I was going to ask as the member for Nanulik. Because Igloolik and Pond Inlet have similar hospitals or the nursing stations, it seems like the plan or design of the Igloolik health centre and the design of the Pond Inlet, one design should be used, because the money to be used for those designs are almost identical. I would like to ask a question on the new women's shelter and new treatment centre renovations. Is that the new Arviat women's shelter, and the youth treatment centre renovations. Are they just in the Kivalliq region or could they be utilized by people in the Baffin and Kitikmeot regions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. For the women's shelter in Arviat, the Hamlet has come forward and has said they'd build a safe shelter in the community. So there should be Federal funds to help us with this program, to help us renovate an existing building. That is my understanding. However, they needed some help in Arviat. It is a community driven program to help them do a needs assessment and functional program review for what they need Mr. Chairman. So that is what this money is meant to do. It is to help the local group on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll say my question in English. The Arviat women's shelter. Is that for the whole region of Kivalliq. Is that for Nunavut. Is that for just the community. The youth treatment centre in Baker Lake. Is that for Baker Lake only or for all of Nunavut. That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the building in Arviat for the women's shelter is for the Hamlet of Arviat specifically. The project for Baker Lake Mr. Chairman, the children's group home is currently being renovated in order to provide programming for youth with higher levels of emotional and behavioural problems. So the renovations are taking place in this capital plan as it is for security reasons and this facility takes clients from across Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I don't have anyone else on my list. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Directorate. Total Qikiqtaaluk region, 1 million 315 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kivalliq region, 750 thousand. Any questions or comments. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. To the next page 10-8. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Directorate. Total Kitikmeot region, 850 thousand dollars. Any questions or comments. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total building, and works 2 million 915 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning the page. Health & Social Services. Branch summary. Directorate. Equipment acquisition, 1 million dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): My question is under telehealth. I'm just wondering where this will be located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it indicates there, the plan would be to bring on line in several different communities the equipment and the infrastructure needed to support telehealth. Sometime back, I named some of the communities. This will be used with the matching funds that we've heard just recently from the federal government, 3.7 million dollars. So it will be all across Nunavut, in selected communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps he didn't understand my question. (interpretation ends) Nunavut communities, could you tell me Mr. Chairman, which communities is this for. I know it's not for 27 communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for the delay. Mr. Chairman, we haven't selected the communities yet for the sites. It depends on the bandwidth the other infrastructure we use. I have heard though, Mr. Chairman, quite clearly from the member the concern with the North Baffin communities that she represents and that's something we can look into to see what's in the program.

Right now we have the telehealth services in three Baffin communities and two in the Kitikmeot. We're trying to use this money in conjunction to hook up some of the Keewatin too and some of the other communities.

I do have a list of the communities. But I don't have it with me right here and our officials don't have it. So that's something I can have for the committee tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My second question is that various Qikiqtaaluk communities for equipment and vehicles. What are the criteria to get vehicles in the communities. As you know, my communities in the winter are very cold, very dark and I had a request from one of the nurses to see if they could get one. What do you need to do to get a vehicle in one of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Picco. Before I move to the minister, 10-7, 10-5 and 10-9. Once we've completed 10-9 we'll be going out or taking a break and having supper. Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the process that we have in place right now in the Department of Health and Social Services is that we have a regional director for each of the regions.

For example, if a nurse in the community makes a recommendation that she needs a vehicle based on the need being brought forward by that nurse then that is how the decision is made at the community level, if the community needs a vehicle or not.

But of course dependent on how much we have available in the budget. When you see that amount equipment and vehicles, only a small portion of that would be vehicles, the majority would be extra equipment for the health centre. For example if the social worker was in the job and could use computers there, it could be any X number of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: For the telehealth, are these geared towards the decentralized communities only where there is a satellite link for the e-mail services and everyone else is excluded. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No Mr. Chairman. It is not determined for where we would be placing the telehealth if it were decentralized or not.

The determination is made on the three or four different evaluation criteria from the telehealth group which would include, do we have the technological ability on the ground to be able to hook up to the telehealth network, do we have the infrastructure on the ground, are there some people there that can help us with the equipment.

Does it have internet service and other wired and unwired services at this point in time and also on the case load at the health centre or mental or social work the department is involved with. So, if we have a community where we have a heavy case load where we may decide by evaluation that the person, the doctors themselves are in charge of telehealth right now, which would be the best place to put it and those are the types of criteria that are used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you want to continue Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my concern is these, six million dollar man, do you have technology in place like, dishes, what ground equipment do you use to make it possible for non-centralized communities to be serviced by telehealth. Not just computers but how you get to the satellite system and things like that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that's a very interesting question. I think I'm not a technical person when it comes to satellites and so on but what I can say to you Mr. Chairman is that every community in Nunavut has the ability to have access to a satellite.

So when we are talking about telehealth what we are talking about having the receptor, let's say when you're calling them for an example where we have a system set up. In Pond Inlet we have a system, when the cardiologist in the Baffin hospital in Iqaluit needs to be able to do a diagnosis, the system is uplinked from Pond Inlet by satellite and then dialled to Pond Inlet.

The carrier itself may go through Yellowknife, for example, because they have the infrastructure abilities there right now and that's part of the cost. The other cost Mr. Chairman, is renting time on the satellite to be able to provide the signal. So a detriment or a deterrent is not on the side of the community, but that's a good point that the member was making from the high arctic. Grise Fiord if it had the infrastructure in place could have this connection. It would be on the size. It is based on the ability of the determinants that we talked about. So that is how it works. To the uplink, to the ground station, which would be in Yellowknife and transfer, back over for example in this case to Iqaluit. That is the laymen's explanation of the infrastructure in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In here you have CBC and everything else. I

am talking about places like Grise Fiord. What can you use there. Are you going to use NWT, CBC to do your uplink and connect to Yellowknife through satellite. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. When you look at Grise Fiord. The last time I was in Grise Fiord they had cable television and that was in November. They had the dish and so on. Once they have that in the community that is why it is every community in Nunavut basically now has a satellite dish for cable or radio or any other telecommunication that need. The opportunity is there then by using that dish or any other associated dish. It could be through NWT.

It may be an agreement with Ardicom or one of the service providers to be able to give us that capacity to deliver telehealth. That is only one of the factors that are involved. That is how we would be able to do it. Again Mr. Chairman, I am not an expert in this. I am just giving you some of the briefing that I've had with the department. When it comes to telehealth and how we are able to do stuff with the stuff that we have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't have anyone on my list. We will go back to Health and Social Services. Branch summary. Directorate. Equipment acquisitions. Headquarters region, 1 million. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Qikiqtaaluk, 200 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kivalliq region, 45 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Kitikmeot region, 40 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total equipment acquisition, 1 million 285 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total capital expenditures, 4 million

200 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 10-10 is just distribution of budget. Information item. Go back to 10-6. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Directorate. Total capital expenditures, 4 million 200 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Go back to 10-5. Health and Social Services, program summary. Detail of expenditures. Total capital expenditures, 4 million 200 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Money is not a question. What I would like to see from the department is when you are proceeding with your plans as doing Public Relations work with the selected communities that you explain to them not to have the attention of the newspapers but to have the attention of the potential patients about user friendliness and cut down on travel costs etc. But the way the laymen, you and myself can understand, appreciate, rather than just getting headlines in the newspapers. That's what I'd like to see being explained totally to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has made a good point and maybe when we get to the operations and maintenance, we'll be able to maybe do a response on some of the member's opening comments. Some of the good comments that we've heard around the table and that's a good one too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything else. Total capital expenditures, 4 million 200 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We will now take a 20-minute break. Supper is now being served in the Tuktu room.

>>Committee recessed at 5.16 p.m. and resumed at 5.48 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, we can start the meeting. Is it the wish of the members to begin the review of the department of Health & Social Services main estimates and start with 10-6. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have one question. Under the contract services. What do we contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, depending on the contract, it could be a contract for the administration, it could be a contract for personnel, for services being delivered by the department of Health & Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding the grants and contribution 896. It is on page 10-7. I'd like to move there if possible Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We will be returning to that page 10-7 then. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the 600 thousand dollars for the Nunavut nursing program. Are there any plans to improve. First of all I should ask have you learned of anything that should be improved in the nursing program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. The member deserves some of the kudos for helping with this program. Indeed as the former Minister of Education, you supported it with the 600 thousand dollars from Arctic College. What we have found we just did a review with Dalhousie which is the University which we are using their curriculum and other support Mr. Chairman.

We have just finished a review of the academic standards as well as the curriculum that they are using. The review went quite well. I guess the big problem that we are having in the nursing program itself is the retention issue. This one that has come up. I just recently talked to some of the nursing students and the Minister of Education on some of their concerns. That was discussed in conjunction with the Education budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you be working with the Department of Education in correcting some of the deficiencies in this delivery especially in the retention of students and why some have been quitting. As Mr. McLean says that is the only answer we have for the shortage of nurses in Nunavut in the long run. We don't expect the government in the short run to make a miracle changes from the GNWT to now.

So I think we are patient enough at least it took us only 30 years to get land claims. So I

think we will be patient enough to have long-term goals. I would like to see better compensation and retention plans including living allowances, student financial assistance similar to that of the law school program. I am not only talking about the nursing program. There are other professions too that could be looked at instead of the traditional University starving to death kind of attitude from adults and grown up people. I went to school. I had hardship. I passed through it and look at where I am now. That is our attitude because we went through it.

I spent a good 10 years in the south and I don't wish anyone else to go through that. Instead of boasting about it, I think we should be concentrating. Ok where did we not like it ourselves. Where we can improve it so that we can have successful completion rates. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. The other member brought this up earlier too. We need to be able to look at programs and support services that are available for students. All of our students. Most of the students that we have in Nunavut are adult students and they are not like students in the south where they are 17-18 years old going into University. The majority of our students are married. They have children and they have all the other administrative problems of becoming students and need to get more support and that's something that we found.

Right now we have eight students in the access year, three in the first year, two in the second year of the program. So actually we have 13 students right now in the nursing program. We need to be able to make sure that we retain those students and the member has made a good point.

Just recently Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services has met with the head of the college campus here to specifically talk about some of the concerns that we have with the nursing program and funding and retention issues. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Arvaluk. We're on page 10-7. Any further questions. If there's no further questions we'll then move back to 10-6, Health and Social Services, directorate. Total operations and maintenance, 16 million 862 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 21 million 62 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Health and Social Services, branch summary, 10-8. Healthy children, families and communities, 19 million 865 thousand.

Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Does this 11 million 606 thousand contract services also include dental programs in the communities. Probably most of it now that we had a big problem a while ago in Kivalliq whereby the Kiguti Dental company took over and removed our dental therapists from the communities. That had a devastating effect on the children who were receiving care on a regular basis from the dental therapists with dental problem prevention programs and tooth brushing and that sort of thing.

Have we gone back to that dental therapy program in all the communities rather than getting twice a year visits from Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of the questioning that Mr. McLean had asked in the House over the last couple of days under contract and the dental services. It seems the member was correct when we look at the numbers we can see the numbers have actually fallen for visits from what was previously there, what's there now.

I'm going to have an opportunity to actually go into detail on the opening comments by the members. But I wanted to point out that one of the things that we are trying to do under the Department of Health and Social Services, is over the last two years, is to set up that practice unit, that best practices unit in Kugluktuk.

That best practices unit is going to review all of the contract services; ophthalmology, dentistry, look at our social workers and so on. In that office we have a dental specialist who will announce for the first time a review of the programs and contracts and so on and see where we are and what types of dental programs we are delivering. Under that contract services, the member is correct, dental services are included in that amount. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to remind the members that in our rules we should not name company names or individual names during the proceedings of the House. We'll leave it general, we will just use general comments and not name specific company names or individual names. Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that case, the member from Baker Lake alluded to stating that these dentists who are visiting the community do not finish their work. I think you remember, sorry, that I called your office from Coral Harbour because two seniors were missed out because they did not properly meet the appointment from the dentist for denturer. The one who was there refused to do the work on them because they did not have proper appointments with him when he was still in Ottawa just about to come up to Coral Harbour.

It's bad enough for us who are able to understand English a little bit who try to get

through all the channels to get our appointments let alone a senior doing it. I would like to ask, will you be instructing you contractor dental workers to follow your opening remarks, to deliver flexible, culturally sensitive programs and demonstrate effective use of public resources by not omitting them simply because they did not make a proper appointment before the dentist comes.

I think these are small things. But it has a bad effect or relationship between the dental program of the government and the patient in the community who will not be visited again for several months. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's been two short years since April 1, 1999. Under Health & Social Services, we've inherited an 8.9 million dollar, last year, debt with the health board. We've integrated them into the department. We're setting up our best practices to do exactly what the members have been talking about. The member, what James is talking about right now.

He's right. It is not acceptable that when we have a dentist in the community, just because someone didn't have the opportunity to make an appointment, especially a unilingual elder, that they're passed over. That's something that we need to be able to follow up. That's why we set up the best practices unit in Kugluktuk as part of our decentralization. In the past, the three health boards had different policies for different programs and services. We want to make sure that we have the same policies and programs across and access to those programs and services for all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, as the members said in their opening comments, quite a few of them, I haven't had a chance to deal with any of the comments at this time. But maybe we will a little later on this evening. We need to be able to have some ongoing improvement and to make sure that instances like James just talked about, that the member talked about, don't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Anything else. Moving on. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Healthy children, families and communities. Total operations and maintenance, 19 million 865 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 19 million 865 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. We'll move on. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Health insurance programs. Total operations and maintenance, 226 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the contract services of 26 million. Does that include only the treatments outside of the jurisdiction or does it also include payments to doctors in Nunavut that are the direct staff of the government. If they are not direct staff of the government then what portion of the doctors are on contract with private practices in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the contract services. There are earnings that make up the 226 thousand dollars, one of the out of Territory hospital costs which is the reciprocal billing the member talks about. That is 15 million dollars. The extended health care cost would be about 300 thousand. I believe 300 thousand. The non-insured services agreement would be 10 million 926 thousand. For the total of 266 thousand, the services for the 4 million dollars that has been in here we've moved that to the treatment branch to more accurately reflect the cost of treatment services provided to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been looking through the estimates here. In this case does this include the transportation like medivacs and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: No. No it doesn't. That is the treatment branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I have no further names. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Health insurance programs. Total operations and maintenance, 26 million 226 thousand. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can the minister explain why there is a 4 million dollar reduction in that program Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 4 million dollars as I earlier stated, the 4 million dollars was with the physicians contracts and that was moved to the treatment branch to better accurately account and explain to Nunavut patients. So that 4 million dollars reduction is the physician services contract. That has been moved to a different line. That is now called the treatment branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This health insurance program for non-insured health benefits. Is that 100% refunded from the Federal government. I have another question after that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a cap there. The cap is 10 million 926 thousand dollars. That is the agreement that we have with the federal government up to that maximum of NIHB for Inuit. That is part of the negotiations that we are involved in right now as a department with our federal partners. We believe there are more items under the non-insured health benefits that they should be covering for Inuit. So that is part of our negotiations. So, the cap is 10 million 926 thousand. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to ask a whole bunch of questions in this forum but can the minister supply us some information down the road, maybe in Cambridge Bay, that there are some treaties, Indian treaties that included Inuit under the health section of the Indian Act. The federal government, has judiciary responsibility to look after the health and education of that I think it's an 1867 act. I don't know what year it is but I forgot.

Why do they have a cap with that Indian act. Secondly, what happens when the Nunavut population continues to grow, will the cap stay at 10 million when your costs go up to maybe 100 million dollars down the road. We don't really have time right now because we are all homesick but can the minister sometime, give us a briefing in the briefing room so that we could have an unbiased, non-political discussion on where we are going with our health programs. At least health insurance programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct, the federal government can't abdicate its responsibility for Aboriginal people, in our case, Inuit people in Nunavut. The problem goes back to 1988 when the health care transfer agreement was signed between the NWT government and the federal government. At that time, the government of the day was so hot to take over health care, we believe the deal wasn't all that equitable on this side. That's why the negotiations are ongoing right now.

You might note Mr. Chairman, that the NWT themselves have come out and said that they want the federal government to take over NIHB again because of the concerns. We're not at that stage yet, Mr. Chairman. We've negotiated with the federal government. We've been able recoup almost 1 million dollars for example on travel that we used to pay for on the dental contracts.

So those types of things are ongoing. We believe there are some other opportunities for

us there. But the member's suggestion of a briefing, on the whole complexity of the non-insured health benefits is a good one. That's something maybe we could schedule for the session in Cambridge Bay. My staff are here. They're taking notes. That's something we'll try to facilitate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You may want to include some of the possible loopholes in findings from the land claims agreement and the old Indian Act that may not have been under the NWT Act. It might not be constitutional for the NWT to make an agreement on behalf of all the Aboriginal people without negotiations for the health insurance program purposes.

So all this, I think should be included in the presentation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the constitutional challenge or charter challenge being brought forward by Mr. Ward out of Edmonton who is an Inuk who was adopted into the south and is a lawyer, I believe he's the first Inuk lawyer. That would have some bearing on some of the things you just talked about because I believe under this charter challenge constitutionally, he is trying to move in that regard.

At the same time, government to government negotiations on the NIHB will continue with the government of Nunavut and with Health Canada. Plus the members' statements are well taken. That's something maybe we will include in the briefing that we could probably deliver in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just for the minister's, just let him know that the members are going to be back here for standing committee meetings at the end of, in April sometime or maybe, that might be a good time to get that briefing as well.

On the section here on the health insurance programs, is this where all of the prescription drugs are for beneficiaries that get them, the beneficiaries don't have to pay for drugs and different medical services, do they fall under this category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that's part of the 10 million 926 thousand dollars under the non-insured services agreement. That includes all the Pharma Care drugs that prescribed that are in NIHB. That is correct.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What, you know, I understand in talking to the pharmacists here, that there's a list of drugs that are covered under this section and that basically they have no control over any changes that are made into drugs that are allowed or are no longer taken off that list.

I'm just wondering if the minister can explain, you know, what role they play if any in determining what the, how drugs come off of that plan or go on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good question. I mean that sincerely. There have been major concerns every time I go to a federal/provincial health care meeting about how Health Canada picks and chooses what drugs are used under the Pharma Care Program and that's the case the member's referring to.

There are some cases, for example, Mr. Chairman, we have generic drugs and let's say as an example they have a generic aspirin pill and that may be worth X number of dollars and that's what we've been using. That's what the pharmacist has been using then Health Canada drops that from the preferred list of drugs that are covered on the health plan.

That's the concern that's been brought by the pharmacists not just here in Nunavut but across the country. The role that we play in that Mr. Chairman, is that when we have an opportunity to be at a federal/provincial meeting we bring up your concerns and discuss them. We joined with our colleagues across the country on concerns in the way Health Canada declares what drugs are included in that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that there's always like the minister indicated, new drugs come along and I think no matter what kind of drug is out there, they don't always have the same side effects or different things. A lot of times when doctors prescribe certain drugs they take a look at and consider what the possible side effects are tailored to the conditions or each individual patient.

You know, each patient, each person reacts differently to different drugs and I think that's taken into consideration when prescribing. There are cases where you may have a normal drug that's prescribed to an individual for a certain reason that they didn't want to give this one that is funded under the program because of the side effects and when they give the individual another one, that isn't covered. You know I think I really think we need to do something. We don't have the luxury of having the volume of stock to pick and choose the perfect one, the perfect drug that is going to work for everybody that is covered under this plan.

I think some work should be done or there should be consultations done with the physicians and the pharmacists to take a look at any drug that may have come off the plan

or has the potential of coming off. We should look at ways of keeping and ensuring that those types of things are covered because as it is right now some people have to pay for prescriptions.

Some of them can't. If the physician knows that they can't afford to pay for it, they prescribe this other one that could have some more harmful or irritating side effects on the individual just because they can't afford the other drug. Does that mean that they have to go through those types of potential side effects and things for those reasons. I don't think that is right. So I'd like to just maybe ask I don't know if the minister can commit to consulting with the physicians and pharmacists and looking at pursuing this issue further with Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Nunavut grows and gets more diverse and has more of a population, you get what the member is talking about. For any Inuk that is under the NIHB when you go to a doctor and the medication is prescribed and that medicine is paid for through the NIHB, they get that. In the case of a person who has Green Shield or Blue Cross, some of the medications prescribed by physicians the member is correct, may not be covered under that program.

The member is correct again when he says because of our smaller capacity and volume some of the drugs that may be more generic may be out of the price range for that individual. So you made a good point. That is something that we may be able to pursue. The instances today Mr. Chairman, that I am aware of that have been brought to my attention are very few. That is something that we'd be able to follow up as Nunavut gets more diverse and more population and people moving in. You start to see more of this type of incident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the main reasons that you don't hear much about it is because a lot of people don't know and just take for granted what they are given from the pharmacists. So in a lot of cases I would imagine the patient is just taking for granted that is what they get and they don't know whether there is something better or not there. Another thing in here not only prescriptions but other dental services that are also covered under this area.

I understand Health Canada is also taking some of those other things off the list of things that are covered as well. For example, in certain dental procedures now that aren't totally covered. As an Inuk, these things should be covered and someone will go to get it done until you have to pay for it. I know an instance here in town where a young gentleman had to get braces and he got told that he had to pay for himself.

Things like that I think are things that I've seen covered under this program before and if the minister wishes I could bring this to his attention after. But just talking more in

general of certain things that are being taken off the table that are no longer being covered.

I have a big concern like the minister has indicated that these are things that we end up getting stuck with or else we end up having members of the public out there that aren't getting the attention they need because they can't afford it. That leads to further costs on the system over time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it goes back to the issues that James was talking about before. You know, if you use the scenario, let's say James, Mr. Arvaluk as an example leaves tomorrow and goes to Ottawa and he's living there for a year and then he needs to get physiotherapy.

If he went to the Ottawa General for physiotherapy as an Inuk, OHIP, the Ontario Health Plan would be paying for him. They would be charging back that cost to NIHB, non-insured health benefits. Here, I have to do that. If you need mental services for an example, if you are given a referral, through psychiatric counselling if you went down to Ottawa and you were living there for a year and needed psychiatric counselling and went to the Ottawa General Hospital, I'm sure the Ontario government wouldn't be billing their OHIP program they would be billing the federal government.

Yet those services have to be delivered by the Nunavut government. It's the same thing as some of the issues surrounding the dental contract, which is part of the non-insured health benefits that the federal government has on the table. We're in negotiations today with some of these key issues like I said, we're just recouping almost a million dollars, just a little over a million dollars of our travel which we weren't paying before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (Interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo anything else. Thank you. We'll get back to, there are no more names on my list. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Health insurance programs. Total operations and maintenance, we are on page 10-10, 26 million 226 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 26 million 226 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Turning the page. Health and Social Services, branch summary. Health protection. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 761 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a few employees here worth 2.3

million dollars. A couple of years ago, a few years ago, there was a fairly active AIDs prevention program taking place throughout Nunavut.

I think that has to be very good for especially school populations and the smaller communities, it has certainly raised attention in the population. Are you still active in the AIDs prevention program under that. Because the concern here is especially in Iqaluit we have a lot of transients that are coming from the south. I'm not saying that they are, it's just that there is a limited access of visitors and some of them come up here to work etc. that, is there a program that is still active as before on that, that's being promoted as a good prevention program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under health protection, the member is correct, we have an area under communicable diseases. On those diseases, sexually transmitted diseases in this case, the member asked specifically about HIV, ongoing work, Mr. Chairman, by the department. CHRs are our key on that, Community Health Representatives, who do promotional programs services as well as treatment programs in Nunavut, every mother who wishes to, giving birth, we test, if they allow us, we test for HIV.

When women go for example, on an annual or regular basis, for PAP smears, on a regular basis, that's another way, Mr. Chairman, to look for sexually transmitted disease. So under the health promotion branch, under CHRs and so on for the regular check ups, that type of program is still in place. We haven't begun any type of specific awareness, but we have been working on sexually transmitted diseases or STDs per se. Some of the organizations like Pauktuutit have though, Mr. Chairman, and we have been assisting them on AIDS awareness and so on. We have an AIDS day walk and that's continuing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Yes, annual check ups of anyone who is wanting an annual check up for tuberculosis and blood pressure and any other health protection, is this STD especially, the HIV or AIDS, testing included in the annual check up of individuals like ourselves or any citizens of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, at any given time, any individual can request a blood test for HIV so it's not contingent on doing a regular physical check up. If a person is sexually active, Mr. Chairman, then a good suggestion to that person who is sexually active, on a regular basis is that when they do a physical every six months or a year to do a regular check for HIV and that's male or female.

As a policy or a regulation or so on, we don't test people. That's their personal choice.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm having a hard time with that one because how do you decide my heart is personal and my blood is not. My heart is not personal but my blood is personal but my lungs are not personal and other things are personal.

I think what concerns we should be having on this is we should be communicating to our own people. Especially through Health & Social Services that everybody is vulnerable and I think the program has been very effective in telling everybody that it's an indiscriminate disease and citizens should be watching out for it. Here we are again to your statement, that culturally sensitive programs that, somebody in the south, a system of medical practices decided what was personal and what was not personal, might not be very relevant up here. I think that should also be discussed as a way of improving the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we don't have much opportunity in this House some times to talk about serious issues. I don't mean that in a flippant way. The member brings up a good point on HIV and sexually transmitted diseases and especially with a lot of our young people, 40% of the population of Nunavut is under the age of 15.

Mr. Chairman, I should point out that we don't make people take a blood test for HIV but we've done and I'll give you some specs here, and this might shock some of the members, about 90% of women who are pregnant are tested by consent for HIV. That means Mr. Chairman, in Nunavut, 750 approximately a year in Nunavut have tested for HIV.

When people are diagnosed with an STD or sexually transmitted disease, syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, chlamydia being the most popular sexually transmitted disease in Nunavut, between 50 and 75% of them agree to be tested for HIV. We encourage anyone, Mr. Chairman, on a regular basis, the pregnant women, and people with STDs to be tested for HIV. We encourage them.

We are putting together more resources, to promote public awareness on HIV and AIDS in collaboration and partnership with many other organizations. But as you can see Mr. Chairman, we are regularly testing. Women are getting pregnant. They're getting pregnant from men. When you test over 750 women a year, almost 19% of pregnant women that gives you a good indication of what's happening.

There are a few known HIV positive people in Nunavut and when you look at the statistics of sexually transmitted diseases and so on, there is a potential of concern with HIV and AIDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Anything else. Back to the estimates. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Health protection. Total expenditures, 2 million 761 thousand dollars. Correction. Total operations and maintenance, that was the first one. Total expenditures, 2 million 761 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 10-12, Health & Social Services, branch summary. Benefits. Total operations and maintenance, 53 million 450 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Travel and transportation, is that all medical travel. Medivacs, patient travel. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under that category the majority is medical travel, there is also staff travel.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know, airfares haven't gone down lately, and I know more people are being transferred or travelling to hospitals in the south. Is that just a plug figure or is that an actual figure that he thinks he'll spend this year, and how much does he think he'll spend this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no it's not a plugged figure Mr. Chairman. The amount reflects what we believe we're going to recoup from the federal government from the ongoing negotiations on medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you explain that just a bit more in detail. Not a lot. But just a little bit more in detail. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as we said earlier we were able to recoup a little over a million dollars in the dental travel. This was in medical travel. We believe in the negotiations that are coming forward right now we should be able to recoup the 3 million dollars difference that you see here under medical travel from the federal government.

So that's why we indicated that there. There's not a lot of that of course, that money was in the budget for the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just if the minister can give me another brief explanation. The new medical travel, patient travel that was brought forward. How has that been received by the department as a whole, have there been many complaints about it or has it been generally been received well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the recommendations made last year by the committee, Committee of the Whole, was for the Department of Health and Social Services to come in for this fiscal with its own supply and travel policy that would reflect the integration of the three health boards into the department.

We've done that. For the first time Mr. Chairman, we actually built in the appeal process, because we've never had the opportunity for appeal if you were turned down for medical travel. So far Mr. Chairman that has been a success. We're quite happy with the standardization of the travel policy. There still needs to be some work again with the way it's been set up and that's one of the things we'll be doing over the next four months. We'll be reporting back then to the cabinet with some of our work on that travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Qujannamiik Itsivautaq. There's almost increase of close to 10 million dollars to the, on the compensation and benefits. Did you get a lot of staff this year or are you expecting a lot of staff. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman under compensation and benefits, it reflects the approved organizational charts and it also reflects some of the social services positions that were previously listed under the branch healthy families and communities.

On our staffing, as an example, right now in the Baffin region for nurses, we're at 96% staff. So we have been actually pretty successful in staffing at 96% for nurses. In the Keewatin for another example, we're at 85% positions staffed. So some of the work that we've done on the NYAT report, which was the recruitment and retention, has paid off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Travel and transportation, I'm really confused with the bookkeeping system here. Shouldn't we put under 10-12 transportation, travel and transportation the actual amount we think we are going to spend this year rather than saying 18 million 703 thousand. If it's the same as last year deduct whatever, come up with 15, 565 and put the difference where we think we will be recovering from the federal government or through negotiations or recovery summary or something.

Or like Mr. McLean says is that what you think you are going to use is 15 million 565. Because in the other explanation you actually put the actual amount then are you deducting approximately 3 million here not in any other columns. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that's why they're the main estimates, it's an estimate. We believe when this time comes next year that we will have successfully concluded and I don't want to undervalue the department by not anticipating it. So that's what we try to do we try to anticipate things. At the same time as the member knows we still have some concerns with the deficit in the department.

So it's an estimate, or guesstimate and that's what we think we can cover. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't have anybody else on my list but Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The travel and transportation, the 15 million 565. Last year they estimated they used 18 million and it decreased this year. Last year was the estimate, did you estimate too much.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Under the main estimates last year we had budgeted 18 million 703 and the actual was 22 million 091. As we said, we've actually recouped some of those costs and we used to pay them last year, for example the million dollars in travel for dentistry, which would help them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The actual was 22 million, over 22 million and it had to be increased. So why would you decrease what might actually be spent if it was not enough last year. Why would you estimate less than the time before.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A couple of reasons for that. One it is an

estimate of what we think we are going to spend. We believe this time next year in 12 months we will be successful in the negotiations for extra money for travel.

We believe and we know we have extra work with telehealth and that should be able to cut down some of the travel. So there are different reasons. We've recouped a million dollars on travel for dentistry as an example. So we did one million in dental but if I picked up another 2.5 on other travel, which is not very much I will have the 3 million. So, that's what we are talking about there Mr. Chairman. That was the reason for it.

It's an estimate of what we think we will continue to spend. So it has to be framed in the context of total expenditures for the whole department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): When we talk about treatment programs or the, one patient who was sent to another community to get a second opinion at that community was sent to the hospital. Do they not send patients when they need to be sometimes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. This case is not dependent on any other case or circumstance. In most cases if you're in a community and you need medical referral, you're referred to a community that would have the expertise for that referral.

For example, Mr. Chairman, if you were living in Clyde River and you needed to see an ear, nose and throat specialist you would be referred to that specialist, if that specialist is in Iqaluit, or Ottawa. In the Kitikmeot region, you would be referred from Pelly Bay to let's say Yellowknife or Edmonton. It's based on where services, the special services or the services that you require for your condition are. That's where you would be medivaced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. When you speak, talk closer to the microphone. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Is it because they're trying to save costs. Is that why they don't send some patients out.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a diagnosis is made by the medical profession that a person needs to go, then they're sent. We don't think about the costs. That's why, we just talked about it in the estimates, we may go over budget in what you try to estimate because you're not worrying about the costs. So that's not the case. It depends on what the medical professional has decided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything further. I don't have anybody else on my list. We'll go back to page 10-12. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Treatment programs. Total operations and maintenance, 53 million 450 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 53 million 450 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn the page. We'll go back to 10-6. Health & Social Services, branch summary. Directorate. This was approved. Agreed to. We'll go to 10-5. Health & Social Services, program summary. Details of expenditures. Total operations and maintenance, 119 million 164 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 123 million 364 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at other departments, I find this out of the directorate at 14% comparatively high. What is the reason for having 14% rather than 6% or 5% like other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the directorate is basically the headquarters, the headquarters function of the department. We've tried to concentrate the majority of our dollars and everything on the ground at delivering services in the communities and so on. I think the 14% in the directorate reflects that we're a service department actually delivering services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: It must be late if I can't understand. If you want to do an efficient job you have higher directorate expenditures whereas Education has one percent. I don't get the rationale behind it. Mr. Chairman, perhaps if he can explain a little bit more. If you do the groundwork you have more in the directorate. Less in percentages in the field. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. One of the members wanted to say something. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would point out that EIA has 18% in the

directorate so each department is organized in a way that it feels it is most efficient that works for them. So each department varies in the directorate. So the comparison with other departments, I just don't want to compare Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs or other departments that are higher or lower. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I'll go back to Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the comparison was wrong. But I guess what I am saying is that Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs has a very small staff and that the Department of Health and Social Services is very big. But it is percentage wise a very big department. That directorate is at 14%. It is very high. It is in the neighbourhood of 8 million 693 thousand dollars. I guess it is efficiencies but to me it is little bit top heavy. But it is just a concern that we can look at in future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The grants and contribution we talked about earlier for example. Not just the Headquarters function but it is the functions that are directed from the Headquarters. So as an example, the Nunavut Nursing Program, the CHR training, Community Council funding, Information Technology, Information systems contract, our Director of Finance and Operations, Recruitment would also be in the Directorate. Health insurance programs would be there. So there is a group of different contracts and so on that are also included in the directorate. It shows a higher percentage in comparison probably to some of the other directorate functions in government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I don't have anyone else on my list. I'll go back to Health and Social Services. Program summary. Details of expenditures. Total operations and maintenance, 119 million 164 thousand agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 123 million 364 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. We have completed the main estimates for Health and Social Services. I'd like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing in front of the Committee. If you have any closing remarks. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to thank the Committee and the members. Mr. Chairman, when the Premier asked me to take over this department two years ago I didn't know what I was getting in myself for. I think Mr. Chairman, over the last years we have done some excellent work in this department. We brought our deficit down. We've integrated the Health Boards, we got the new travel

policy. We have set up the decentralized offices in Kugluktuk.

Some of the things that Ms. Williams that had asked about earlier and some of the other members I didn't have a chance to speak to them. I know we want to finish but what I want to say is that a lot of the problems with misdiagnoses and so on that they've brought forward into this House, that is why we have set up a best practices unit with Dr. Best in Kugluktuk so we can start making sure that the standards and practices of health care in Nunavut are second to none.

That is our goal and I also want to point out as I said earlier that we are almost at 80 to 90% right now of our nursing positions full. They're staffed. We are at 70% with our social workers which is not acceptable we need to get higher. With that I would thank the committee and I would thank my staff and ask for Contact C. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You spoke under three minutes and Mr. Nutarak I would just like to tell the Minister of Health and Social Services to go to the health centre after he leaves tonight to get healthy. Thank you.

I have other items to deal with. We have to, we still have the Legislative Assembly to deal with. What's the wish of the committee at this time.

Thank you. I will be stepping down from my chair. I will have to be making my comments as the chair of this standing committee. We'll take a five-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 8.01 p.m. and resumed at 8.11 p.m.

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We can now begin with the Legislative Assembly. Our Speaker can then go up to the witness table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien you can start with your opening comments. Mr. O'Brien.

Hon. Kevin O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe at this point I could bring in our staff, the Clerk and Mr. Pollock to join me.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree. Go ahead. Sergeant-At-Arms, please help them in. We can proceed. If you would introduce your officials please. Mr. O'Brien.

Hon. Kevin O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my right Mr. John Quirke, the Clerk of the Assembly and to my left is Mr. Steven Pollock, the Director of Finances and many other things from the second floor. Third floor.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to have the opportunity today to present to you the 2001-2002 estimates of the Assembly, and to respond to any questions that you may have.

I would like to begin by thanking the Members of the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit

for the comments and recommendations that they presented to me during the course of the Committee's review of the Assembly's draft business plan and estimates.

I would like to highlight for Members today some of our accomplishments made to date, and some upcoming initiatives in the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

During the 4th Session, the Legislative Assembly completed all of its statutory tabling requirements. In addition, the annual reports of the Assembly's independent officers have also been tabled within the timeframes provided by law.

Amendments were also passed during the 4th Session to a number of statutes that fall under the jurisdiction of the Assembly, including the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Under the direction of the Management and Services Board, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner of Nunavut, the Honourable Robert Stanbury, has undertaken a major review of Part III of the Act. New legislation will be introduced during the current Session.

Under the direction of the Management and Services Board, we will be proceeding with amendments to the Elections Act. This follows on the major report tabled last fall by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit. Over the coming months, we will also be providing support to the Committee as it undertakes efforts to recruit a full-time Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut. This also follows on recommendations made to move forward towards establishing a central elections office in Nunavut, in co-operation with NTI and other partners.

The Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act has been struck, and will be undertaking its work over the coming 24 months. The Assembly's business plan reflects the need to provide appropriate support services to this important work.

In the area of public affairs, we continue to work to ensure that the public is aware and informed of the proceedings of this House. Our website provides a comprehensive range of Assembly documents in both Inuktitut and English. We have co-operated with the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to include questions in the upcoming Nunavut Household Survey on the public's awareness and language preferences in relationship to the television broadcasting of Assembly proceedings. This is the first time that a northern legislature has attempted to gather hard data on viewership, and will assist us in our broadcasting plans.

Beginning this fall, we plan to have the proceedings of the Assembly broadcast on radio during Session. Residents of Iqaluit will be able to listen to the proceedings in either Inuktitut or English. And over time, we are optimistic that residents in communities outside of the capital will be able to listen to the re-broadcast signal.

Over 1,100 people from Canada and abroad have taken advantage of our Chamber tours, special events and outreach programs over the past several months, and we look forward to again offering an expanded summer tour schedule. We continue to work

enthusiastically with such bodies as the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association to host art exhibitions and displays throughout the year.

I am pleased to inform Members that the Legislative Library is in the process of implementing the Nunavut Library Automation System (NLAS). We are working in co-operation with the Court Library and Nunavut Arctic College Library on this system, which will ultimately give everyone or anyone with an Internet connection access to the catalogue of holdings in these institutions. We are also working to ensure that the system is accessible and relevant to Inuktitut-readers. This includes developing Inuktitut records for our cataloguing database that follow international standards -- something that has never been done before. This initiative is being followed closely by the National Library of Canada and DIAND's departmental library in Ottawa; two institutions which hold materials in Inuktitut.

Mr. Chairman, you and Members will note that our planned expenditures for 2001-2002 remain steady at approximately 9.9 million dollars. This accounts for just 1% of total GN spending.

One of the three capital projects for the upcoming fiscal year is landscaping to the Assembly grounds. We will be working with an Iqaluit-based landscape architect to enhance the grounds, improve our exterior signage and improve safety through better control of traffic flows. Work will commence this summer, and I look forward to being able to invite all Members and the public to an unveiling ceremony this fall. I would also like to express my appreciation to NCC for contributing to the costs of this project.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks, and I welcome any comments or questions from the members. Thank you. Ma'na.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to finally be able to give my opening remarks as we begin debate on the Main Estimates for the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, being last on the list for Committee of the Whole appearances. As the new Chair of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, I thank my colleague Mr. Hunter Tootoo for his past work with this Standing Committee. He was a good chair and I am confident that he will be just as productive as the new Chair of the Standing Committee of Government Operations. He will stay on as a member of the committee.

The committee was pleased that the Legislative Assembly has tabled its Business Plans and has taken into consideration the recommendations made by the Standing Committee. Even this seems so long ago now.

Mr. Chairman, it will be almost two years that we have been in the new Legislative Assembly building and everything is operating and functioning smoothly, with only a few minor improvements that need to be made such as the improved chamber lighting

and landscaping outside the Assembly. I believe that the design with the Ulu stage was chosen and we look forward to this landscaping development.

We remain concerned however, about the position of the Facilities Manager. This position should be taken over by the Legislative Assembly, as was discussed during our review of the Draft Main Estimates. Public Works & Services currently hold this position. A similar concern was expressed regarding the Janitorial and Security Services. These are also controlled by the Department of Public Works and Services. The committee felt that because they are performing duties for the Assembly, they should also be reporting to the Assembly, not to Public Works and Services.

Mr. Chairman, as our previous chair suggested, our committee should try and do what it can to support the authority, responsibility and the resources to take care of our own House. Hopefully, these issues will be resolved in the near future. Mr. Chairman, I can use an example of where, if the Chair told him to get dressed for the Assembly, he would have to because he's in the union.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has worked hard on Elections issues and did consult communities on how elections should be run in Nunavut. The committee tabled the report called "Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut: Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – 1999: A New Beginning". Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has received direction from the Management and Services Board to start the process of hiring a Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut. As the new Chair of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, I would like to assure the House that this committee will conduct a very thorough selection process for this position and report back with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. The role of the Chief Electoral Officer will be an important one for Nunavut and I am sure it will be a busy one. One of the first tasks of the new CEO will be to review the 65 recommendations that this committee put forth in our report. Our committee looks forward to working on this important selection process of a CEO for Nunavut.

In talking about Elections, I am very pleased to say once again that Ms. Rebekah Uqi Williams was the successful candidate in the Quttiktuq by-election and she is now a member of this Standing Committee. We are very proud to have her with us.

The Finance Minister tabled the incremental costs of the Rankin Inlet session on February 28, 2001 and the Legislative Assembly tabled its incremental costs on October 27, 2000. The total cost of the Rankin Inlet session last February totals approximately 553 thousand 669 dollars. It was very expensive. Mr. Chairman, with the 5th session of the Legislative Assembly resuming in Cambridge Bay from May 14 – 30, 2001, the committee was concerned that this session will cost even more than the Rankin Inlet session. Having said that, the travel budget this year for the Legislative Assembly is 77 thousand dollars less than the previous year. Mr. Chairman, we will need to reflect on whether the budget for this session is adequate to meet the needs.

Mr. Chairman, the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act will begin

its work in the coming months, once the review of this year's budget has calmed down. As members are aware, Ms. Rebekah Uqi Williams was selected as Chair and Mr. Donald Haviyok as Co-Chair. Terms of Reference were tabled and I am confident that this Special Committee will do an outstanding job while they review this important Act. Again, we will need to make sure that the activities of this Committee are accounted for in the budget.

Members were impressed with the permanent display of the Official Symbols of Nunavut. A crowd of people came to see the unveiling of these symbols. Members are pleased with regular exhibits of artwork. At the moment, we are pleased to see the excellent artwork of Ms. Germaine Arnatauyak in the foyer of the Assembly. Nineteen pieces are currently being displayed and can be purchased by anyone who wishes to buy them. Her biography is also available in the entrance for anyone to read.

Mr. Chairman, a report should be completed in the very near future by Mr. Robert Stanbury, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner on new conflict of interest legislation. This report will be called, "For a Culture of Integrity". And it's written in English. Mr. Stanbury is working hard to incorporate Inuit Values into this legislation because Inuit expect their elected representatives to reflect their deepest values, this report is founded on an assumption of their integrity and commitment to the primacy of the common good. We look forward to reviewing the recommendations made by Mr. Stanbury in our Cambridge Bay sitting.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to quote our Finance Minister in his budget address, "We have all learned much in our first two years. We have encountered the natural growing pains of any new government, discovering both our strengths and our weaknesses. We have experienced the satisfaction of determining our own destiny. Yet, we also have found out there are tremendous responsibilities that come with this opportunity."

Mr. Chairman, these thoughts were well spoken and we have seen them to be true over these past weeks through the review of the Government's main estimates. Those are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Capital estimates. Page 1-6. Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Office of the Clerk. We will move to page 1-7. 170 thousand. Questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Premier you had your hand up. Mr. Ng. I thought everybody was going to be asking questions for a minute. 170 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Equipment acquisition, 170 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Equipment acquisition. 10 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Total Capital expenditures, 180 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will then go to the details of expenditures. Total Capital expenditures, 180 thousand. Questions. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Main estimates 2001-2002 Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Office of the Clerk. Total operations and maintenance, 5 million 179 thousand. Questions. There are no questions. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 5 million 359 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Expenditures on behalf of Members. Total operations and maintenance, 3 million 834 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 3 million 834 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Legislative Assembly on page 1-8. Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Office of the Speaker. Total operations and maintenance, 177 thousand. Questions. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 177 thousand.

Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning over to 1-9. Office of the Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Total operations and maintenance, 72 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Total expenditures, 72 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 72 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Legislative Assembly, branch summary. Office of the Independent Commissioners. Total operations and maintenance, 489 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Total expenditures, 489 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will go back to 1-5. Legislative Assembly, program summary. Details of expenditures. Total operations and maintenance, 9 million 751 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 9 million 931 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Do you agree that these are done.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you have closing comments. Mr. O'Brien.

Hon. Kevin O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any prepared text or closing comments. Members would appreciate that. I just want to thank the members and

of course the staff for putting this together. A special thanks to the members for trusting in me without having any major concerns with our budget or questions. Hopefully we can get back to our ridings in the next few days. Taima.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): What is the wish of the Committee. Do you want to deal with Bill 1. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes. Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 1. Do members have any questions to Bill 1. Bill 1 Appropriation Act 2001-2002. Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back to the first page. Bill 1 2001-2002. Bill as a Whole. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. Carried. Does the Committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for Third Reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We don't have any more items on the Orders of the Day. The Speaker could come in. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour. Opposed. The Speaker can come back to the Chambers.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 6 and Bill 1 and would like report that Bill 6 and Bill 1 are ready for Third Reading. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion. Is there a seconder for the motion. Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those against. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third reading of Bills. Third reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for Thursday March 29, 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
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1
 - Bill 6
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until March 29, 2001 at 10 a.m. Just a reminder we will have a number of elders visiting the Chamber and watching the proceedings. They'll be joining us for lunch in the Great Hall.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

