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Nunavut Leadership Forum

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Iqaluit

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

Nunavut Leadership Forum

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday November 16, 2001**

Members Present:

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

Opening Prayer

Chairperson (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Arvaluk for the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Chairperson: Ublakkuut. Good morning. Returning to the Nunavut Leadership Forum. Item 7. Statements from Ministers. Starting off this morning we have Minister Kattuk. Minister if you would take the witness chair for your statement. As agreed to by all members due to special circumstances, Mr. Anawak will follow second.

Just a reminder to members that the minister will have ten minutes to deliver his statement and pursuant to that, members will have an opportunity if they wish to make their statements and follow up with questions. Please proceed, Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my colleagues for this opportunity to brief you on the accomplishments of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. It will give me an opportunity as a minister to be able to make a statement and to answer questions later as the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the Nunavut Government.

As ministers one by one go to the witness table we will be able to answer your questions but we all know that it doesn't matter who a person is we can't always do as good a job as we would like.

I know that we have to represent the people of Nunavut and I am proud to be here and make a statement and answer questions. I want to thank my colleagues to brief you on the accomplishments of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth during my term as minister.

I have been a minister for a short term with the Government of Nunavut. (interpretation ends) We have made great progress in the protection, preservation and promotion of our traditional Inuit culture, language and heritage. From a community based grants and

contribution program to Nunavut wide facility studies, our activities over the past year and a half met the department mandate to reflect the vision of the Government of Nunavut.

Given this correct direction, the department has continued to improve the contribution program to better evaluate the performance of the projects and to ensure that the process is fair, transparent and reflects community based needs. An important step in this process was the grants and contributions policy recently approved by Cabinet.

Communications at the community level is very important to deal with questions from individual people. Beginning this month, officials from Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will travel to communities to explain how to access our grants and contributions funding, including advice on how to prepare funding proposals. The first community to be visited will be Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak in the Kitikmeot region.

Over the past two years Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has contributed over 1 million dollars to the Arctic Winter Games. This contribution recognizes the games as more than just a sporting event, but it is a cultural celebration. I have initiated a wide range of exciting language initiatives. The Nunavut language centre feasibility is now in its early consultation phase.

In response to a successful language week last year I have continued my commitment to NSDC. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will provide funding and co-ordination assistance to support another successful language week this year.

I am pleased to have successfully hosted the first language terminology development workshop and conference held by the Government of Nunavut here in Iqaluit. These language initiatives build on language successes by Culture, Language, Elders and Youth such Asuilaaq: The Living Dictionary which received an Achievement in Technology in Government award in October of this year. This gold medal means that the promotion of our traditional language is supported outside of Nunavut. This great achievement is for both my department and government as a whole.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has built strong, healthy relationships during my term as minister. Many of these relationships are with Associations such as the Francophones here in Nunavut. My department is working closely with this association to explore French language services for Nunavut.

For a territory with such a small Francophone population, but we have made good progress and are moving forward to meet language and cultural needs for this group. We have worked with the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage on French government services and Inuktitut advancement. We are cost sharing a Nunavut community language resources study with them. This study will list the current community based resources for the preservation, protection and promotion of Inuktitut. This list will also include a brief biography of each elder interested in assisting the government with language activities.

As many of you know, over 150 thousand archaeological assessment and archival items are housed in the Prince of Wales Heritage Centre in Yellowknife. These artefacts will be transferred back to Nunavut once the government has the facilities to properly care for them. The Nunavut Heritage Centre feasibility study will determine planning for such a facility.

Most of what I know about communication, caring, providing and sharing I learned from my elders. To recognize the important role that elders play in our culture, I have continued to encourage and support regional elders' conferences so that elders have a place in our changing society to share their knowledge.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has entered into an agreement with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to hold an upcoming elders conference in the Kitikmeot. We also made a commitment to each community in Nunavut to cover the costs to send the elders to a conference in Cape Dorset. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has also awarded a feasibility study to look at the community based feasibility for elders and youth activities in Nunavut.

The Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit committee is a good example of how we are involving elders in our government. The elders' task force is holding weekly meetings and has consulted with all departments and agencies concerning the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit objectives. These consultations are continuing. The government has also created an inter-departmental Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit committee.

I have directed the department to work with the Nunavut Council for People with Disabilities to resolve their ongoing financial difficulties. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is paying for a financial audit and once it is completed we will assist the Council with financial contributions to address the needs and concerns of Nunavummiut with disabilities.

This Status of Women Council has begun the process of amending the Status of Women Council Act. The Council has changed to reflect a more overt membership to include elders.

We said in the Bathurst Mandate that in 2020, Nunavut is a place where self-assured, caring communities respond to the needs of individuals and families. To build healthy communities, we must first have healthy families working together with elected officials, consulting with Nunavummiut and with the help of the Nunavut Status of Women Council this can happen.

I am proud to say that Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's level of Inuit employment is at 79%, revealing that we made a commitment to the Inuit Employment Plan and to increasing its usage in the workplace. I have recognized languages as a goal of the Government of Nunavut expressed in the Bathurst Mandate.

I am honoured to be the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth during this exciting time in our government. Also it is a small department, but it is one of the departments that makes the Government of Nunavut unique from other governments in Canada. It has a broad and challenging mandate and I am dedicated to seeing that these goals are met. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth ensures our culture, language and heritage are protected for our future generations and I am very proud to have taken a lead role in this process. Thank you for your attention and I will be very happy to answer any questions my colleagues may have regarding my role as a minister. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members now have an opportunity to make a brief statement and/or ask questions. Members, questions or statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have a brief question to ask the minister. My concern about the leadership of this minister is that it seems like Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is going very slow and the funding for the department is inadequate.

Maybe this is because the Government of Nunavut is not serious about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit at this time. The elders and youth programs are doing some things but it is very slow. His leadership on these issues is very weak. I believe he should show stronger leadership. Maybe he has a problem with his department or maybe he doesn't know his job very well. But his leadership is very weak and I don't know the reason. These are my concerns Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. I believe that is a statement. Questions. Further questions Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the leadership in the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I would like to see this department move faster on these issues. My question is, how will the minister make his leadership stronger so his department can move faster on these issues.

This is my question Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I did my opening remarks I said that I am not knowledgeable in all fields. I mentioned that I have been in the position of minister for a year and half and dealing with issues in the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth department, and dealing with issues with the Government of Nunavut.

I am starting to get educated on this as I deal with the issues under the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth department I've realized that I will have to deal with issues that will be coming from the federal government departments as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What has the committee on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the Minister's Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth done to date about incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the government.

What Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is in the government today. This is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has been in operation for a year and they are dealing with issues in respect to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and this is a large task to deal with. The committee is at this time meeting from time to time to discuss Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues.

They will be meeting again at the end of November here in Iqaluit. This time around I will be meeting with them and we will be discussing issues and what we are planning to do.

So far they have concentrated on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues and I will be getting their report in the near future. As far as I am concerned the committee is doing a good job and they will be meeting towards the end of this month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to the question. I don't think the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit committee is running too smoothly and I would like to see them run a bit smoother than they have done so far.

I do not see any results of the committee. I would like to see more results in the near year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his comment. I have not heard his concern myself but when they do meet towards the end of this month I will try and consult with them and find out what their problem is. Because I have not heard your concerns from them myself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Questions or statements. Mr. Haviokay.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today is Friday let us progress well. Because this is a new department and the minister is new to the position. His responsibilities are many. You mention Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being very new within government and you have been trying to utilize it as much you can as you mentioned. That is good to hear.

I will mention the rest of it in English. This Minister should be progressing forward. (interpretation ends) Grants and services to the youth and elders. Currently there are no programs and services. The minister is simply transferring money to the groups such as the Regional Inuit Associations to distribute and run programming for youth and elders.

I would like to see more programs and services for youth and elders and more direct funding support to youth and elders' groups and programming. Local women and youth and elders' groups are receiving funding for O&M for their groups and they are doing fund raising. They can only do so much, especially in the smaller communities. The government should provide funding to support youth co-ordinators and the youth facilities.

(interpretation) As I mentioned many times and I will mention again. Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtut will be utilized more within the government and I am glad that he supports the language initiatives. In Kugluktuk it seems to me that he hasn't assisted us too much though. To date I mentioned to the minister that our language Innuinaqtut within the Kitikmeot, he should support it as much as he can within Nunavut and other parts of Canada so that Innuinaqtut can be promoted too in those areas.

So that people would realize that yes they can receive Inuinnaqtut. The women's group Status of Women, it seems I haven't heard from them for ages. And those that are disabled, we need to support those as much as we can.

I'd like to know and others out there would like to hear what plans the minister has for the future. I will have more questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Statements. Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask this question. Funds that are utilized are limited. For programs that are directed towards youth and elders, how much more funding is he trying to obtain in enabling more programs to proceed. To date how are you dealing with trying to get more funds to get those programs and services within your department on the road. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the last comment with respect to funding when we deal with Culture, Language, Elders & Youth within the government. We are always short of funding to do our programs properly. I

will be seeking support from the rest of the Cabinet members with respect to funding so that in the future the programs will be available.

The job and the responsibilities for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth are huge tasks. I will continue to seek funding for more programs but I cannot tell you as to when this extra funding would be made available. At this time I can not say when the funding will be available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Supplementary to my question. Yes, funds are limited within your department. I would like to say that you need to be aggressive to get more funding so that programs that are directed to elders and youth are improved. Without any resources, programs will not happen.

I would encourage you to try and obtain more funding for the youth especially so that their lives can improve. We urge you to try and get funds from the Cabinet to go towards the youth.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well we do need more money to be used by Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. But it still has to have approval from the rest of the Cabinet Members. But I will take your suggestions into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Statements or questions. Members. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If my clock is now fixed, I believe I have two minutes. I have a few comments that I would like to make in regards to the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth department. I am very pleased that we have a new department within this government. And it is an extremely important department for some of us.

When we talk about Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit I think we should not only pay lip service to this Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. I can't tell you whether the minister is doing a good job or not. Whether he is a good minister or not. The department can't function if there is not adequate funding provided to this particular department.

There is travel and things that cost money. Since this is a new department I think you have to be pretty aggressive to get additional funding from this government and from outside sources. I am sure there are a lot of requests for donations and contributions going to your department.

Usually what happens is that the funding is made available in the peak periods of spring and fall and we do know with the amount of requests it is quite hard to have this department function properly if there is not adequate funding. I would like the government to consider increasing the amount of funds for this department. Possibly taking some of the funding from the Department of Education and re-profiling to this department.

It's an extremely important department and I don't blame him for doing as little as he is doing now, but I would strongly suggest that we increase the funds.

I believe that he should be able to access funds from the Aboriginal Funds. Those are my comments, and I don't have any questions. I will be saving my questions for other items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Statements, questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson this is a very important department and it is a unique department that didn't exist before in the Government of the Northwest Territories. This department has a great potential to develop new initiatives, to promote, to preserve, and to protect the culture. This department is also into youth and elders in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) This department had a blank page on which to write new policies for Nunavut, but we haven't seen yet. The issues in this department rise above the bureaucracy, because many are profoundly related to our cultural identity as Inuit.

Therefore the department needs to work together with other departments and also with other groups such as NSDC and other cultural groups.

There should be a department that is working closely with the Executive, to develop government-wide policy initiatives for Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and how to respectfully incorporate elders' advice into the government.

For example, the minister, this was quoted also by the Premier yesterday, the Minister of Department of Sustainable Development recently requested the advice of some elders on polar bear hunting issues. However, when the government seeks advice from elders the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth should begin the policy, design the policy for the participation of elders. So that the authority and wisdom of elders' advice will be carried out, without being influenced by the department or the government.

(interpretation) The minister has an opportunity to provide some creative leadership and develop new ways of doing things in Nunavut that are consistent with Inuit culture.

The standing committee on Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has given the minister some very good ideas and recommendations and the Bathurst Mandate is very clear that these are priority issues.

With that Mr. Chairperson I believe that this department, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, should be one of the top departments within this government. It works with the other departments through the Language Bureau, through the Status of Women and Elders and Youth.

This department is affected by all departments and I think that with that, I'll be going very fast, because this department is very important and because there are some program that should be brought out. This should be one of the top departments.

Chairperson: Questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): In regards to the Department of Sustainable Development requesting advice of some elders. We weren't invited to attend this meeting which is opposite to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the Inuit lifestyle and culture. We have to be open and take the advice of the elders.

My question is what has this minister done to include the elders within this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well only after we had gone through this could we learn from the experience. Our department will be visiting the communities of Nunavut and seeking the advice and the wisdom of the elders of Nunavut.

From then on we will be looking at the policies of the government and producing our new policies based on the advice of the elders. That would be done after we do a consulting tour with the communities. We would like to include the elders. We don't like to say that the numbers of elders are dwindling but we do need to seek their advice before they pass away. We would like to preserve the wisdom and the culture of these elders.

For that reason we will be touring to the communities to speak to the elders, the hunters and to the seamstresses. In regards to your questions we can't do anything until we have consulted the communities and think about putting in new policies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. More of a comment than a question. There are some of us that are over 50 years old and are now getting old. We are not exactly young people. But it is going to be urgent for you to get that knowledge together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): I agree with the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't be asking a question. But I do have a comment. I have a problem with the minister's department. The members of the Cabinet should be working together to promote this department.

They were only given five thousand dollars for capital projects. Our Inuit culture is not recognized by the people out there. We have to promote Inuit culture and language. But of course we can't do that when there is no money available.

We have to teach our youth about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. You can't do that when there is not enough allocated to your department. I believe that this department can get additional funds if it gets the support from the rest of the Cabinet.

The minister has to be more aggressive to promote his department. The ministers keep talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government. But it can't be done if there is no funding provided to implement it.

We can't just pay lip service to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. There are repeated requests for funding from the schools to promote our culture and language among the youth. There have to be cultural programs provided to the schools. It seems like this minister is not getting enough support from the rest of the Cabinet members. I don't have a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to make some comments. I would like to urge the rest of the ministers to give support to this minister and his department so that they can work on the programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under this department I enjoy talking about this department because I feel it is very interesting. In 1999 a foundation was put in place for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, it is the department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. We are pleased with the department.

We are in full support of this department but there are some concerns. This department deals with the Inuktitut language and should be given more support and the minister should be more vocal about it.

This minister should be working more with the Minister of Education so more materials could be coming out. This department has the least amount of money and I am sure it is

very hard to deal with different issues that arise when not enough money is provided for this department.

But as an Inuk if you want to be a good hunter you have to work hard to get that title. To be recognized as a good hunter.

When hunters are being taught, it is very important to have a good hunter with you. So with this department if money is provided more programs would be brought out. More would be done in this department. So Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth should make a statement to the members that when they go home to their communities they should ask for more programs to be in Inuktitut.

I don't really have any more comments to make regarding this department but with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we value this department and earlier one of the members said that this department affects all the people of Nunavut. I agree with that member. Even though this department is new we have to work to make it better.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister what leadership did the minister show in ensuring that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was the foundation for the moratorium on polar bear hunting.

If your department decided to put a moratorium on hunting as the department that is in charge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, what kind of leadership would you show. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really respond to his question as Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is not responsible for the polar bear issue. As a department that deals with culture, language, elders and youth I believe that we can help deal with the issue but we would have to work with other departments.

If a moratorium was to be put forward on polar bear hunting or on hunting, the elders I think would have to give input on what is being done because they have a great knowledge of polar bears and other wildlife. So I would expect that people from Nunavut would be involved in making these kinds of decisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under your department you are also responsible for elders and youth. As a minister of this department, I know that there is not enough money to put out programs but in our community.

We know what young people go through. We know that there aren't enough activities for the youth. We will have to work together to put out activities or create activities for the youth. How could you assist the youth in the communities to bring in more activities and programs so that the young people have more things to do in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date under my department we just use what is available to us. I too am very concerned about the youth in our communities. But in the next year we will be reviewing all the communities in Nunavut to look at what kind of centres and what kind of programs are available in the communities for youth.

We will be reviewing these things in the communities under my department. I cannot say exactly what we will be doing but we will look at what is available to the youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Members' statements. Questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to be a bit more upbeat. I like you Peter. I think you believe in what you are doing. I think you have a very good understanding of the land, culture and environment in Nunavut.

I think you believe strongly in your department. But the problem that I have, and I am not attacking it and I don't want you to be scared of me, is that you never contact me. I represent one of the largest ridings in Nunavut.

It is an inland community and it is the only community that went out on its own initiative and the elders got together and came up with the idea of building their own Inuit Heritage Centre.

They are very proud of it. It is a lot of history of Baker Lake in there and like I say they did this on their own with an individual called Dave Webster. And they plan and decide things and they operate it themselves.

This shows initiative from a community that they want to do something and believe in it. They do it on their own. I haven't seen you visit my community since you have been the minister and I don't know why. Are you scared of me. I don't want you to be scared of me. I want you to visit my community. Because we have a lot to show you and we are very proud of our community. All of us.

I am asking you to come and visit and talk to the elders and youth. I think as a minister of this department and sometimes you are the whipping boy of this government, this

department. Everybody seems to focus on Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to do everything for everyone. I think that it is unfair and I know your budget is very small.

I am sure that there is not one member on this side would not like to see it increased. We would probably try to help you increase it. So I think your role as the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth with the limited budget that you have is sort of like a public relations role. I am asking you to travel more. Get out and visit the communities. Go down the lake and go fishing with them. Go out seal hunting with them. Like it is a PR position your position in Culture, Language, Elders & Youth as far I am concerned.

I may differ with my colleagues at this side of the table here. But in your position as minister I think you should be into the communities a lot more. At least once or twice a year. Meet with the elders, meet with the kids, and go into the schools. I have the Commissioner of Nunavut come into Baker once or twice a year. He has a very small budget. But when he does come in he is a great ambassador for the government.

He comes in. He goes to the schools, he walks around. He talks to the kids about his role and he talks about the government. And he comes in and gives out awards. People recognize and they are proud of Nunavut. And when the Commissioner gets up on the stage and gives out volunteer awards it does so much to build self-esteem for that individual and it doesn't cost of a lot of money.

So I am asking you as minister to be more visible and come and visit all of us more often. And have a cup of tea with our elders. I'd love to take you around to dozens of the elders and have tea and bannock and talk to them and listen to them.

Because one of my elders said a year ago what are we doing to bridge the gap between the youth and elders of Nunavut and I say we have a very capable minister and we have a Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. We don't have an Inuit Qaujimagatunangit day which I think is a tragedy. We seem to be caught in the old trap of the place of employment is the Qallunaq world.

I can take you around government offices around Nunavut outside of Iqaluit. You have whites on one side and Inuit on the other. They don't talk. I don't know why. Before Nunavut came into place we had the Interim Commissioner who was Jack Anawak. I think a few times I heard him on the radio saying have a clam digging day where you would go out and shoot a couple seals with a couple of employees and stuff like that. And to me that showed that Nunavut is here.

But let us take time out to do stuff with people. I think you as a minister shouldn't hesitate to do that. Go out and do it. Say hey I am the minister I am going to Clyde River or Coral Harbour and I am going out to go seal hunting with the mayor or I am going to take my elders with me.

Things like that. So as a minister do it. Enjoy your job, be happy. You know like come on let's go. This is Nunavut. Full steam ahead. Let's not sit back and let our civil servants

say well you know you can't do this. You better not do that or something. That is fine. This is Nunavut.

Before I go any longer here. The biggest influence on Inuit culture today for our young people is Much Music, Fubu clothing and Nintendo. You know what I mean. There is a group of kids that will be coming here on the weekend. They came last weekend and I brought them to the Assembly. I took them for lunch. When you come here from the communities there doesn't seem to be any interaction or traditional stuff.

The only time we see traditional stuff in our communities is when there is some kind of presentation, like the Flag Day. We have the kids and they are singing and stuff like that. It is very proud, it's great, but we don't see enough of that anywhere. Our schools try to do it on a regular basis.

Another thing about Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that I have a concern with is that we don't seem to recognize or see any posters about role models. People that become RCMP, Inuit people that become RCMP, Inuit people that become Assistant Deputy Ministers. We don't see enough of this. Where we used to see it in the old GNWT, the old GNWT had some posters that they used to put up about people and people used to stop and look at them and say well I have succeeded, I have done this, I have done that, why can't you.

This is Nunavut, you can succeed here and aspire to be a leader in Nunavut. I am not lecturing you Peter, I like you as the minister and I have to defend you because I think your department gets to be the department that always seems to have to deliver on everything. Like I say with the limited resources that you have, go out and promote it. Thank you. No questions.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members it is ten after ten. If you wish to break for coffee until 10.30 we can do so and then continue. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 10.11 a.m. and resumed at 10.36 a.m.

Chairperson: Members' statements. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, following my colleagues' comments I think that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has the potential of being a flagship department for Nunavut. However, I don't believe that it has yet even realized it's potential. I think the government needs to identify what the problem is with it and why is it not being able to implement the mandate of the department.

Maybe the minister could provide better leadership. Maybe the department officials lack the staff. I don't know what the problem is but something's got to be done. I don't know what the barriers are or what the problem is. We know it has limited resources. We still haven't seen very much come out of the department.

I don't know if the minister is waiting to give direction or waiting for direction or is he giving direction. I think you know the minister needs to be aggressive and give direction to the department to be able to move on issues. When you look at over the last three budgets that we have seen two budgets and the latest one which was just tabled the other day, whether they even do their own budget.

An example we saw in last year's budget was an appropriation that appeared to be according to their budget something that was supposed to be going all over the place available to all communities and ended up that it was only intended for one project. I have concerns with that and I guess it's the minister for the department that's responsible for those types of things.

Another thing that I'd like, a comment made by the Premier yesterday, give us suggestions on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we've heard everyone talk very strongly about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit here in this House from day one. And personally I think Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is something different to everybody. It means different things to different people. In different circumstance it's taken differently. Really I would say it's almost impossible to just take a strict definition of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to be able to apply it in different circumstances.

I think an idea of what they may try to do is you know for each department or division within departments is to take a look at their programs and services and define what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit means to them and how they plan on incorporating it into their programs and services. They should do it individually like that instead of planning to come up with an overall thing but you know I think it'd be almost impossible to do that. But if you get a little more specific they may have some better luck in doing that.

One of the comments that I've heard from departments is that they can't move forward on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit because the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth haven't developed an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit policy. Maybe we're looking at it backwards. Develop an individual one and from that develop a global one.

The department has youth in its title. This is something it seems every year now it is just getting lip service. There is not enough emphasis placed on youth programs and services and facilities. That is the largest component of our population.

I think the department's budget is too small for those things. And I don't know if the department doesn't seem to have the capacity or the direction to do its mandate. This is something that I have been disappointed with. I'd like to see some change there. I know with the limited resources that it has, for the areas in its mandate there are all kinds of

other organizations and other government departments at different levels that all have kinds of contribution and funding for these types of programs and services.

They need to look at broadening and trying to tap into third party funding for some of these things if all else fails. In order to have more some strength and direction maybe it needs to be incorporated into a larger department so that they will get the support to get its needs met and to be able push its mandate forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel that the minister is not aggressive enough. I would be jumping if I were him and yelling at the other ministers. To say that the money that DPW has should be given more to the department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. To be able get some more funding from the other departments to be used for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to do more programs for the languages, elders and culture and for youth.

The money that perhaps the Department of Finance has, like there is also IT that could give money to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. What I am trying to say Mr. Chairman is the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is a department that affects everybody, and affects all the departments.

Like some of my colleagues mentioned, the minister should be more aggressive in regards to suicide prevention and be more aggressive to promote the elders' needs. Like perhaps not concentrate too much on the material that is produced. But to have a more aggressive role in promoting Culture, Language, Elders & Youth activities.

There is already a policy in place to promote activities for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Also Mr. Chairman, my time is running out. But the minister has to think as an elder. There is a saying that you don't have to be old to be an elder, you just have to earn the title.

So with that, the department should be able to be aggressive with the other departments and the Cabinet in trying to promote the needs of the elders and the youth, whether it is the Department of Transportation, the Department of Finance, he should be able to tell the other departments what he needs and be aggressive with them.

I have no questions for the minister, but I just want to encourage the minister to travel to the communities to promote those things that he does in his department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no comments to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, because he is a new minister. Perhaps he will just start to be more aggressive and he has a new department, and could be a very good leader, but his departmental staff have to be more aggressive as well.

We asked him when we were in Cambridge Bay, whether he should have more assistance from the other ministers. The two departments of Education and Health are the priority departments, so after everything is complete with those two departments, those two major departments, perhaps the other ministers can concentrate on his department.

We could probably do more to promote this department and to help his department get more aggressive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I wonder how the minister believes he could get more funding for his department for example from the Federal Government and other various organizations. What are his thoughts on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the member's question, which was a very good one. I know that the members have concerns about my department as to how it could be more aggressive and I will speak with the Minister of Finance on the concerns that the members have today.

In regards to the various organizations and the federal government departments, I know that we will try and get more funding from them to get more programs going in my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Statements. Questions from the members. Members' statements. If there are no further statements or questions, I assume that we are finished with the minister. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. The members have agreed to a change in the scheduled appearances of the ministers. Next we will have Minister Anawak for the Department of Community Government & Transportation. Please take the witness chair. Minister Anawak, you have ten minutes.

Hon. Jack Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank my colleagues for this opportunity to make my statement at this time. I am here in this seat because of the general public in Rankin Inlet and my constituency. We tend to forget ourselves, and our colleagues, Minister Kattuk, is a hard working minister, as are the other ministers. As our children and the members of the public, at times we also have difficulties trying to do our different tasks, and we don't always recognize this.

But as elected members, we do try to carry out our responsibilities. As we are dealing with the leadership review, I would like to clarify this according to my understanding. Nunavut itself has a nice ring to it, and when we first heard about it, before it became a reality, there were lots of expectation.

As we were going to establish the Nunavut Government, I was a Member of Parliament in Ottawa when I was involved in the creation of the Nunavut Government. People were looking forward to seeing the Nunavut Government at that time. As we established our own Nunavut Government, we expected to establish it from our hearts. Perhaps we are not too educated in the western style of operating our government, but we wanted to concentrate and support elders' comments.

If I were to be asked to leave this House as a member, I wouldn't be able to get other employment because I only have grade eight. My grade level is only grade eight, if I tried to get employment outside of the government, if I did not consult with the ministers and I tried to get employment I would be told that no, you are not qualified because you only have a grade eight level.

I don't think when Nunavut was becoming a reality that we were expecting it to be this way. We were looking into the future, we wanted to preserve our culture. Now that there is a government, it seems like we expect to be spoon fed by the Nunavut Government. We have survived and lived in a very harsh environment and our climate was the coldest, it is still the coldest. We didn't have any means of living in our harsh environment. We didn't have metal resources and yet we still survived in this harsh environment.

If we look back and try to find out how we lived in this way, a lot of us live at this time, maybe not exactly the same way as our ancestors, but we have lived in this harsh environment. I grew up in a sod house myself, and I don't consider myself an elder. But people my age are now involved in the Nunavut Government and the public, the general public, like to hear Nunavut Government, it has a good sound to it. People today are still asking today, when does the Nunavut Government really come into play.

But when we are talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, people are always asking what does it mean. We can't really say this is exactly what it means, this is the definition for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We can't come up with this definition. We refer to aboriginal life, what does that mean. It means language, it has a meaning to us as native aboriginal peoples, from our own perspective there is meaning.

I just wanted to clarify some of this. I had a report to use but I have refused to follow this report. I wanted to reiterate and speak about what the government does.

I am the Minister for Community Government & Transportation. If I say I am the minister for this department, people in the Federal Government would say, you have to do this, these are your responsibilities, and this is what you have to do. But myself, I understand that I have other responsibilities as well. I have to answer to my constituents.

Dealing with Health and Social Services issues, I am not going to point my finger at this department, because they have a very difficult job, but we don't have to see this as a stumbling block as leaders. This issue of suicide is a very difficult issue and it affects all of us. How are we going to do more about preventing suicide.

As leaders we have to step outside of our responsibilities as ministers and be more involved in issues such as suicide prevention. The public looks at us not only as the minister for a specific department, but as a leader as well. So as the Government of Nunavut, let's not just concentrate on our own departmental issues, and make that a stumbling block to progressing on important issues.

Going back to suicide prevention, what are we going to do about this. Are we going to be more involved as the Nunavut Government. If we just ignore it, are we thinking it is going to go away on its own. I don't think it will. I would like to support programs on suicide prevention more as a minister myself. Since the time this problem began it has not improved. I would like to seek unanimous consent to complete my statement Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Are we agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Agreed. Proceed.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members. Inuit Tapirisat of Canada was the first organization to work on establishing Nunavut. Tagak Curley and I would talk about this and consult each other. We would also receive letters from elders. Akuajuk was an elder who wrote to us and spoke about what his dream and vision was for Nunavut.

He wanted us to work at our full capacity to go forward, if the government is not doing a good job we have to try and fix the problems. There is more than one problem that faces the Nunavut Government today. Nunavummiut want to see a well run public government. In 1975 when the GNWT first moved to Rankin Inlet and the other communities, it seemed like they were doing a good job.

(interpretation ends) When the regional sections of the Government of the NWT first moved to Rankin Inlet in the early 1970's, the attitude of that particular regional government at the time was you are lucky to have us here.

Rather than thinking the only reason there is a government in Nunavut, in the Northwest Territories is because of the people, and that's what we should be focusing on. The people. The only reason the government is here today is because there are people in Nunavut. No other reason. That's the concentration we should be using, listening to them, listening to the elders.

(interpretation) Let us use our elders and find out the meaning of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. While I work with the municipal councils I usually tell them their culture and their lifestyle is going too much towards the western style of being politicians. So I try to consult with the Hamlet members and explain how they may be better able to operate and organize themselves.

(interpretation ends) One of the things that we have to understand, is to enable the municipalities to do more on their own. To allow them to do more in their municipalities because they know their municipalities more than I do. Give them the tools to be leaders in their own community, rather than just thinking that they are caretakers of the municipal services. Those are the kinds of things I think we should be focusing on, I am sorry, I apologize for not focusing too much on Community Government & Transportation.

But I will be happy to answer any questions or try to answer any questions on the department or what I have done over the past two and a half years as the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. However, let's not put ourselves in a box just because I am the Minister of Community Government & Transportation, it doesn't mean that if somebody comes to me and says, well there has been a suicide elsewhere, oh that's not my department. Let's get out of that box and start caring about the people in Nunavut.

(interpretation) These are the issues that I wanted to speak about. I don't want to be rushed and I don't want to rush you, but I was very grateful for being able to give my remarks to you at this time, because I have to leave this afternoon. But I wanted to thank you for giving me this time to make my remarks.

As we are dealing with the government, let us not just deal with our departments alone. The ministers and the members were given the responsibility to do their work out of the offices. Anybody, if they come to this building, they have to sign a piece of paper. Are we so locked up to the public. Let's be a bit more open to the public, let's consult with them more, involve them more and be more responsive.

As a government let us try to have more strength as a whole. Let us try to find out what we can do to carry out our jobs better. I am not saying that the wise comments that we get from the Inuit are not helping us, but I am saying that we should be more open to the general public and try to make the Nunavut Government dream a reality.

I am sorry that I didn't speak more about Community Government & Transportation issues, but I feel that I have to talk about leadership in general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Given the fact that the last two ministers talked about youth, it might be appropriate to make an exception to the rule here and recognize, introduce the basketball team that is here from Kugluktuk here for the Arctic Winter Games trials. Please stand.

>> *Applause*

Welcome to the Gallery. We will move on to statements and/or questions by the members. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, when we speak to the minister, sometimes it seems like he will act on something, but the day after nothing happens. Perhaps the problem is with his department officials. For example, staff went up to Pond Inlet and met with the community about a community hall. It has been almost a year now and nothing has happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Is that a question or a statement, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): It is just a comment at this time. I have a question after this.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why is it a problem moving forward with the promises the minister has made to the communities. I have mentioned this issue just in a regular members' statement, so I would like to ask this question again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I believe you are talking about the arena in Pond Inlet. I went skating up there and I just about froze my toes at the Annual General Meeting of NTI. It was extremely cold in that arena.

I would like to apologize to the member, we will have to work with your community and come up with a preliminary plan. I can't tell the member when the arena is going to be built but we will have to make renovations to the building. If we are going to be building a new arena, we will have to get some money to build a recreation complex. We are working on it, but we don't know exactly what the community plans are.

But it is in the works. I would like to apologize to the member for not giving a response to this issue.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This is a supplementary to my question. Referring back to the comments that I made earlier, we have yet to get a response from your department. When we make requests, what is the problem, is it your staff or do you have a problem in your department. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if I try to respond to the question without making final plans, it will have repercussions. What we hope to do in our department is work with your community and other communities in making plans for your communities.

When we make announcements or comment on issues that are in the preliminary stages it is jumping the gun and we don't deal with the whole issue. We try to keep the communities informed about what we are going to be doing and what we have planned to do. It would be jumping the gun if I tried to respond to your question at this time while we are in the preliminary stages.

The arena or the community halls, recreation complexes are not priorities and it is quite hard to get money for those types of buildings when we don't have enough hospitals, we don't have enough schools and when health, education and housing are the priorities of this government.

There is not enough money set aside for capital projects, but we do have to do proper planning and come to the final stages before we respond to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Further questions. Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a comment to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. Welcome Mr. Minister. Mr. Chairman, the minister speaks very well about community government, he also says that he will help the Hamlets, but he doesn't follow through on what he has told the communities.

Sometimes he gives more money to one community and not much to another. He talks more than he acts. He promises something but doesn't do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, those were my comments. I have one question to follow.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What leadership can the minister show to the Hamlets in allowing them to distribute the money on the things that they feel are priorities in their communities. Rather than the government deciding what is important for them. That's my question Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know what the rules would be for the Hamlets, but when we are speaking about the Hamlets and the Hamlets Act, we are amending that Act. We have been working extremely hard to empower the Hamlets and to give them more responsibility so that they can run their own finances and so on.

The Hamlets have always had problems with finances in their communities. So what we are trying to do is give them more discretion in using their funds. I think that once we do that the dollars could be stretched to their full potential. We are trying to empower the communities and give them a little bit more discretion in the use of their money.

When we speak about these issues we will see if we are giving support to the Hamlets. The Mayors know what their communities are like and since they know more about their communities, they should know what would work best in their communities in regards to their finances and so on. So we are looking at giving the Hamlets borrowing power so they can use their money wisely. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a supplementary. I know exactly what you are saying with your response. The minister is well aware of what the problems are at the community level. He knows about the lack of money because of their extremely high expenditures to provide services and so on.

What kind of funds does Community Government & Transportation have so that the Hamlets will have more discretion in using their finances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, when I was Mayor in Rankin Inlet and as a councillor in Repulse Bay, we had to work extremely hard to provide adequate services. There were a lot of times when we were told that we couldn't do anything because of financial matters. The pot of money comes from one government, but what we are trying to do is make changes.

For example, if the community has a surplus or if they know a better way to use that money more wisely, we would like to give them that discretion. When I was the Mayor of Rankin Inlet in 1985, we had a lot of problems. Those are the challenges that we had as a

Hamlet. Maybe they won't be able to make their own laws, but if they have more discretion and more power, I believe that local governments will operate more efficiently.

I believe that if we give them that, they will operate more efficiently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when I look at the papers in front of me I say Mr. Chairman, but I have my own particular way of saying Mr. Chairman in Inuktitut.

I am not particularly pleased with this department because the minister never gives me what I need in my community. The minister most times does not go ahead with what he has promised to the communities. As I said earlier that the Department of Sustainable Development gives more financial support to the smaller communities. The Department of Community Government & Transportation does exactly the opposite.

I don't get any information on what is happening in this particular department or what they have planned. I am told by my constituents that they have a lot of problems at the Hamlet level and they have taken on more responsibility. Community Government & Transportation makes decisions on behalf of the communities, we have yet to see local governments making their own decisions.

Community Government & Transportation is running exactly the other way than the Department of Sustainable Development. It seems like Community Government & Transportation is putting up more barriers for the communities. The Hamlets are not progressing, they are not getting any of their requests. I think there has to be a total overhaul within this department. There are a lot of barriers in this department, the community requests are not being met and most times they don't get responses to any of their correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the department what problems they have in their department, because they are not keeping their communities informed or responding to their requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I think you have to realize that we are making changes to our legislation so that we can get rid of some of these problem areas at the community level.

We know exactly what the needs of the Hamlets are. There are a lot of extended families in these particular communities, among the employees you have family members at the

councillor level and in private businesses. Is that going to create a problem between the local government and the private businesses, do we have to make changes to other pieces of legislation so that we can overcome these barriers.

Is it going to alleviate some of the problems they have with the close family ties in a particular community that create conflicts of interest at times when we are trying to do some hiring at the local government level. Is there a way to make changes to our rules and regulations so that it won't be a problem.

Some of the private businesses have to overcome a lot of barriers and as you probably know we grandfathered the legislation from the GNWT and that's why we are making changes. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few more questions that I would like to raise. I understand his response and it is accurate because there are areas that we need to correct.

There are barriers that communities come across. They are there within the Municipal legislation so we need to hurry up and correct those problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. As a former Mayor and Councillor, I have also been an employee of the Hamlet, I am aware of what problems they encounter. As a former Mayor, for an example, the Mayor has a big responsibility. A lot of times they are related to most of the people in the community, and they end up having problems with the legislation. There are conflicts of interest in some areas.

Quite often they are told that they are doing things improperly. Money is being spent in the community and the staff are running into barriers. As the minister I started a review of the legislation and I know we do start to find barriers that we don't realize are there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question. I don't think Community Government & Transportation should be under one department. Both areas are big responsibilities and I think quite often that problems arise because of this. Can you correct this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I can't correct that problem, but the Premier can work on separating those two departments. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. I am aware that the minister tries very hard to communicate with the Hamlets and he seems to be moving forward in terms of communicating with the Mayors throughout Nunavut. That's good to see more of that happening.

His responsibilities are many and programs and services can't be done overnight. During our terms as MLAs some of these projects may not happen. (interpretation ends) But he promises things to them and doesn't always follow through. He sometimes responds very well verbally but doesn't follow through in writing. He is not communicating some of his activities in writing between the department and the communities about what is happening and any changes to what they have been told.

This causes problems and makes it difficult for the communities to follow up. He would be a better leader if he didn't do these things. (interpretation) The mayors in the communities, yes the funds from the Federal Government are allocated, but I am aware because this is an experience that I went through last winter, yes Federal Government funds will be allocated to be used in certain areas.

But before he has the okay from the Federal Government and he says yes to the Hamlet, that becomes a problem in the communities. Hamlets have problems with this.

The project that is being thought of will never be completed. He needs to get together with his counterparts in Ottawa, or write to them and these things will be rectified. So that Hamlets, if they have concerns he would have written documentation of those projects and what will be happening. I will have further questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. Just following up what I spoke about, I have a question. (interpretation ends) The Federal Government has announced earlier this year approximately 2 million dollars, I don't have the actual figures, but I just wanted to mention it to you, for Nunavut infrastructure.

This 2 million dollars is to be used right across Nunavut and we have 26 communities. As you can see, one or two communities would use that amount in less than six months. What leadership will the minister provide to increase this amount under the federal program for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. As the minister basically involved in the infrastructure program, we have held off signing the infrastructure agreement or have advised the Premier to hold off on signing the infrastructure agreement because the infrastructure program is given out by population. The Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Yukon, with very small populations qualify for something like seven million over the next five years all together.

Again, as the member pointed out, the two million dollars doesn't really do much for Nunavut. So that's why we have held off. However, and we don't see too much hope in securing any more, although I know that the Premier has gotten the support of other Premiers to see if there is a way to increase the funding that we get from the Federal Government for infrastructure programs.

However, I was able to convince, under the transportation infrastructure program that we should qualify for more than just that two million. So the Minister of Transportation, earlier this year, announced that the 600 million identified to upgrade Canada's highways would be spread over the 13 jurisdictions equally. This enabled us to qualify for 4.3 million dollars over five years, this being the first year where we get 300 thousand dollars, and that has to be signed off. So in the infrastructure program itself, Nunavut doesn't really benefit very much.

However, under the infrastructure program under transportation, we will be able to get 1 million dollars a year for four years to put towards transportation infrastructure. So I am still hopeful that the Premier will be able to convince the Prime Minister with the assistance of the other Premiers, that we deserve more than two million dollars, but again that's up to the Prime Minister and the Minister Responsible for the Infrastructure Program.

But again, under the transportation program, we do have a little more than even the whole infrastructure program for five years. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Just a supplementary question. As you stated, we will be getting funding through this program. That's very good news. Our Premier would have that role in trying to find more funding, when will we find out about the signing off of the other funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): The agreement hasn't been signed, but it should be signed very shortly. Two million dollars is not very much for five years, but it's two million dollars. If we are told that if you don't sign the agreement, then you don't get the two million. We were trying to hold off signing it, but if we aren't going to get more than two million then we will probably have to sign it.

I think we will probably have to sign it very shortly. It's unfortunate that in February, I am not sure when we will have to sign it, but I expect that we aren't going to get any more money and we will have to sign it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements. Questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister. In the comments that he made earlier, it didn't have very much to do with his department, but I would like to thank him on behalf of the communities, because he has concerns about things that don't concern only his department.

Mr. Chairman, this is to do with my constituents, but it touches a lot of people. We all know that in my two communities, they have announced that they will be closing the mines in 2002. Resolute Bay and outside of Arctic Bay. There is already a concern about air transportation in this region as the Ken Borek flight is now gone.

When those two mines close, the jet won't be going up there anymore to the high arctic communities. There's a big question about that. For that reason, while we are doing the ministerial review, I feel that the minister would show good leadership in developing a transportation strategy for those communities up there. Because Pond Inlet is already concerned about the transportation that they will be using.

This is a big concern Mr. Chairman, and I will be asking questions of the minister later. I would like to say that the Mayors in the communities would like to have more say in spending their money, but sometimes their SAO's are the ones that mostly direct how the hamlet should be run. I think they had a meeting not too long ago, an annual meeting not too long ago. Because we all know that some of the mayors are not given the right to do the things. They should be more aggressive to their SAO's and I will questions later on that Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Members' questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): My question is that I would like to have this question open in public and I will be asking it further again during the session. Because the transportation system is, I just want to find out from the Minister in regards to transportation. What kinds of plans do you have in place for transportation system in Nunavut.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just signed the papers not too long ago in regards to a transportation strategy and we would like to be able to give that document during the session. We know that transportation system in Nunavut is beginning to suffer in Nunavut and again in Kivalliq not just in the Baffin Region.

It seems like there's an easy way to fix the transportation problems that we have but it's not that easy. When there are rules in place. So if the Members of the Legislative Assembly could agree with me we could do more for transportation in the north,

especially in regards to airline travel. And I hope and expect that the transportation system would be better if First Air for example will be getting two more airlines to be able to land in shorter runways.

I know that this is not going to happen right away in the Baffin Region but I know that they're going to be running in the Kitikmeot Region. So as long as First Air is doing what they say that they were going to be doing then we expect that the transportation system strategy that we have done will be given to the Members of the Legislature during our session. I have signed the documentation and we're doing a study on transportation system at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We heard yesterday and today that the government is planning on various things but we would like to be able to tell the government to implement their strategy or their planning. From Pond Inlet to Arctic Bay there's only a few short distance but an individual had to go down through Iqaluit to get to where they were going to go to, to Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay. It just seems like we have been planning transportation for too long but there should be action from the plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The transportation strategy that we are doing as soon as is complete and what we did was we want to involve the communities. We wanted to get some feedback from them or get input from them as to what they think in regards to transportation in their communities. So they were able to be involved with the consultations that we provided them as well as NTI and other organizations we tried to involve them. So as soon as we finished the transportation study all the people that were involved in the consultation will be given some information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Recognizing the clock we will break for lunch now and members and pages will meet upstairs in about five minutes and return to the chamber at 1:15. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 11.57 a.m. and resumed at 1.19 p.m.

Chairperson: All right members. We will continue on with Minister Anawak. Next we have Mr. Arvaluk. Statements and/or questions.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A short statement and I just have two minutes. His statements at the beginning were very impressive. I would like to say that the Inuit, the needs of the Inuit and the wants of the Inuit he talked about earlier in his statement and I am happy to hear that. I just want to let him know that there should be some road improvements where tourists go.

I just want to ask the minister whether he will be doing a lot more things by listening to the needs of the people from the communities. Say for instance, I'll use this as an example. The access roads going up to their hunting grounds, whenever they get a little bit of funding they use that to make access roads and the people like this very much because they are able to go to their camping grounds.

It is also used by the tourists in those communities with access roads. This will be a good economic thing for the people in the communities when tourists start coming in when the department gives more money to access roads.

We are not very happy with Calm Air discontinuing their scheduled flights to the smaller communities especially in regards to the people that have to go on medical travel. We feel that the elders should have the opportunity to visit other communities but with no scheduled flights this is impossible for them.

During the NWT days the Senior Administrative Officers were being used a lot more by the GNWT and the Hamlets were given a lot more funding for the use of the SAOs. Now we are saying that the elected representatives from the communities should do a lot more running of the communities. I was wondering if the mayors can get more money for wages. Because they are elected and they have to do a lot more, instead of concentrating too much on the SAOs. Those are the questions that I will be asking later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): First of all I will ask a short question. When the department is doing the Municipal Act or amendments to the Municipal Act I just wondered if there could be in the regulations if the community wants, the mayor could be included to get a full time wage and get paid for their work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Act that we are drafting right now is geared to provide the communities more flexibility so that they can have what they want in their communities. To be able to do more things and be more flexible.

The mayors are elected in the communities and if I could mention that when we had a meeting in Cambridge Bay with the mayors, they were trying to identify terminology and what kind of name they should have instead of being called a mayor in Inuktitut. The mayors do various things in a community for their community.

We would like to give the communities a lot more flexibility in their community to run their own government. We don't want to tell them what to do but we want to give them flexibility to do whatever they want with the money that they receive from the

government. Because they know themselves what is needed in the community and they know how to run their community so we want to give them more flexibility in spending the money that is received from Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Just a supplementary question, Mr. Chairman. The question that I have is there are a lot of people out there in the communities that could be elected. Like mayors have a workload and they have to work on a day to day basis even though they are not being paid a full wage.

Some people that could be very good leaders in a community they feel like they are going to lose out and they don't want to have mayors as a full-time job. I just wondered if there was an idea at the Cambridge Bay meeting about the mayors having to work full-time in their own community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was discussed briefly at the Cambridge Bay meeting with the mayors. I know that when we do the changes to the Act we will be discussing this again. If we have to change it, then we will be working with the Members of the House to make changes to the Act.

We cannot do it ourselves as a department. We have to have the support of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The members realized that this is the wish of the people in the communities and the mayors. Yes we will be flexible and we will be able to do the amendments in accordance with the wishes of the people in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): A new question Mr. Chairman in regards to Calm Air. After the discontinuation to Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay by Calm Air what has happened since the discontinuation of those scheduled air flights to Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that, yes we realize that this is a problem with Calm Air discontinuing their scheduled air flights to Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay. Especially so to the people that have to go on medical travel. As the Department of Transportation what we are doing is trying to find out if we can get a schedule airline to those communities. We have Calm Air, First Air, Kenn Borek and the other airlines in Nunavut. We have discussed it with First Air and they have stated that they want to do more for the people of Nunavut. There should be

scheduled airlines in the Kitikmeot region that would provide flights in those communities.

So we expect in the near future that we will be talking with First Air and we will let the members know exactly what is going to be happening with those airlines once we speak to them. We know that the airline is needed, or the scheduled flights are needed within the communities and we hope that will happen in the near future. We know that if you live in the Kitikmeot you have to go through Yellowknife and if you live in the Kivalliq you have to go through Winnipeg, and Ottawa and Montreal to the Baffin region to Iqaluit.

While we are talking with the airlines we can work together to make sure the communities without scheduled airlines could be assisted by those companies. We haven't done enough in ways of transportation, air transportation. We realize that we have a problem in Nunavut in some of the communities and I know we can do something to assist the people of Nunavut. When we had a meeting in Cambridge Bay we said that there has to be airline service to all the communities in Nunavut.

We realize the problems that we have and we've discussed it at the meeting in Cambridge Bay and I will be working with the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services in regards to medical travel. I can't say at this time what we are going to do but we are working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary. Perhaps it doesn't deal with the same question I asked earlier. Housing units, food prices and materials are very expensive. We certainly know as a government how expensive it is and the reason why it is so expensive is because of the freight costs. When I was a child the transportation was run by the federal government.

I would like to ask at this time, these high costs might be better dealt with through other means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): You were saying that you were a child in 1870. Yes as we deal with transportation issues we will be looking at different airlines that would be travelling back and forth in this and other regions.

We will be looking at other organizations for support on this. We will be also trying to find cheaper ways of transporting material back and forth as well as to the high cost of food. We realize that there are ways that we might be able to reduce the high cost of food. Maybe we can work with the federal government departments. For example if we are going to be sending food to Baffin it has to go through Montreal and then for Keewatin it has to go through Churchill and sometimes the food produce gets out of date by the time they arrive in the communities.

So we will be seeking support from other departments as well for the program we are trying to establish. We will want to have produce and other food maybe from Ottawa so that it will be direct. But we have a problem with reference to the traveling policies within the federal government and part of our problem with the federal government is they have their own policy with respect to the way the food is transported.

We are working on this and we are trying to find out whether if we should move the destination point to another location. But we will be trying to do more about this so that we could assist with the high cost of living.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A new question. As I stated earlier and I am sure the minister and my colleagues knew what I was saying. I'll be representing Coral Harbour as I speak on this. I'll be using Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet and Cape Dorset as examples.

They are also communities that have a gravel pit. But I heard something to the effect that two million dollars would be put towards the gravel pits. But my question is with respect to the Government of Nunavut, are they going to be supporting the road construction so that it may be done in a quicker fashion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. He was talking about Coral Harbour. We will certainly be supporting Coral Harbour in their endeavours.

The two million dollars that you've mentioned is in respect to capital funding. We approached our Premier because this capital funding is for 4-5 years. The Minister for Transportation, I think this was last summer or last year, for the federal government, was going to allocate 250 million dollars for transportation. He was going to allocate this to different regions. He realized that it was too uneven, it was going to be too unevenly allocated. Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut, their transportation was allocated so much money, and he stated that each region would get 4 million dollars every four years.

As we mentioned earlier with respect to entertainment travelling and recreational travelling, this is very supportive of community healthy lifestyles. We would be allocating those pots of money to the communities to be used for construction of roads to recreational areas or to work on their gravel sites.

With that in mind it seems like 1 million dollars is a huge amount of money, but if you break it up to each community, it's about 40 thousand dollars per community. I will be approaching this question and after the agreement has been signed we'll see what happens. There are more communities out there who would like to build access roads to the gravel pits or to recreational areas.

I'm not sure how these monies are going to be allocated to the communities, but it will be in that direction.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Further questions.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary to the same question. That is what I was going to ask with this question, perhaps you did not understand me. If you are able to get 2 million dollars or over 2 million dollars from the federal government, this would be for use outside of municipal boundaries.

Let's say Rankin Inlet or Baker Lake would benefit from this in a big way. What I'm trying to say is, if you are going to get funding from federal government, the Nunavut Government, would they be able to allocate the same amount of funding that the federal government would allocate towards access roads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I cannot say yes to your question, but with respect to my cabinet colleagues, if they are able to agree with this, we may try to match the federal government funding allocation.

When funding is scarce I'm not sure we will be able to allocate over 1 million dollars. After we sign the yearly agreement we'll be getting 1 million dollars from the federal government. This funding would be used in the communities. This is our plan at this time. This money might be able to be used for roads outside the municipal boundaries. We would tell the communities that the funding would be used for building roads outside of municipal boundaries. That is the plan at this time. Thank you.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a supplementary. We understand and we are happy that access road program has greatly improved the lives of the communities. Not just for your department and for municipalities but for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth also benefit from access roads. The tourism benefits, economic development benefits. Most of the departments will benefit from the access roads. I guess what I am asking is for your leadership from your department to try and convince your colleagues that access roads are extremely important. Therefore we should try to match the federal contribution dollar for dollar. Will you do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly I will do that. But again I'll have to speak to the cabinet to see if they could spare some money and at this time as you heard earlier, Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is suffering more financial difficulties.

I would hope that we get to a situation where we might be able to do that but at this time until the Minister of Finance is able to secure more funding from the federal government or other members of the cabinet, at this time I would say that the one million we would get for transportation would probably have to do for now. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the minister looks at things Nunavut wide. His vision of Nunavut which was outlined even before Nunavut came into being is the strongest in cabinet and I still believe it is today.

But he seems out of touch with his department and what they are doing. We don't seem to see leadership at all on community empowerment despite the commitment in the Bathurst Mandate. Strength at two levels. We need it. It was in the old GNWT but it seems to have disappeared in this government.

I know the department is in the process of restructuring with the municipal finance review and this is a good step. But we haven't seen the kind of training for the Hamlet employees and fundamental support to community government that we have seen in the community empowerment initiative.

The minister tries to do the right thing in helping Hamlets financially but there is not enough money for infrastructure. He needs to use his strong federal connection more. But it appears to me and I don't want to get into arguments or I am not picking on my other colleagues but it appears that the Hamlets that are financially strong and show good leadership in Nunavut seem to be ignored over the ones that aren't financially strong and self sufficient. I don't think that is any planned move on the part of your department.

But it seems that the strong Hamlet that show good leadership in the past and that are strong fiscally seem to be sort of ignored. Maybe it's because if they're quiet then we'll leave them alone and let them do their own thing. But I find that in some cases and I hear it on the media all the time that there's certainly municipalities screaming and yelling for funding and it seems to be handed to them if they're in some sort of a deficit situation. Then if the municipality is in a strong financial position they sort of oh well you know leave them alone.

I think the municipalities that are strong financially and politically are so because they work hard at it. I'm not saying that the municipalities that are not in a strong fiscal position aren't but sometimes I get a little ticked off when I see certain communities being ignored, especially my region. I can list you four or five of them. They get quite vocal and they seem to be ignored.

But on the other hand, I'm just going to finish my statement off here and I've got one or two questions. I think there is probably really good vision and strong leadership on your

crisis response team because another department let me down a bit on that. Over the last year your team came into Baker Lake because we had tragedies and nobody plans tragedies. That crisis response team that was dispatched to Baker Lake in three separate instances over the last year and a half, I don't think we can measure financially the support that they gave the community at the time they did.

The other thing is when I was doing my Nunavut tourism tours they were also in Pond Inlet and I think they were doing the same thing there. Like I say this is another example that if a couple of the departments have been working together on trying to react in a fast manner to serious situations in a community then we'd be much better off in Nunavut. So I'd like to thank you on the crisis response team because my community really has benefited from it. That's my statement. I just have a few questions. Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're two and a half years into our mandate. I come from a community where I was involved actively in local politics and was very passionate about it and I believed in what a community can do internally if they're given the freedom and the right tools to do it, and they can show strong leadership.

I'm here to represent my community but I also have to say that my community and I challenge a lot of people in the government that Baker Lake now has over eighty eight part-time and full-time staff on payroll which to me is tremendous. We have one non-Inuit on payroll for the staff in Baker Lake. This was brought forward when we were under the GNWT under a former minister in this House when she was in charge of Community Government and Transportation because she believed in community empowerment.

You talk about community empowerment and I know you as a minister and I've known you for a long time. You've been a personal friend for thirty years and I know you believe in what a community can do. But that's not true from the rest of your department.

So as the minister of this department and I've watched the municipalities get bogged down with an additional load of paperwork on the Transfer Agreements, now they're called Service Contracts. Will you commit as minister of this department to help the municipalities alleviate some of the burden and the additional paperwork that's coming from the departments on Community Empowerment. Because it is tough on our SAOs at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. I thank the member for his compliments on the Critical Response Team which I think is one of the most important teams that we have and I would not hesitate to send the Critical Response Team anywhere where the community felt that they were needed, in this case the specific situation in Baker Lake.

In terms of Community Empowerment I'm very committed and I was the mayor of Rankin Inlet at the time when Municipal and Community Affairs wanted to give us the operation of the utilidor system. But the problem was they didn't want to offer the necessary insurance that if there was a major problem that the money would be there to repair the utilidor system.

In terms of community empowerment, if the community wants to take over some of the services that the government provides at this time we will start the discussion bearing in mind we want the community to feel comfortable with what it is talking over.

If they took over some departments we want to ensure the necessary safeguards will be there so the community does not suffer as a result of taking over a department, such as Public Works or Social Services. If it goes through a hard time, I want to make sure that the communities are not left wanting. We have a lot of communities that have already done transfers. If the communities want to discuss community empowerment, we will start the discussion and make sure the community is comfortable before the agreement is signed. Before the agreement is acted on. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a supplementary to that question. It is not another question. Can the minister on that note you are talking about transferring powers to the communities that want it. And it is nice to have power at the local level.

But you need the resources to go with it. One of the best things that has happened in the creation of Nunavut is that when Nunavut was created in 1999 we had strong municipal government. That made the transition probably easier for a lot of us as politicians, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the government as a whole because they had elected councils in place.

Most of them were financially straight, the cheques got written and when Nunavut got created they sort of were there. They operated and I keep hearing from SAOs about the paperwork that is demanded. It has increased fivefold. The civil servants we hire in every department have tried to make life miserable for the SAOs in their reporting. Hamlets are audited. Hamlets are audited once or twice a year. They know what they are doing. But it seems the bureaucracy wants to extract five or ten times more information than before.

For what reason. I don't know. This is starting to tie up the SAO who in my opinion is one of the hardest working people in the community. So what I am saying as lead minister responsible, if we are going to do community empowerment the paperwork should be streamlined. We shouldn't be asking for more information or more accountability because they are audited. They have been there in the past and they are going to be there in the future.

Let's not try and suck everything back from them because we are burying them under paper. That takes away from community empowerment. So I am asking as lead minister on that, can you please meet with the SAOs or get some of your staff to do a survey and ask the municipalities what would it take to make your jobs easier not the opposite; how we can make your job harder. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Yes we will do that to make sure that we simplify the procedures and not focus on the procedure too much but focus on the needs and desires of the communities. Yes we will see how we can simplify that process. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: If I can't get away with a supplementary we will have to ask another question. That leaves one less to ask Ed. On the issue of training, we hear a lot about training and how important it is, and again the best trainers in Nunavut are at the municipal level.

You have people working at the municipal offices with years and years of experience. For them in their busy schedules to train additional staff to some day stock the civil service, like community government or education or whatever. There is the base of our training in Nunavut, at the municipal level. We don't recognize it as a government. The old GNWT sometimes did recognize it.

Today we have one in every community, a municipal government. To me it has to be the most rewarding career if you don't get burnt out early in your career. They can train local people to do the jobs that are transferable into the GN so we don't have to import more from the south to go into middle management. I know it is only two and a half years into our mandate but there's another opportunity for us plain local people at the municipal level, in Community Government & Transportation to pass these skills on later into the civil service, which eliminates a lot of skill we have to import. I'm asking this question, it's not supplementary to the question, can you direct your department, and I see it as a need, to maybe have more municipal training delivered by the municipalities in the hamlets. If they want to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is the area where we want to take a look as was pointed out by my colleague the Minister of Education. Where we want to take a look at the ability of the people that are in the communities to deliver whatever kind of training or in this case educational programs. Without necessarily having the paper qualifications to do it. I think that it is a very important distinction or I guess I can say, it is important for us to recognize that the abilities are out there, like you said as a member, and make sure that we look hard for that ability to provide training programs for other communities or other departments before we start looking elsewhere.

A good example is, not so much on the management side but there are communities out there and private business that have the capabilities to provide heavy equipment for somebody to train a heavy equipment operator. What are we doing about it.

Those are the kinds of things I think we need to look at. And again our focus, as I mentioned at the beginning of my speech, if I were to get turfed out this afternoon by this Assembly, I would not qualify for a job under the present process, because of a lack of qualifications. So to me, ability has to be recognized and make the commitment that if it is within the part of Community Government & Transportation to influence the training program in a community we will do so. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson I can appreciate the minister's opening comments. A lot of those things I couldn't have said better myself. I'm sure Mr. Picco is listening. He probably wouldn't mind trading departments right about now.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the minister's outlook on the overall vision for Nunavut and I think that's a vision that we all share. However, at this point the minister is the Minister Responsible for Community Government & Transportation and in that sense I have some comments and some concerns to make.

I think over the last two and a half years the minister may give a presentation one week, I know using an example, the Municipal Financing Legislation Review, I asked the minister some questions in the House and he didn't seem to have the information available and it was a question straight from a presentation that he made the prior week to all the Mayors and SAOs.

That's a concern. Another concern that I have is that the minister made a comment earlier to one of my colleagues about not being able to jump the gun on talking about capital projects or making commitments prior to the budget being released. I have noticed on a number of occasions and I am sure if you went back through some of the media, there are times when the minister has let information slip on projects that haven't been approved yet before the budget has even been released. So that too is a concern.

Another concern I have is I guess, is just on the department's priorities. I think that, we have all heard about the lack and the desperate need for municipalities for infrastructure. Iqaluit being one as well. I am sure that all the communities suffer greatly from the lack of resources for this. The example that I am going to use is, not that I don't think safety, public safety and emergency measures is not important, but if you look at something that was purchased here, the mobile command centre, for Iqaluit and we don't have very much road and it can't go anywhere. Is that a wise use of our resources.

I would rather see resources like that put into municipal infrastructure. The City of Iqaluit has said that they are going to be short about seven million dollars for the projects, the

basic infrastructure projects that they need. So I would rather see priority focused by the department to look at those types of needs.

I think also we need to look at what Mr. McLean talked about. Community Empowerment. This will enable communities to be able to achieve more efficiency in the use of the limited capital dollars and funding that we have. It will also free up funding within the department as well. Not only this minister's department but all departments. As I also heard, it seems like things are being sucked back into the headquarters and the municipalities are not being able, or the department is not taking advantage of the expertise at the local level. Which again, is supposed to be a priority under the Bathurst Mandate.

Mr. Chairman, those are some concerns that I have with the department and I hope that we can see some, I know that I wasn't alone with these concerns. I heard a lot of them echoed by my colleagues, and hopefully we can see some change in direction by the department over the next two and a half years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief as the clock is ticking on my time. Mr. Chairman, I was very pleased with the opening comments of the minister and about some of the things that we should be doing as a government that have not yet been implemented.

It is a vision that we would like to see and work hard towards implementing. I would like to compliment the minister for his excellent opening comments. I think everybody around the table knows what you are talking about. There are some of us that were brought up traditionally in the Inuit traditional culture. Some of us were brought up in the outpost camps and others were born in cities. So we have a different vision of what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is as we were all brought up in diverse environments.

For myself, I am also very concerned and interested in the access road program, where you can build access roads to recreational areas. This access road program should be a priority in your department. Because of course in the spring if there is a road leading outside the boundaries we use them, and it is something that is recreational and could be put to other uses. There are also docking facilities that I would like to mention. Some communities have docks and some don't. Those of us who don't live in a bay have to pull our boats above the high tide line and they tend to get wrecked because of our continuously pulling them in.

Even when we have put fibreglass in the bottom of the boats, they do tend to get worn out. So there has to be something done about that sometime in the future. I don't have any questions Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question. You said earlier that you want able and capable people employed in your departments. If we are going to be saying something like that I would like you to consider the youth. They don't have any workforce experience and they will at one point be going to work in the Hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): What I was trying to say is that we should be hiring people if they have the experience and not necessarily have to have certification or papers or things like that. The Minister of Education yesterday was saying that we should be able to employ people that don't have diplomas or certificates or anything. I think when we first became a government, the people out there thought that there would be more employment opportunities available for people that don't necessarily have certification.

I am one of them. I don't have a certificate to show that I am good in a profession, but I think that I am quite capable of doing what a person with a certificate can do. That's what I was trying to say earlier. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your excellent response. There are a lot of people that are passing on who have the experience and we do have to train the younger ones to take their place. Is that going to be considered by the Hamlets.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. Community Government & Transportation could help in any way we can if we are going to be talking about employment opportunities at the community level. For example, in the mid-70's when the Hamlets were getting incorporated. Some of us became SAOs for the Hamlets. I don't know exactly how good we were at our job, but we didn't have the training.

But we did get into jobs with the Hamlets. That time we didn't necessarily need papers and we will be talking to the Hamlets and tell them that people who they hire do not necessarily have to have certificates or anything as long as they have the experience.

I could use an example of a heavy equipment operator training program. I know a lot of people who are unilingual Inuit who are more experienced than people that we would fly in to be the instructor for this training program. So we are looking into these things more and the Department of Community Government & Transportation will do all they can to see those types of things happening. I am sure the Department of Human Resources will be working with them too. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements and/or questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question that I would like to bring to the minister. The Minister of Community Government & Transportation, perhaps I could say that as the minister of this department, I think you have a big responsibility.

I would just like to go back to how the municipal governments were run at the beginning when we first started up in the community and I believe it today.

We are starting to make new foot prints but I'll go back to about 1991, around 1991 mayors in all the communities, since 1991 before the creation of Nunavut, we're trying to plan on how we could do that, just trying to visualize what Kitikmeot would look like in 20 years. In the past we used to have regional councils, we used to work together, the regional councils would meet a few times a year, the mayors would work together, and the region had a population of about six thousand people.

I'm starting to notice how one community seems to be left out, they don't have proper fire prevention equipment. In the past we were able to work together in order to provide the community with equipment that was needed, for instance if a building burned down we were able to decide what the priorities were as a region and as a region we were able to support one another. For instance, Kugaaruk needed a new school, all the mayors in the region got together and approached the government for support.

So presently those regional councils were dissolved and we are working under the Nunavut Association of Municipalities where all the mayors in Nunavut get together and meet and they represent the whole of Nunavut as a group.

So Mr. Chairman with that, those are my comments and I'll have a question to follow. Thank you,. Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Firstly I'd like to ask the minister during the opening statement I said that now the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has taken its place and 26 communities meet at the same time. The Kitikmeot has five communities and during their annual general meeting in the past when they had regional councils, Mayors used to invite government officials to come in and meet the mayors.

So is that the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to say that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meet and we meet with them and when we were in the Kitikmeot I met with the Mayor of Cambridge Bay. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities meets annually. Johnny Ningeongan is the President.

The money is given to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities decides how the money is allocated. But they suggested that the money should be given to them.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities, if they want the money spent for each region to hold their own conferences or meetings it is up to the organization. Just to respond to part of his question. There are five communities in the Kitikmeot region, if that region feels that Gjoa Haven needs a new gymnasium and if the region agrees to that it would be able to go through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the minister's response. Since we were elected two years have gone by. It seems the mayors don't seem to be working well together or closely together. In the two years that have passed, I think if things hadn't changed since 1999 a lot of our communities would have received the equipment that they need today. Perhaps things could have been done better.

For instance who decides now on what is going to be built in the Hamlets. Who decides on what communities get. I am not sure as to who is in charge. Is it the minister or the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Is it the Nunavut Association of Municipalities or the individual Hamlets. So who is in charge of allocating funds or equipment or who decides who gets what.

In the past regional mayors would get together and decide who gets what. Hopefully my question is clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): It is clear. I think that when I talk about the funding that is given to the organization to hold Nunavut wide meetings. It is up to the organization on whether they want to hold regional meetings.

We talk to the communities and ask them how we could better deal with the funds or allocate funds and we need to see how money should be allocated and what is better. Whether we should allocate the money to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities or if it should be allocated within the regions.

So this is what we are doing. It is very important that each region works together to decide on what the region needs. So this is what we are doing to improve what is being

done today. There are some communities that aren't able to get equipment but if the regions work together they could decide on which community needs what.

If the Nunavut Association of Municipalities had a surplus they could help a community to better budget their money and look at what each community needs because we often lack funds for recreational facilities. A lot of the recreational facilities are used during the Christmas activities. I am going to use Gjoa Haven as an example. I know that the Gjoa Haven gym needs to be expanded and if Gjoa Haven wants assistance from the other communities in the region we have to help them to be able to. The region as a whole can work together to help them encourage the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Any further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I will ask another question Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the minister for his response. Are the plans that they have in place for the first question that I had earlier on. I feel that the people of Nunavut will have more assistance and more support from his department and we will be expecting your support this year and in the years to come.

When we had a meeting last fall or last spring in your Minister's Statement you stated that there would be access roads built and that there would be some money for access roads from the Federal Department. I would like to get some more clarification as to whether you have relayed that message to the Hamlet Councils or the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Is it in your department's hands right now that funding from the Federal Government and have you relayed that message to the association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we had lunch I talked with the Premier briefly during lunch time because he will be going down to Ottawa to sign the infrastructure funding agreement that we will be receiving from the Federal Government and he will also sign an agreement to receive four point three million dollars.

Somewhere before March we would be receiving three hundred thousand dollars. We have not received it as of yet so that's why we cannot distribute it to the communities. As soon as we're able to sign that agreement then we would be able to provide some funding for the communities in the next fiscal year. So from April 1 of 2002 we will be receiving one million dollars and that will be used for, as far as what I want to do is to use it and to distribute it amongst the communities. For them to use it for access roads and for visitors' centres and so on. That's my view because I feel that the communities want those kinds of programs for their communities.

The Member from Nattilik knows that there is a road that was built to their hunting grounds. For visitors' centres we will be able to provide that three hundred thousand to

those communities for access roads but I will be asking the Members of the Legislature during the session as to what they want to do with that money that we will be receiving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to make my comments stop at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Statements or questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to the comment that the minister made. He was talking about those individuals that can acquire work even though they don't have a diploma or certificates, but based on their experience they can get employment. My question is, Mr. Chairperson, he is trying his very best to try to support those people so what is the problem at this time why they can't get employment right away. The people he was talking about, the people with no diploma, people that are experienced, they have skills. What is the problem. What is stopping him from employing those people right now. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are over two thousand people that have been employed by the government. There are also some people that are out there trying to gain employment with the government. I think it is expected by the people out there that, and it was stated before we were elected, that the Inuit people should be recognized, even if they don't have a diploma or a certificate because they have experience and skills to work within the government.

I'm sure the rest of our government is in support of this initiative as well. Like the Minister of Education said, for example the Department of Sustainable Development is also looking into this. For example I applied to become a wildlife officer but I was told I don't have the required diploma although I have been a hunter all my life, as far as I can remember.

We are going to employ people even though they don't have diplomas or certificates because I know that they are experienced and skilled to do the job that is required of them.

We're saying that to the Members of the Legislative Assembly, but the public don't know it. We should give out that information more to the public so they have the knowledge of it. We feel we should be relaying those messages to the public. So we can get more people in the communities employed within the Nunavut Government. We can get more people that live in Nunavut to gain employment within the Nunavut Government.

As the Department of Community Government & Transportation I'm sure that we can give out this information to the public out there together, by supporting each other to give information to the public. Like we just heard recently there are not enough midwives in Rankin Inlet. I talked to the minister and he was saying that he would do his very best to get some Inuit people trained or to give them a little bit of training so they are able work as midwives.

So with that Mr. Chairperson this is what we are going to try to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary again Mr. Chairperson, to the minister, still in regards to employment for the people in the communities. I feel that the minister has to be aggressive to the people of Nunavut to say to them even if you don't have a certificate or a diploma we would like you to try to gain some employment with Nunavut Government.

So perhaps if we can get that information to the public in Nunavut so they have the knowledge that they can apply to the jobs that are advertised for the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really say, we can not tell the other organizations what to do but we can do it as the Nunavut Government. When I was the interim commissioner, when we were planning the jobs for the people of Nunavut, we appointed 13 Deputy Ministers for the Minister's Departments.

So as I said before I feel that the people without certificates, Inuit without certificates can work as Deputy Ministers. Like some of the ministers stated to me that they would like to have a certain individual as a Deputy Minister and even though I know that they didn't have a certificate or the diploma I felt that they were able to get employment as Deputy Ministers.

We cannot tell the hamlets to do the same thing as what we want to do as a Government and I feel it's up to them to give the public some employment. To talk to the people out there in their communities, they can be able to do the jobs that are advertised out there for the hamlets for example. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Questions. Members' statements. If there are no further statements or questions. We agree we are finished with Minister Anawak. Agreed. Thank you Mr. Anawak.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Members given that we are behind, I think it might be prudent that the next Minister makes a 10 minute statement and after that we'll take a break for fifteen minutes. Mr. Akesuk is next at the witness table. Minister Akesuk you have 10 minutes.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon Members of the Legislative Assembly and my colleagues from the Cabinet and thank you for electing me as one of the leaders of the executive. I would like to also thank the people in Cape Dorset and in Kimmirut for electing me.

Thank you, Members of the Legislative Assembly for giving me the opportunity to make my statement. I know I have a job that I have to do in regards to tourism and in regards to wildlife. Those are the jobs that I have to do as a Minister of the Department of Sustainable Development.

I have been a minister for a year now. I am happy to do my work as a minister for the Department of Sustainable Development and I would like to also state that I want to do my very best to do the job that I am supposed to be doing and listen to the wishes of the Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as the public.

I would also like to support you in anything that you would want me to do. I will try to answer questions as best as I can. What I am trying to do in my department is to try and follow Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I have said before that in October I met with my officials to try to encourage them to work with me in regards to using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I would like the Members of the Legislative Assembly to tell me what they wish my department to do. I will also be meeting with my officials and tell them that we have to be aggressive to try and help the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The things that we are doing right now as a department, we will be dealing during the session with the fisheries in the Baffin and other communities. We will be aggressively dealing with the commercial fisheries so the people in Nunavut would be able to gain more money from commercial harvesting, from hunting and selling commercially.

I feel that with the commercial fishing we will be a lot more aggressive in the coming years. In regards to sealing I will be working hard to promote that as well. To promote the commercial part of sealing with other countries and to the United States.

I would like to promote all kinds of animals that come from Nunavut to the people in southern Canada. The other thing that we are doing is amendments to the Wildlife Act and we feel that this has to be done as soon as we can. As a minister we will be looking at and reviewing the Wildlife Act so that amendments are in accordance with the wishes of the people of Nunavut.

In regards to the study of wildlife in Nunavut. We would like to do more on that and to have the assistance and the support of the people in the communities while we are doing this. We would like to do more for the people and the hunters in the communities and the people that deal with arts and crafts by using the wildlife that we have in Nunavut.

I feel that tourism is very important for the economy of Nunavut. A special committee went to the communities and consulted the people in regards to tourism and what we want to do is, with the help of NTI and the regional organizations, what we are doing is that we have an agreement in place and this will be done as soon as we can get it dealt with. As well with respect to tourism activities, we have planned for tourism activities for the communities. We will want to involve the communities more in the plans of tourism activities.

With respect to oil and gas exploration. We will also want to involve communities job wise in oil and gas activities. Mining and exploration is a growing opportunity for the communities to be involved in. There are training opportunities for prospecting courses and we want to involve more people as well in this field.

There are other responsibilities that we have been involved in as well such as global warming. We report to the general public as to how the global warming issue is affecting the environment in Nunavut. Other issues that are happening in Nunavut. We try and find ways to work with the federal government. We work closely with the ministers of the federal government as we deal with these issues.

As well with respect to outside of Nunavut and outside of Canada we are also involved in these issues. I have a lot of responsibility as the Minister for the Department of Sustainable Development.

This is all that I have to say Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: We can now take a break and return to the Chamber at 3:15. Agreed. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 3.01 p.m. and resumed at 3.22 p.m.

Chairperson: Welcome back. Members note that we are running behind, I would suggest that we go until 6 o'clock and break for half hour for supper than continue on to 6:30 to 8:00 to see how far we can get, with the following Ministers. Agreed. Members' statements and/or questions. We have Mr. Puqiqnak to start off.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I haven't said anything for quite a long time Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister.

I would like to make a comment within your department, I am in support of your endeavours through your department as coming from a smaller community, I am in support of your endeavours Mr. Chairman.

I am not afraid to talk to this minister, he was raised by an elder because he was adopted by an elder but I cannot forget and my panilu cannot forget about some issues. For example the minister put a moratorium on polar bear hunting in M'Clintock Channel.

The minister said that polar bear biologist in sustainable development said the population was declining and put a moratorium on more hunting. Looking at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and professional advisors and experts, we have to start looking at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I can't agree today on the experts used here and the effect on the Inuit.

There should be something done to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in each department. Another concern I have is that a person from Coral Harbour wanted to kill a polar bear with a harpoon, the minister refused without much of a reason.

Sustainable Development is a very important department in my two communities under Sustainable Development the small business people in my communities have been trying to get financial assistance but have not been given any.

The co-op stores are not going to buy arts and crafts from the communities any longer because of the lack of funding, I will keep my comments short. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These two comments, I'll keep them brief.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): I haven't heard a question yet. They were just comments Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Can the minister give advice on how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was incorporated, his decision to deny the Inuit the right to hunt polar bear in the M'Clintock Channel and denying the Inuit the right to hunt a polar bear with a harpoon.

I would like to ask the minister what was his reason for not giving Inuit the right to hunt polar bears in M'Clintock Channel. What was your reason for not allowing the Inuit the right to hunt polar bears in M'Clintock Channel.

Your department was saying that there is a quota with respect to polar bears. Under what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is this established, how did it come about, did you include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in your endeavours to try and find out whether to refuse the Inuit the right to hunt polar bears in M'Clintock Channel. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpreter): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and answer two of your questions. First one, in respect to the polar bear hunt in M'Clintock Channel. There's a study going on at this time but it has not been completed yet. And with respect to involving Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we have allocated funding to some communities so that they may do a study on how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be more utilized in the communities.

As well, with respect to polar bear surveys and their populations we have to follow their polar bear quotas. In Gjoa Haven we tried to assist the hunters and trappers when they're working on their hunting issues. I have also discussed this with my assistant and talked about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We also dealt with and talked about not only the polar bear population but other wildlife as well. We were to find ways to involve the Inuit population as they do studies and quotas on wildlife in the Nunavut area. We will try to involve your community when they're doing the polar bear quota study.

As well on your second question, the regulations and wildlife acts were created in 1978. At this time the acts are being amended. We are amending the wildlife acts and we did deal with the polar bear hunting issue and we also talked about emergency situations whereby a hunter might need emergency assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Just before you continue just to make you aware that in reference to the questions that you have left I know the members sometimes don't realize that asking new questions takes away from the numbers that you have left for the ministers. Your last series of questions were two separate questions and now you have two supplementary questions.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're doing a good job by clarifying this for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask another question in regards to carvers in Nunavut, soapstone carvers and as well hand crafts, sewing, tapestries and other products. Arts and crafts and carvers the way they do their jobs, in particular involves elders and their grandchildren, teaching their grandchildren how to carve.

The sales of the carvings are not as high, not as popular as they used to be. In the past this used to be beneficial with respect to community employment. What is your department doing to help these carvers and arts and craft people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development has been working closely with communities like Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, as they work with their carvings and arts and crafts products. The arts and

crafts association has a centre in Rankin Inlet. This centre tries to help arts and crafts people.

The communities such as Gjoa Haven, Sanikiluaq and other smaller communities do receive assistance from our department. These communities usually ask my department for assistance, we do try to support them as much as we can from our department. We help sell their carvings to a store in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary to my question. I wanted to find out if you do advertising outside of Canada maybe in the United States and other countries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Puqiqnak just a reminder again that is a separate question. So that would be three full questions that you have put forward. Do you want to continue. Okay.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps you and I are going to start fighting each other. With respect to carvings, I have a question this is supplementary to my question, with respect to soapstone carving. Perhaps it is, but I understand now that it is a separate question.

I'd like to ask the minister if they support and if they advertise outside of Canada. Do they advertise their works, their products from arts and crafts, which includes carvings. And where this is done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that was a good supplementary question to a question earlier on in this evening (interpretation) The Department of Sustainable Development has been thinking about doing some promotion work outside of Canada. They haven't gone through with it yet but we do want to promote arts and crafts and our traditional foods which could then become an economic opportunity for the communities.

We're looking at how we can further promote the handicrafts of the people of Nunavut. It has been in discussion, and we're looking at furthering economic opportunities and doing some marketing outside of our territories and outside of Canada. It's under discussion and we're looking at it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Questions. Members' statements. Members' Questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As everyone knows, two northern mines have announced that they are closing in the year 2002, one in Nanisivik and the other one in Little Cornwallis Island.

We need to hear what leadership the minister will bring to this issue in terms of environmental clean up of the mines and developing economic development options for these communities.

Did the minister go to the federal government and mining companies to ensure that Nunavut and the communities are involved to the fullest extent in planning on how this will be dealt with as well as follow up implementation so that these communities will be involved during the clean up process.

(interpretation ends) As I stated earlier, non-decentralized communities are hurting for jobs. Is there an economic development plan for the smaller communities, more importantly, is there a plan for this department to work with the smaller communities to develop their own economic development plan.

What is the vision of the department here, this department has responsibilities for wildlife and Inuit in the communities have a strong appreciation and deep knowledge of wildlife matters. Their understanding is a sense of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and this is an area where we should see some leadership and priority in terms of training and hiring Inuit and northern residents as wildlife officers.

We should be enhancing opportunities for residents to be more involved in decision making on these issues. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, those are my comments and I will follow up with questions afterwards.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister. I can show you a picture where there were a lot of people who were wildlife officers in the communities. If we looked at the picture again, we would see a totally different picture.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have quite a number of wildlife officers who are Inuit, who are employed but we do want to see more. In my vision, I would like to see more Inuit employed within my department. We have very capable and knowledgeable Inuit out there who know the environment, wildlife and the safety issues. We would like to work with the Department of Human Resources to look at increasing the number of wildlife officers and other people to be employed in my department.

We're working with the department of Human Resources and setting up plans so that we'll see Inuit hired as wildlife officers, I would also like to work very closely with regular members and the other leaders in Nunavut, to see how we can implement the plans for hiring more Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be a supplement. When are you going to set up training programs for wildlife officers.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we are going to be setting up plans for wildlife officers, we'll have to work very closely together with the Department of Education to set up training programs. I'm not sure exactly when those training programs will be made available but your comments will be considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements or questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been a government for approximately two and a half years and Mr. Akesuk recently just became a minister and he's got a new deputy. The minister's very capable and helps the communities in any way that he can. The people are concerned about social issues in Clyde River, Broughton Island and Uqsuqtuq. These three communities have a lot of concerns.

A long time ago, when we were still children the polar bears did not approach the tents but today in the community of Broughton Island, it seems like the polar bears are as common as dogs. There used to be a very small population of polar bears and now there is a huge increase. There is fighting among the polar bears, there is starvation because of the large increase in the polar bear population. There's starvation because they lack food for all of them. I think the polar bear biologists, who do their surveys by helicopters, their comments and their findings are believed more so than Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit and Inuit knowledge.

For some of us members who are sitting here, if we go to another community or southern city we won't know how to deal with everything because we didn't grow up there. It's the same case with biologists coming up here to our communities. They don't know the environment or what's happening out there. When the minister goes out travelling I don't know what's happening to him because he's not me.

The polar bear issue is very important to me and it's something that I'm very concerned about. I'll be asking questions in regards to the biologists who do their surveys by helicopter. It's extremely expensive to hire a helicopter for a number of days. These dollars could be put to better use if they were used by the hunters instead. Those are my comments Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make some comments in regards to helicopters pestering polar bears. They're put to sleep so that they could be given ear tags and be numbered inside their mouth. I believe that's a health hazard to the polar bears. There are more and more polar bears that are going into our communities and they're not scared of anything. They're not scared of people they're not scared of dogs and I think the reason why they're not scared of civilization is because they have been handled by biologists and other people who are studying polar bears.

I think that we should be putting in plans that are more focused on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and not use biologists and helicopters anymore. The Inuit are very knowledgeable about polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very glad to hear the Uqummiut dialect being spoken here in the House. I talked to some of my staff earlier on and we discussed what they're going to be doing over this upcoming year. In regard to polar bears I was told how they counted the population. I have had discussions with my Deputy to find out how it would be better to do polar bear studies or any wildlife for that matter.

To do wildlife studies and use the communities more than we are doing presently and how we can better utilize Inuit traditional knowledge when we're doing wildlife studies. We will work closely together with the communities and discuss how we can improve our services.

And in Uqsuqtuq we, as I've said earlier, we had given them some funding for their polar bear count. And we will be looking into the future on how we can use the statistics that are gathered or the data that are gathered from our future work. I have been a minister for approximately a year and my goal is to increase the number of Inuit employed within our department and it's something that I would like to keep doing on an ongoing basis.

We should not just use biologists and use Inuit traditional knowledge. That is my focus while I am holding this portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I will be asking during our formal session. But I think we have to see a true picture of what is happening with our wildlife and this question is in regards to the increasing polar bear population. What kind of support can we give the communities. For example, there is a fine imposed on a community when they catch a polar bear out of season.

Can we get rid of the fines that are imposed on these communities for harvesting polar bears out of season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It takes a long time to implement decisions that are made and you can't implement them overnight. There are things that have to be planned for a long time before they are actually implemented and we don't lie to the people out there intentionally.

We will be working closely together with the communities. And if they are going to be losing money because of a moratorium that is set up out there, we will work closely with the communities so that they don't lose money because of the moratorium.

It will help us in making our decisions and it will also help us in setting up the plans for economic opportunities for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. Your department is going to be working more closely with the people of Nunavut and if you are going to be working closely together in regards to studies done on the environment and wildlife, would you be able to put out a report so that the people of Nunavut can see a true picture of what is actually happening out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the member to re-phrase his question. Which study is he referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was referring to the moratorium that was set up for Gjoa Haven and the decrease of the polar bear population. Are there some facts or documents that we can see that will substantiate these rumours about the decrease of the polar bear population. That is what I was referring too. And that is what my question was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reports haven't been completed yet. Once the report is completed possibly this upcoming year, we'll be tabling copies. The studies that are compiled have to be put out so that the people of Nunavut will be informed about the findings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Why is it there is a moratorium when the studies and the reports weren't even finished yet. I am referring to the M'Clintock Channel. There were no reports or anything or any facts put out there and they set up that moratorium before anything came out.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on those. We're working on compiling the report and we have to complete it and put it out as a government. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for having me go first. I'd like to state that during this review we are talking about the performance of the ministers. While we are dealing with this department, we are recognizing the work that the minister has done and trying to get some information and I brought this question to the Minister of Transportation regarding access roads.

This is the responsibility of the Minister of Transportation. The access roads can be used for the benefit of the people to live healthier. They are able to travel out and buy meat and go out camping. It also has to do with tourism. It also affects tourism. As the minister of the Department of Sustainable Development I am sure he had concerns because it effects the environment, the wildlife and the other areas that he is responsible for.

These are for the benefit of people of Nunavut. I would like him as a minister to look at taking on the responsibility of access roads. I would want him to look at taking on the responsibility of access roads and trails.

When the minister is in the House, while he is here we see a lot of brochures and the former Minister of Sustainable Development started producing brochures and the minister has done very well in carrying this on. This is to promote tourism and it is very important that we have these. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister about access roads because his department, a lot of the work that he does has to do with access roads. Has he spoken to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation about taking on that responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the moment we are dealing with the future of tourism in Nunavut. It is a very important issue and the

mandate that was put together in Kugaaruk to deal with the clean up of the DEW line sites, we were able to put that together because it affects tourism.

If we were to take on that responsibility, I could raise that with the Minister of Transportation and discuss that further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Supplementary to my first question. I raised this question with the Minister of Transportation about access roads. If we were to sign the agreement to accept the two million dollars for infrastructure, if that agreement was signed could your department put in another two million dollars for access roads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could look into this and see. Because tourism is a very important issue in Nunavut and if this would benefit the people of Nunavut, we would be able to look into it. I appreciate his suggestion and we will look into it. I will try to follow the report of the Standing Committee that is dealing with tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): New question, this is a new question, and I have another one to follow. I think the minister is aware that the meat plant in Coral Harbour brings a lot of work, employment into the community. The caribou harvesting program brings a lot of employment and I'm wondering when this will be looked into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I appreciate this question, and I know the member has brought up this question regarding the caribou harvesting program in Coral Harbour and if we were able to send meat out of Canada. If we were able to produce more meat we would continue to increase the work and I can't really respond as to when this would begin.

To respond to his question on the Coral Harbour harvesting programs, I can't really say when it will start but I would work on this as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): This is supplementary to my question. I didn't really understand his response. The meat plant in Rankin Inlet sold products outside of Canada and we are aware that in Greenland they want meat and we are able to harvest 6 thousand

caribou and if we were to sell 6 thousand caribou that are produced at the meat plant into Greenland they would be purchased right away, so how could this be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. His question is very clear. Greenland is a different country and if we were to send any products out, they would have to be inspected in the Rankin Inlet meat plant if we were to get some meat from Coral Harbour to be sent outside out of Canada and we would have to follow the regulations.

So we have to work within the regulations to send products out. Perhaps we could look into how we could better work with Greenland and I will be open to any suggestions on how I can work with them more closely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Members' statements or questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short statement on what I believe in. Two of my colleagues spoke about polar bear hunting and I haven't talked to them about bringing this up. I don't want to be misunderstood and I am not sure if this has happened or not.

An individual wanted to hunt a polar bear with a harpoon and it was denied by Sustainable Development, the minister's department. When this individual put in a proposal or asked to do this, the Department of Sustainable Development told him he couldn't do this. I think the question should have been brought up before. If I am mistaken please correct me.

Before this was brought up in the media, were the elders approached. For instance if a person came up to me and wanted to hunt a polar bear with a harpoon, were elders approached. Quite often we make things bigger than what they really are and I think it was a way of trying to scare him into not wanting to hunt a polar bear. Because I think if someone wants to do that they should be given that opportunity with the knowledge of the elders.

I think quite often we start to talk, and I try to explain myself too much and use up my time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I was supposed to direct this question to the minister because the other minister that appeared yesterday dealt with this question that I am asking. Maybe it would have been better for me to ask him this question.

However, after that, the present minister became the minister, we were told that they used the wisdom of the elders to stop the polar bear hunt with a spear as an individual from Coral Harbour wished to do. I just wondered whether the elders were told that it might be a danger. Were they told that first or were they asked first without explaining to them that it might be dangerous if the hunt by that individual continued.

Before he made the decision for that individual not to proceed, did he ask the elders first for their wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I know that the elders in Nunavut are not afraid of what is told to them. Because they have been elders a long time and they have their own mind and they can make informed decisions for the younger generations. This was started by the minister of the department in the GNWT.

I feel that the elders are not intimidated by anyone and I am sure that they made the decisions that they made with wisdom. We know that the elders made their own decisions themselves without being intimidated by anyone. Because they used their traditional Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and they know what kind of decisions that they should be making without having to hear from anybody else.

They made their decisions using their wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the beginning, maybe it would have made a lot more sense if I had mentioned before that this was dealt with by the minister in the GNWT. Because it started with him, I am not really sure whether it was dealt with properly by them.

I would like to say that years ago, Inuit people used to hunt polar bears with only a spear and a knife before modern things began to be used. But it seems like we are embarrassed to do those things now because of the Greenpeace people. So today we shouldn't be afraid, even if the elders are afraid to have things shown like that, that we did traditionally in the past. This was the knowledge we had. Are we going to be embarrassed about the knowledge and the traditional ways of our elders. Is that the way we are going to be living in this world, by being embarrassed by what our elders did a long time ago.

Are we going to intimidate our elders into doing things only in the modern way. Are we going to be telling them that because of your own safety you can't do this any more. Because of those Greenpeace people you can't do things the way you used to anymore. Is that the way we are going to work as the Nunavut Government. Or are we going to try and retain our traditions.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our traditions are not embarrassing, I'm not embarrassed about my traditional way of doing things and I'm pretty sure our elders are not embarrassed about traditions that they have used years back in ways of hunting. And the only thing we're looking at is the safety issue of it. We feel as Inuit people that we have to try to use their wisdom and to keep on using our traditional way of doing things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can ask the question in a better way because this is coming from my heart and I want to get it off my chest. I have many questions, I could have more questions but as the minister promised one time, has he had the department do any visits to the smaller communities or did I miss out on a community being visited by the Minister's Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two communities that we have visited but I'm not exactly sure which other communities have been visited thus far, I know that we gave some funding to non-decentralized communities. I know that there are two communities we have visited so far to gather information and there were visits to consult with the people of Nunavut and communities in regards to tourism.

But I'm sure the other communities will be visited and I have instructed my staff to do as much as they can in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to save my questions for the other minister so I would like to ask him another question. There's a fish plant in Pangnirtung, and they also have a meat plant in Rankin Inlet.

In my riding, in Igloolik and Hall Beach the commercial fishery is not operating properly for quite some time, a lot of people in my community in those two constituencies used to be able to have a wage economy from commercial fishing.

I just wondered how my two communities can get some support from his department because they used to be able to make a little bit of money but now they only live on income support. I wonder if there's going to be some report from his department to those two communities that I mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the question from the member. We would like to be able to sell our food and to be able to export it to other countries. The meat plant in Rankin Inlet also used to process fish and because Whale Cove has now taken over the fish plant, there is nothing in the member's riding in regards to commercial fishing to provide a wage economy for those communities.

Although there is none at this time in the member's riding, and especially since his community is not a decentralized community, I would like to be able to provide something for those communities that are non-decentralized. As the Minister of Sustainable Development, I will keep trying my best to be able to gain more funding to help those communities that wish to start up commercial fishing or commercial meat processing.

I would be able to try and help with those kinds of things for those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary question and that is it. At this time, I know there is no commercial fishery in my community. Would it be possible in my riding, I think there is 80 to 100 thousand pounds that could be provided through commercial fishing according to studies.

I know there are a lot of fish up there that we can sell commercially. Is it because there are no buyers for the fish that they are not doing anything about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of things that we could do to provide fish so they could be sold commercially and I am sure there are a lot of buyers out there. At the time that I worked for the Co-op I used to order fish from Iqaluit when the people of Cape Dorset wanted fish.

So I used to order them and I ordered some from Igloolik as well to be transported to Cape Dorset. If there is a need in a community for fish from other communities, then that would be very good. If we could sell them to southern Canada and we have a permit, then in the near future that could be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements or questions. Mr. Havioyak .

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a statement that to hear of wildlife and our hunters that it's good to hear those comments here. I would like to support my colleagues so that our future can become brighter and answer their questions.

Mr. Chairman, on the economic side, the department's responsibility in economic development and assisting small businesses. The minister was not promoting this and must. He must show more leadership on this one.

For example, in the Kitikmeot, there is so much opportunity for mining development and it seems Nunavut is not taking advantage of this in the small business sector. Employment could increase more if we were working more closely with the mining industry.

There are only a few IIBA's that have been negotiated with the mining companies. The communities need support so they can negotiate the best package possible. The department needs to do more follow up in assisting Inuit in heading up businesses to take full advantage of upcoming mining and industrial development.

It is not enough to say there's a program to do this, because they are not doing anything to help to make sure these small businesses are set up to succeed and not set up to fail. They need to see all the paperwork and other requirements. They need to change all the policies that aren't working, especially policies we inherited from the NWT.

For example, there seem to be policies against supporting a business if an existing business is providing a particular service. This might be high priority need and there needs to be more than one company to compete and hire more individuals in that industry. To realize our potential here we need more creative leadership that is willing to explore options and partnerships.

Economic development needs to be more supportive and proactive. The minister is not promoting this enough. He should have a good working relationship with the mining industry and ensure that our people are taking advantage of the jobs.

We have a long history in mining, especially in Kugluktuk and other Kitikmeot communities. It began with the air companies in the Inuvik area and then in the mines in Echo Bay and in Lupin and now in Diavik and BHP diamond mines. We have many Nunavummiut with experience. Mining is a thing for this minister to concentrate on and show leadership in. Mr. Chairman we need to build infrastructure in parks for tourism. Tourism has been identified by many groups as a key economic development area in Nunavut.

The negotiations between the department and NTI have been very slow. The government should have been pushing and been more aggressive. This would have shown leadership. Without infrastructure in place we won't have tourism. So we are falling behind because of the negotiations dragging on. We want to build up parks in our area. There are other parks across the territory. Once the negotiations are resolved we hope to benefit from this as there will be a walking trail, an ATV trail and other infrastructure to benefit both Nunavummiut and tourism.

I hope to see more leadership from the government in these areas. (interpretation) Those are my comments and I will have questions to follow. Thank you.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to see some more emphasis on the mining companies. I guess the question would be, how does the minister intend to show more leadership in promoting economic development opportunities for Nunavummiut in the mining industry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mining industry is represented in Nunavut communities on quite a large scale. My department will concentrate on supporting the mining industries' infrastructure. There have been some negotiations going on for tourism development with the tourism associations. The Nunavut Government and the mining sector do work closely together to create job opportunities in Nunavut so that the Nunavut population may gain by way of training and job opportunities.

We have met with different communities effected by mining development. Myself for the future I will try and concentrate my efforts on trying to work closely with the communities and represent the Nunavut Government, but with respect to mining activities they are well represented in the Nunavut communities. As well there are Nunavut residents who have been employed in mining and they are involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you minister for your response to my question. This is a supplementary in terms of economic development, it is not a new question. For tourism is linked with our economic development and there needs to be funds for tourism opportunities, which are not there. For instance in a park, as I mentioned earlier on, Inuit Impact Benefits Agreements are not completed to date. How will the minister come out or get together with NTI to try and complete the processes or get these territorial parks. When will this be completed. I'd like to hear his comments. Thank you.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that Economic Development Officers are beneficial to the communities. We do work with them very closely. As well, we have a report that will be coming out from the Economic Development Division and it will deal with issues as to how the communities can be assisted further with respect to economic issues.

This report is going to be out in the very near future. We were also looking at an agreement that we would be producing and we work very closely with NTI and we tried

to come up with programs that might be beneficial to Nunavut so that mining industry opportunities are available in Nunavut or at least being pursued in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question may not have gone out to you properly but I'll try it again maybe listening, I didn't get it right. I guess when I talked about territorial parks does he know today the whole cost. Are they still in the negotiating stage with NTI.

They're holding up some of the business opportunities for the small businesses. Now I guess my question is relating to that. How soon, you said very near future, sometimes the very near future could be forever. So I'm just asking for a closer target because we need to know today like I said small businesses are holding back because of these negotiations. So we need some targets here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we're just about to finish with NTI on the IIBA negotiations. I don't think it'll be long before we have that agreement between the NTI on the IIBA. We're working on it and the Premier and I have this priority to make sure that we see this IIBA signed soon.

It is holding up all these capital projects that would benefit the communities that are close by for the territorial parks. I believe we are ready to thread the needle with the IIBA negotiation. We will let the members know as soon as possible once we get the agreement between NTI and the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have much of a comment to raise here or a question. I would like the minister to represent more what the Inuit population wants.

I don't have a question to the minister. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' statements. Or questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in my experience the minister has been accessible and is easy to work with. I think he needs more time to develop and he has only been in this department for a short time.

He hasn't made the transition yet from civil servant to politician and he has to realize that senior staff are not the boss. There are important policy issues that he has to show more

leadership on. For example, the one that I am always on about, the traditional economy. We keep missing opportunities in the past, Nunavut Day, Pan Am games, federal tourists promoting business.

How is the government planning to get young people into the traditional economy. What are we doing to enhance economic opportunity in this area. The Nunavut Development Corporation is a great idea but it is not working to its potential because of the financial mandate we currently have for it. A sad comment for the current state of affairs is that print shops, jewellery programs in Nunavut are closing down in most places. Nunavut souvenirs are coming from the south.

Are we as a government committed to developing the traditional economy. Where are the programs to develop programs on on-going support to the sealskin industry and tannery. Fashion, art, jewellery and all the economic opportunities that were built on a better foundation on a traditional economy.

Also over the summer, most tourism operators that we had public meetings with are on the brink of collapse. So I can honestly say the traditional economy and tourism are on a slide or almost in collapse. And we as a territory have done little to stop it. Country food production is increasing. I suggest that we have an export department just to market fish, caribou, arts and crafts. The Government of Nunavut is no good at it. We don't have the minds for it. We don't have specialists for it. It should be done by an outside firm.

In Europe for example there is mad cow disease. This is a perfect opportunity to promote our caribou and fish. Do we have anybody in this government who tries to attract outside dollars for investment. I'll ask the finance minister. I don't want to plug my colleague from Coral Harbour but there needs to be a meat packing plant up there. They have an abundance of caribou. The plant in Rankin Inlet was initially designed and built to harvest caribou from the Baker Lake, Arviat, Chesterfield and Whale Cove areas. And that is all I have for you. I just had a few questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year in our Standing Committee meeting, we gave Nunavut Tourism an increase in their base funding and I learned later that they used that increase to move into a larger office building. I don't know if it is true or not but I got a phone call from a tourism operator saying that they took the increase and in fact moved into a larger office here in Iqaluit.

If the minister plans to give them another increase in their base funding, would he promise that this money would be used for the operators and not for the administration staff. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly will look into that and I don't know, did he say NDC moved into a larger office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. I believe you are being asked a question Mr. McLean, by the minister.

Mr. McLean: I hope I can answer it. My question to the minister is, if he does indeed give Nunavut Tourism additional funding, would he make sure that it is spent on the operators and not the administration staff and larger offices. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will certainly look into that and I will make sure that we use our money to promote marketing Nunavut for tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in regards to attracting outside dollars. I seem to be harping on this a lot in the last couple of years. On the national scale, I don't know what we are doing. But has the minister or his department, talked to any companies or any organizations in Canada or the United States about investing in the tourism potential, the arts and crafts industry, any kind of investment whatsoever.

Has he had discussions with anybody in investing or attracting outside dollars to develop infrastructure in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see more of this in the future to make sure that we have an opportunity to promote our art or the food from Nunavut across Canada and also in the United States and in Europe. So I would like to work closely with the Standing Committee and my Cabinet colleagues to promote the art and also the products that we have here in Nunavut.

We are certainly trying to make sure that we promote them to Canada and the United States or across the world. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe I think along with my colleague, that this department can play, or should be playing a crucial role in development of our strengths in Nunavut. I believe in the strength of our people and our land and what we have out there doesn't seem to be getting the attention that it needs for

the traditional economy, the hunting, the fishing, tourism, arts and crafts, sewing, and those types of markets out there.

Those are the strengths and for a lot of Nunavummiut those are their skills and if we want to be successful we have to try and as much as we can capitalize on the skills of Nunavummiut.

In the day and age that we see today, Mr. McLean mentioned it, the mad cow disease going over there, we can market something pure and unique. It is almost like the last frontier for a lot of other jurisdictions, people will pay, and do pay, big dollars to come up here and experience our climate and the conditions that we live in every day.

I think if we can find ways for Nunavummiut to be able to go out and do the things that they do best and get paid for it, those are the things that we need to look at developing. I think the department needs to really take strides at looking into developing those areas and those sectors. I think that it will go a long way in improving the economy within Nunavut, nationally and internationally. It could have a potentially huge impact on the community level.

I think over the time since the minister came in, I know that he came in part way through, and I don't know if it is just that he is getting to know, or beginning to learn the material. I can imagine that there is a lot to deal with within the department, but it sometimes seems that he is not prepared enough with the materials that he has. Again, I don't know if that is from not knowing or just not having the time, or it just being so much, but it is just a perception out there that comments have been made to me about.

I think try to take more time to be prepared for statements and questions in the House and things like that. Other than that Mr. Chairman, I think that's all I have, my time is up. I don't have any questions. I will save those for when we get into the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, we have no other names for comments or questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. McLean just made all the comments that I wanted to make so I don't have any further comments to make. I was going to comment on tourism but Mr. McLean said it all. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean. I don't have any further names for comments or questions to the Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Akasuk. There are no further questions so are we then done with the minister.

We are therefore finished with the Minister of Sustainable Development. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister of Sustainable Development, the youngest member of the House. We will then move on to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik. You can go down to the witness table. Welcome Minister. You can start with your opening comments. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will give you just a brief overview of what our department has been doing to date. I have to date held three portfolios. I'll give you a brief overview of what we have done to date.

For a short time, I had the portfolio of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. During the budget process, I took on these responsibilities and made a change to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth after hearing statements and concerns from the members. I believe I had this portfolio for approximately three weeks.

The next one was the Department of Education when there was a removal of the last Minister of Education. I think it was in December that I had the Department of Education and I took on some additional responsibilities that were held by a very capable previous minister.

We set up a working group along with NTI to review the Education Act. This was done while I held this portfolio. The members wanted to have a review done on the daycares and see how we could make some changes. The study was done and the report was tabled. Prior to the tabling of the document, I told the staff I don't want to just table the report. I would like the contents to be implemented as soon as possible.

That is what we did when I held that portfolio and then the Department of Education sued Kakivak Association in regards to a contribution agreement. We had quite a few problems from that because it prevented us from working with the Kakivak Association so we dropped the suit. Those were the major items that I dealt with as the Minister of Education.

Last year I shuffled the cabinet and took on the Department of Justice on November 6, because of course I had gone through the justice system and I had graduated with a law degree.

We had some hard times during that process. And as the Minister of Justice there were the inmates that we deal with. The members of the RCMP detachments had a lot of things that we had to deal with. There was one RCMP that died this year that we had to deal with. And we wanted to see some changes implemented along of course with the co-operation of the RCMP.

After that review, we made a decision that there would be two or more RCMP members stationed in each community. If there was going to be an RCMP detachment it would be manned by more than one member. Two communities don't have a detachment but

service is currently being provided by the communities. We had to respond to that quickly. At this time the RCMP are looking at recruiting Inuit trainees.

In the Department of Justice we have been doing quite a number of things as I stated, more than once, we would like the communities to take on more responsibilities and to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. With that we increased the amount of funding that is provided to the communities. We are now looking at providing more support for the probation officers so that the people could stay in their communities to serve their sentences instead of going to the regional centres.

In regards to the Justices of the Peace, we are providing more training and that was completed during my term but we would like to see more training provided to the JPs. We are currently looking at setting up a correctional facility in Nunavut. We are doing a study to see where it would be located and how it would operate.

I think we are looking at another year before we can have the whole review process done. Also with the Nunavut lawyers, as the Minister of Justice, we factored in the high cost of living in Nunavut and put more money into the lawyers' salaries to offset the high cost of living. We would like to see more Inuit go into the legal profession, so this year we opened the law school and they will be doing those courses for the next four years.

We opened the lands office here not too long ago so that it would be easier to access information and to find out the legalities of land leasing, title and other related issues. I have been working on these things since I became the Minister of Justice.

This has been a brief overview of what we have been doing to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. That was exactly 10 minutes. You were right on. I would like to remind the members that you have three minutes to make your comments and I would like to remind you again we should proceed properly according to the procedures. Members' comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister of Justice took the responsibility for his portfolio and I am glad that he is taking this responsibility but I have concerns from my community. Those are my comments and questions will follow.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister of Justice regarding a person incarcerated. He was released and sent back to our community once he served his time. When he was back in our community he was not able to use guns and he was not able to keep his rifles. And this is something that I am not happy with. He did not re-offend but once they found out that he had rifles, he was sent back to jail. As an Inuk we like to go out hunting. When an individual who has

served time goes back to the community and goes out hunting and properly puts it away when he returns, will this kind of thing happen again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could respond by saying it is federal government legislation regarding firearms. It is against the law to use a firearm if you are on probation if an individual has served time and one of the conditions is that he does not use a firearm. I know this really affects the Inuit but NTI is looking into this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is policing under the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. I believe that's a new question. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): The policing is a responsibility of the Department of Justice in the Government of Nunavut and we pay their wages. They are under oath as servants of Nunavut and are the responsibility of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu, you have two supplementary questions left and they must relate to the issue you just brought forward. Continue.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. As the Department of Justice it hurts an individual when they have a firearm taken away when that person hasn't broken the law. When something like this happens the government seems to be looking down on these individuals. So can you look further into this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was my final question. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently working on this and we are working with the Federal Government to deal with this bill. So we are working on this recognizing that the people of Nunavut have problems with this. If we can correct any of the problems or concerns that the people have, we will be happy.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really have any comments but I do have a couple of questions that I would like to bring up for the minister. My first question is, what leadership is the minister providing to the people of Nunavut on gun control legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said earlier that I would like to deal with any problems or concerns in this area. We are working with NTI and this will have to be dealt with through the justice system and the courts. If we could come to an agreement with the Federal Government to make the legislation better for the people of Nunavut, this is something we are working towards. But this hasn't been completed yet. The changes that have been requested have not been brought forward. But I've discussed this with the Federal Minister of Justice and I'm available for any suggestions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary to my question. When will this be completed. This is a concern of the people of Nunavut and so when do you think this problem will be rectified. This is a supplementary to my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'd like to get this done as soon as possible but I'll have to work with NTI and the Federal Government in order for this agreement to be completed. We'll have to deal with this through the courts if we can't agree with one another. But hopefully this will be done as soon as possible but I can't really say when it would be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a new question. I'd like to ask the minister. Some communities would like to have police in their community. How has policing improved in all the Nunavut communities over the last two and a half years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During my opening statement I stated that we had to look into policing and had to review policing further. I was asked to close the one-person detachments and I disagreed or didn't want to do that. I was able to look into this further.

For the communities that have only one police officer we were able to increase them to two or add one more officer. For Repulse Bay, we're looking at putting policing in to that community. In the future I guess if we find some more money we'll look into this further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister. Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to policing, my supplementary question, when would you expect to have more funding for policing and that's my last question Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say at this time when we will be able to find more funding for policing. Because a lot of members want funding for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as well as for policing, so with all those every day things I am not sure when we will be able to do this. But as soon as we can find some more funding, we will do so.

If you put a position in a community, the operating costs have to be paid as well. So the members have to give us direction as to your priorities. You seem to want Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and at the same time, you want more policing in the communities. It is up to the members to identify their priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary to my first question. I was just saying that if there was to be some money for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I just wondered when they will be able to get that money. That's my last question Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't answer when we will be able to find the funding. I know that we are going to have to find more funding for policing if the communities want more, but we recently put some RCMP into various communities and if the members make a motion in the House, if they really want to, then we would have to find more funding for those positions to be put into the communities.

So we will do whatever we can to find more funding for what the communities want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Further questions. Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister has started the new law school in Nunavut and this is good. But I am worried if they will incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the justice system. The Inuit are involved in the law school as students, but if they don't incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the curriculum, it might now be any better than it is now. My biggest concern is in regards to Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit. We are still following a lot of the GNWT ways of doing things that directly effect people.

We need to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit directly into the justice system and the Justice Department. If they don't incorporate it into the justice system nothing will change. I will have questions later on Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question to the Minister of Justice is when and how are they going to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we look at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we didn't have jails, we didn't have correctional facilities, and we didn't have police. We run following federal government legislation. How can we try to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Department of Justice. We have already had those community justice committees in the communities and they help the JPs and the Justice Department.

I gave them more money to do their work. We didn't have correctional facilities in the past. Perhaps it would be better if we didn't incarcerate people as much. The reason we brought in those community justice committees is because we wanted to help the people in the communities to deal with the issues in their communities, so that we don't have to put them into correctional facilities and have the justice committees deal with things more in the communities instead of incarcerating them. We wanted issues dealt with at the community level by the community justice committees.

Those are some of the things that we are doing to try to promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the Department of Justice. The Inuit ways of disciplining are the things we don't use any more but we would like to start using these things and we would like to hear from the members as to how they would like to deal with these things.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and ask if it is going to be put into legislation. Some elders are involved in the court proceedings in the communities. According to my knowledge that is it for the involvement of the elders. The people that go to court are told that they should go and get help from their elders. How is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being incorporated into the law school and the justice system.

The elders can be very helpful with people that are in trouble in terms of counselling. Are you going to be putting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the justice system more often. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are looking at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the legislation through the involvement of Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit. I know that we can deal with legislation and once Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit finishes looking at all the legislation or viewing all the legislation there will be a report.

The report will be from the commission about the work they have been doing, so if the members feel the need to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into whatever work the government is doing they can give us suggestions.

So we can try to utilise them and Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit will be giving us a report on the work that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I have another question about the law school. Are the students going to be taught Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and how can it be used in the law school program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's part of their law school program but I'm not exactly sure how they are using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but I could report back to the member during our regular session after finding out what exactly they are doing and or how they are incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the law school program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I was told that I could ask some more questions. So I will ask another question. When Nunavut was created, there had to be students to take part in the law school program, so we can use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit a lot more.

The students that are taking the law school will they be able to work outside of Nunavut as well as Nunavut. Is part of their curriculum Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in their school. Do they have elder that goes there once in a while to teach Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I know it's part of my previous question but that's my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know there's an elder or elders that go over there to counsel them or to explain to them the ways of the Inuit in regards to their law system but the majority of students work is in regards to the law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Further questions. Members' statements. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has done a good job and hopefully they can include the input of the elders.

(interpretation ends) The RCMP used to run a very useful summer student program in which students were able to go with the RCMP officer and share the experience of what it would be like to be in this position. Possibly because of safety concerns the program changed. Now the students primarily stay at the detachment and do paperwork.

The RCMP ran a successful aboriginal cadet development program which graduated six Inuit officers, but this program is no longer in place or has changed. Both of these programs were very successful. The government should continue to show leadership and carry on with successful programs like these ones, that can inspire our youth to strive for these positions and these jobs that exist in Nunavut.

Community Corrections expanded their positions through the placement of community corrections officers in communities. It is not good to send people back to the communities on early release or assign people community service hours if there is no one in the community to supervise them and support them. This is especially important in family violence cases.

(interpretation) Family violence is another area that impacts across departments, justice, health, social services, education, housing and it needs these departments working together to identify ways to deal with these issues, to stop their re-occurrence and to prevent them from occurring in the first place.

(interpretation ends) A lot of the people wouldn't have to be in jail because social services would be dealing with cases before people were caught in the justice net. There are many people in this justice net who shouldn't be there because of a lack of adequate social programs for health, mental health and guardianship. As long as we don't have social workers doing preventative work, we will continue to see a very high recidivism rate. In fact I have heard a few days ago that we have people in jail who are sleeping on the floor because of overcrowding.

Another point that I want to mention is that the public trustee division is very important to people in Nunavut and I would hope that there are Inuit who speak Inuktitut in these positions. I have a couple of questions to ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): With respect to the comments I made about the RCMP officers. There was a radio show saying that if I want to become a police officer I could contact a certain number. With respect to the programs that are no longer available, if you want to become a police officer, because these programs are not available any more, if the people want to attend a course to become an RCMP Officer, what is your department doing about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Just before we proceed, a note to the members that you will notice that the clocks have jumped by an hour on your desks. That's only wishful thinking, they are going to be moved back an hour when we can. It is out of our control at this point. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Please don't blame me for the time on this one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We have wanted to see more RCMP special constables in Nunavut communities. They are going to be having a course available to be taken in Inuvik. We have been encouraging more RCMP Special Constables in the communities to get established. We are in support of this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Member's questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was person responsible for teaching the young people and I think the program is no longer in existence. So how is the Nunavut population going to know as to what kind of course they should take if they want to become RCMP Officers. Who are they going to ask. Where do they go to find out about these courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I don't think this is our responsibility but I do want to support more Inuit RCMP Constables. There are other avenues that we might be able to use but as myself as a Minister for Justice if I can find ways to fix this and find more RCMP Constables from the communities I'm in support of this. We have had successful graduates and we do have local RCMP Special Constables. And we will be in support of this to increase the local RCMP Special Constables. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He didn't answer my question but I'll go on to another question. He was also talking about Probation Officers. Are they going to be made available in the other communities as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a lot of people who do go to jail. I think we have about eight or six communities that have Probation

Officers and there are a lot of inmates that have to use these services. So we followed the population of offenders to try and make more Probation Officers available for other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister. Further questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Just a supplementary to my question. You don't have to just do studies on this. This is particularly important if there's no Social Worker. There are other inmates that are going through a difficult time because there's no Probation Officer they lack consultation services. Can Mr. Minister tell me if they're going to make Probation Officers available in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to realize that this will be a costly endeavour, a costly job.

I can say that we can look into this and in our department we will concentrate on doing the best we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Members' statements. Members' questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I apologise. (interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, the problem with is that nobody knows what is going on.

The premier and his department need to look at our recommendations when we first started. When we sent our offenders to the jail, is this helping, no, we need to look at sending these individuals to go out to outpost camps and working in the communities.

We need another correctional facility in Nunavut so that the families can be closer and not lose contact, the department needs to support constant communication with the families so that when the person returns home, there will be something to return home to.

There needs to be community awareness on how to work with these offenders so they won't go out and commit a crime again. We need to make family available for healing workshops for offenders and their families. The system is not helping an individual learn how to get back to society and the community. They are not sure what they are returning to. We cannot just keep going at the status quo, there needs to be leadership in developing better ways with dealing with these problems and coming up with options.

Also they need more leadership in the court system, it takes so long to take some of these people through the court system and before they find the person guilty he or she may start living in the community even though they committed a crime. Who's in danger, often the family.

I would like to hear about the leadership of the minister, the leadership the minister is giving this department on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) I don't have any questions, I will have further questions once we start our session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I'll make my comment brief here, I would just like to raise certain issues relating to justice. One, I think that there's a lot of Nunavummiut that are in jail and prison that shouldn't be there.

There are a lot of people that are in there because they don't have mental health programs. They don't have a psychiatric place for those people to go and get the help that they need. They're just put away and left there until their time is up and they get released and they're not getting the help that they need.

I don't know if that's the fault of the justice system or the health system, I look forward to raising that issue with Minister of Health when he is sitting up there as well.

But I am sure that is something that they could work jointly on trying to solve. The problem I think is compounded by something that was raised by my other colleague about the overcrowding that we have in the facilities here in Nunavut. Also the fact of the additional harder impact that sending people outside of Nunavut has on them and on their families. You can note recently the issue that was raised in the media as an example of what can happen to inmates that are sent to the larger centres in the south.

I don't know if they belong there or not, it is not for me to decide that, but I think that the less we do that the better, if we can find ways and means of dealing with those people in Nunavut. I think we need to try and look at addressing these issues here in Nunavut in a more proactive manner and it has to become more of a priority for the department. That's all I have for comments Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the minister what kinds of psychiatric and psychological services are being offered to the people in our justice system, and what are the lengths of these services after people leave the institutions and return to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there is one psychiatrist for the correctional facility and inmates while they are in custody, but when they are released they are on their own. The only way that we can retain control of inmates is to provide

early release and that's where we have some ability to monitor and to track how the individual is doing. Or if they are on probation, court ordered probation in addition to their sentence.

So a lot of times they may be on their own, once they are released, but we try and provide services and healing programs while they are in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary question to that one. The minister indicated that they are monitored in some instances when they leave the institution. I am just wondering what kind of support services are at the community level to deal with these people, whether there be mental health issues, or just they need to check in every once in a while.

What kind of support services do they have at the community level for monitoring that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well in some cases there are probation officers in the communities and it depends largely on where you are. Some communities don't have probation workers, some communities like Iqaluit, there is some support, but in a lot of cases, they are largely on their own.

But if they are ordered by the court to be on probation or to be monitored if they are on early release, then we have an ability by law to monitor the individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will use my second supplementary on this before we break for supper, I know the pizzas are getting cold. Can the minister commit to looking into and working with the Minister of Health and Social Services to provide more support at the community level for these people that get out, especially the mental health issues relating to people that have been in conflict with the law that get out.

Just to try and help foster community based programs to help those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I could do better. I could transfer the whole corrections to Health and Social Services, that's a possibility. Therefore they would get holistic treatment. So that's an idea that I will be forwarding. So if there is a way that I can work it out, then I will do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. With that we will break for cold pizza and be back here at 6.35 and we are in the Tuktu room. Thank you.

>>Leadership Forum recessed at 6.06 p.m. and resumed at 6.39 p.m.

Chairperson: We will resume our discussions and I believe next for a question was Mr. McLean. With the Minister of Justice still in the witness chair.

Mr. McLean: I think the leadership shown in the law school is excellent and I really support it and I think it was a bold initiative. I think some of the comments behind the scenes by individuals weren't warranted. So this is one Member of the Legislative Assembly that thinks the law school was a great idea. Even if the students don't go on to become full lawyers, the education they receive is going to ensure that we have an Inuit legal prospective in land claims. Negotiating with the federal government, reviewing bills and legislation and developing policy. It is going to be very good to have this in the Government of Nunavut and like I say I commend you on it.

I know that you are committed to outpost camps but I'd like to see more of a push from your department. I know we had a tragedy. I want to support you on this outpost camp policy and I know your department supports it. I'd like to see a little extra push on it. That is all my comments are. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' questions. Members' statements. Members' statements and/or questions. I have nobody else on the list that is present right now. So if we could have someone else. Mr. Irqittuq it is your turn.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Justice is doing very well and we have seen some excellent plans coming from that department. It states here that they would be using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within their department and that is something that I am very glad to hear about.

Of course we will have questions on how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is going to be implemented in the justice department and we hear that the elders are going to utilized more so than in the past. When you don't see something tangible and when you don't see a policy on how anything is to going to be implemented you do have to keep asking questions and trying to find out exactly how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is going to be implemented and what kind of policies there would be to implement that. I wasn't very pleased when my colleague was asking questions and I wasn't very happy about the response.

It is in regards to the policing issue. We were told Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was to be implemented and to have the RCMP in the communities it creates more of a barrier when we are talking about the policing system not including Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

For example, maybe I misunderstood the honourable member but the way I understood it, it seems like Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was going to become like a barrier. Create a barrier when we are talking about the policing system and setting up detachments in the communities that do not have RCMP. Of course with that kind of a response we know that there is nothing tangible and there are no policies and there is no implementation plan and there is no money set aside to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I might possibly be asking one or two questions. Because I only have four left and I do want to save some questions for the other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure which question I should pose to this particular department. In regards to the gun control legislation. The minister made repeated statements that it is being supported.

When we ask questions about gun control the minister responds by saying that they are giving support to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. What kind of support are you giving NTI in regards to gun legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have given our full support to NTI in regards to Inuit rights. In the agreement it states the Inuit of Nunavut can hunt anywhere and can go hunting without a licence for sustainability. They can also hunt anywhere in Nunavut without having to have a licence.

Those are in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. That is why we are giving our full support to NTI. Because this was signed by all three signatories. We have given them support to date when NTI is trying to get the Inuit out of the gun control legislation. If we can help through negotiating with the federal government or through any other avenue, we help all we can. That is what we have been doing to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I now understand that we are supporting NTI. My question is do you have any documents that outline what kind of support you are giving to NTI. Do you have an agreement with NTI. Can you show some documents that outline what kind of support we are giving to NTI. And if there is strong wording in there we can seize. Is there anything tangible. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To date we have worked very closely with NTI and we have had correspondence going back and forth. I believe

we sent you copies of the letters that were written by us. We had also written a letter to the Prime Minister and to the President of NTI.

To date we have never had a response but we have kept the door open for further negotiating or further discussions on this issue. It is an ongoing thing but it is a partnership between us and NTI so there would be recognition of the contents of the NLCA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): This is a supplementary. What I am trying to say is, do you have any documents which outline the sort of support, or is this just an oral agreement with NTI.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure how to respond to your question, but we have been working very closely with NTI to date and we keep each other updated on what is happening. We have had discussions with the government, our staff are working on finding some solutions.

The Federal Government, our staff and NTI have come to agreements, but they are still at a confidential stage, once we have completed all of this we can release the information. We are still at a confidential stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Members' statements. I have no other members left on the list. If there are no questions I will assume that we have completed our discussion with the Minister of Justice. Sorry Mr. Iqaqrialu, you have no questions left. Thank you, Minister.

>>*Applause*

The next minister to appear before you is Minister Thompson, the Minister Responsible for Housing & Public Works. Minister. Minister you have ten minutes to conclude your opening statement. Proceed.

Hon. Manitok Thompson

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleagues and the members that have no questions left. I am very pleased that there is a Nunavut Leadership Forum because of course we said that we would have this leadership forum at mid-term.

During Mr. Iqittuq's opening comments, I agreed with everything that he outlined about the kind of leadership qualities that people should have. The regular members had a vision on what they would like to see in their leadership and they were very clear and

concise. We as leaders have done everything to the best of our abilities since we were appointed to become members of the Cabinet.

I would also like to thank my husband and my boys for being very patient with me and especially my husband. Being the way he is, he has been very patient during my term. Also my parents for giving me their full support since I have been a member of Cabinet. My father knows very well what leadership should be and he has given me tremendous support and we all understand that there is no gender when we are talking about leadership qualities.

I will be giving you a brief overview on what we have been doing as Public Works & Services. It is a summary. Public Works and Services have accomplished a number of key goals and made significant progress towards others. I would like to highlight these accomplishments. I think it is important to me personally as a minister and as an Inuk to begin with what I think are the most important aspects of what we are doing.

The Department of Public Works and Services formed an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit planning committee, to address aspects of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. They have concentrated on areas such as ensuring the work place is comfortable for Inuit employees.

We also established on the job training programs, such as those for locally hired Inuit employees in Pond Inlet, Baffin Regional office. Also we have established student employment opportunities. To give opportunities to the students during the summer break. We've been inviting elders to participate in cultural days out on the land with our staff and we have also been encouraging the use of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun within the workplace whenever possible in order to keep it strong and viable.

We have been working with translation of technical terms into Inuktitut. In April 1999 when the department was first established within the government of Nunavut we had four staff members in our headquarters office. As of November 1, 2001 we are at 64% capacity at headquarters which translates to 83 positions filled at head quarters.

In April 2000, the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti, the NNI policy, came into effect and Public Works and Services have overseen its implementation and administration. As of October 2001 the number of majority Inuit owned businesses approved under the policy increased from 148 to 182.

A review of the first year of operations under the policy is currently underway. The department has continued its commitment to supporting community empowerment under the Bathurst mandate. At the time when I was the Minister of MACA this was something I believed in and transferred it over to the Nunavut Government.

In August 2000 we entered into a new maintenance agreement with Gjoa Haven. This is in addition to the agreements Public Works and Service have entered into in eight other communities. Under each agreement that Public Works and Services enters into, there is

a commitment to provide training and assistance and to develop technical skills among Hamlet staff.

In September 2000, the Public Works and Service's Baffin Regional Office began its decentralization to Pond Inlet. I hope the clock's not wrong. Currently 70 percent of the positions in that office are filled, and 54 percent of these positions are filled by Inuit. Prior to decentralization, 11 local hires from Pond Inlet received four months of on the job training in Iqaluit. This approach in training local staff was a valuable one for the staff and the department as a whole.

In addition, in September 2000 Public Works and Services began a quarterly departmental newsletter for employees. Since being initiated there have been three editions of the newsletter with a fourth being prepared for release this December. At the end of March 2001 Public Works and Services was able to end its asset management support services agreement with the government of the Northwest Territories.

The first re-supply season since the Eastern Arctic Sealift Program was transferred to the Government of Nunavut from the Canadian Coast Guard has just recently ended. It was a two year agreement. In 2001 we signed a two year contract for administration of the sealift. The transfer of the program and the resulting contract for marshalling and packaging decreased by approximately three percent and rates for marine transportation decreased by approximately twenty percent.

Over the past year the petroleum products division has achieved a number of key operational goals. In the spring of 2001 Petroleum Products Division issued requests for proposals to provide fuel sale and distribution and delivery services in twenty-four Nunavut communities. The new ten year contract began on November 1, 2001.

The contracts have been awarded and as a result the PPD will achieve a decrease of approximately 1 million dollars annually on the fuel distribution costs. Efforts have been ongoing by PPD management to implement tighter operation expenditure controls.

This, combined with slightly lower fuel prices on world markets, made it possible to introduce a seven cent per litre fuel price decrease for 2001 and 2. That came into effect on November 1. Public Works and Services have also played a key supportive role in the overall decentralization plans for GN. The department has been overseeing all infrastructure requirements to ensure the functionality of the GN operations as they are relocated to the new NCC buildings.

Between July 1999 and September 2000 the Public Works informatics operations division installed phone systems and cabling in each of the new buildings to support information technology requirements.

From July 2001 to November 2001 ground stations in the buildings in Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Cape Dorset Igloolik and Arviat have been upgraded to allow additional bandwidth for improved data communications.

In staff housing, we have identified shortages in Iqaluit and in other decentralized communities due to the lack of available units. Because of these shortages we are looking at options to obtain affordable staff housing. As a first step. Mr. Chairman, I have two departments, how do you wish me to proceed.

Did you want me to go ahead with Housing.

Chairperson: Are your statements individual statements or are they grouped together.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Chairman, I have two departments and I have tried to make it very short, but the two departments are quite complex and I will have to ask the members to bear with me. I have a few pages to do. If that is possible.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Excuse me Ms. Thompson. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, we are not reviewing the departments, we are reviewing the ministers. I don't think it really matters whether she has 100 departments or not, the time is still the same here.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I believe we do have consensus for the minister to continue with her comments. Is that correct. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: We will provide you with the same opportunity as everybody else before you. Please proceed Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for your patience. You have been patient the whole time, during this entire review process. As a first step there was an RFP issued to see what options might be available. This is currently in the review stage and at this point I can report that it is proceeding very well.

With the issue of housing, the Premier transferred the responsibility for housing to my portfolio from Community Government & Transportation during the first year of operations. In order to review the housing situation and ensure the involvement of Nunavummiut I created a task force of regular MLAs and housing professionals.

They said that 100 public housing units should be built immediately and those were constructed during the summer of 2000. The report contained 50 recommendations. We

have completed some of these recommendations. For example, the first recommendation was to create a stand alone corporation and this corporation was created on April 1, 2000.

The corporation has 58 staff and is now over 84% staffed. We work closely with our 25 local housing authorities, organizations in our individual communities. These organizations employ over 200 Nunavummiut. I am going to be going a little faster in this area. There were units leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation during 2000 and 2001 and we continued to increase public housing by converting 17 housing units owned by the corporation into public housing units.

For 2001/2002 I directed my staff to continue to address the housing crisis by building an additional 50 units. All together 200 additional units along with funding for operations costs have already been added to date. We have addressed programs for homeowners through the Nunavut Down payment Assistance Program, which assisted over 35 families last year with 15 thousand dollar grants. I am just skimming through all of this, but this means 90 new homeowners in Nunavut in just two years.

The corporation is working on an agreement with CMHC for 375 thousand to assist homeowners. I am hoping to have these signed this year. I will close these off and skip the rest of the comments that I was going to make.

But through this year Mr. Galliano from the federal government in Ottawa and I met four times and at the end of this month I will be meeting with him again for the fifth time.

My cabinet colleagues assisted in the cause by mentioning this in their own portfolios. I have also discussions with the various Inuit organizations. In closing, all the documents that you have and everything that came from public housing and housing and PWS have been responded to, either by correspondence or by personally making a call to the people that have made inquiries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Next we have members' statements and questions. Members. Members. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) This minister has done a good job at looking at what has to be done in Nunavut on fuel prices. She has been looking carefully at some answers and keeping good track of expenditures so we can lower the prices today. This is an important area because we depend on fuel right now for so much in our communities. So we need to have a close eye in the future. That would show leadership.

NNI has to be re-visited. The minister had some consultations before but it needs to be reviewed again and the minister needs to be open to the business people on this. The goal is important and this is an example of leadership.

If we are going to survive we need NNI in place. But it is new to the Government of Nunavut and the current version is not working 100 percent. Some things need to be polished, for example the percentage of Inuit ownership and Inuit involvement in the projects needs to be reviewed.

NNI needs to constantly be looked at to see if it is working for Inuit and Nunavut firms and if not make changes. We need good leadership on this that believes in the goals. In housing the minister is responding to my letter but not responding to my suggestions. The minister needs to be more open to the standing committee on housing. We have to re-visit the policy to re-allocate new houses in Nunavut.

It is not going to work if it is based on needs only. If this continues some communities wouldn't get any houses in the next 2-3 years. She should be rotating these communities each year so that they will all benefit from this new housing.

In closing, I am happy with what the minister is trying to do at the federal level. It needs to have more weight to the delegations that go to these federal meetings. That's all I have for comments, I will have questions to ask momentarily. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my statement I have said or suggested and also it was recommended by the Standing Committee that the policies should be revisited and also they suggested that the allocation of the housing units should be rotating each year.

Would the minister commit to revisiting the policy and look at what the Standing Committee recommended on the issue of rotating the communities that are being allocated new housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have already revisited the allocation of the houses and I have already met with my staff, the President of the Housing Corporation and also David Aqqaq who is the Vice-President of the Housing Corporation and we have already responded in a letter to the Standing Committee members about the new allocation that we are doing.

We are open to their suggestions and we have started on that process already. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I guess a supplementary on this question. You mentioned that you are already looking at the policy. Maybe some further clarification, are you looking at the policy and the suggestions now, or one of those. Just for my information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manik Thompson: I have already looked at the suggestions of the Standing Committee, I have already met with my staff on the allocation of the new units. So I have already revisited that allocation policy. The allocation of those units. I have already done that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good that you are looking at it. But I guess if you looked at it already, then the next step would be to go to the Standing Committee with what the results were from your review of that allocation of the new units to the communities. Or the policy I am sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manik Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had offered to do a presentation to the Standing Committee and we just couldn't get everybody here at the same time. So I already offered that but I did write to all the Standing Committee members already on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' statements. Members' statements and/or questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the business plan speech or budget without actual figures. There has been some dissatisfaction respecting the petroleum products' contracts in a number of communities.

I hear there also have been some appeals to the awarding of those contracts. Also in some cases that some proposals for example in Chesterfield Inlet the hospital replacement proposal has gone slower than the normal practice for awarding these proposals. At least to review them as quickly as possible keeping in mind that there is a budget session coming up and also the sealift orders that have to be in place as early as possible. Especially construction of that magnitude.

I commend the minister for the petroleum price reduction on November 1st. That was good news for everybody. I commend her on that. But I guess my attitude toward the review for the minister is not so much what department she has. But whether she has made a difference in the policy direction respecting public works and the housing corporation.

Especially in the need for devolving the tasks of public works more and more to the communities like she did with Gjoa Haven. I think that should be explored more to other communities to reduce the cost to the government. Especially the administrative side of things. The last point I would like to make is respecting the housing corporation.

You know that there is a need for review of what we deliver. I know we have to practice the Canadian standards and building codes. But can we negotiate with the federal governments to make some exceptions so that we can start building affordable homes especially for men and women who can build their own homes in the communities like they did a while back in the NWT.

Also the codes are not necessarily applicable to the Nunavut Territory because there are no trees to burn. I would like to make those comments and ask a few questions. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question for the minister is regarding the contracts for PPD. How many appeals have you received regarding the contracts that were awarded for petroleum products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am supposed to know how many contracts there are obviously because I am the minister. If I don't know that it would be unfortunate. In the Baffin there are six appeals from the Baffin and I think there are three appeals in Keewatin and Kivalliq and in the Kitikmeot I don't have the numbers with me but there are appeals in each region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Are you aware of what reasons or why these individuals have put in appeals for these contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Whenever an individual does not get awarded a contract there's always an appeal.

There's always an appeal when an individual does not get awarded a contract but for the ones that tried to get the fuel delivery contract in the communities, I have heard of people not being happy because they were not awarded the contract. Some of the co-ops also stated that they are not happy because they were not awarded a contract but I don't know what exactly the details are in each of the cases where people are not happy about not being awarded the contract.

I don't really have the details but there are a lot of companies in the communities that are not happy because co-ops were awarded the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two more supplementary unfortunately.

We all know that and we have read the NNI, for those of us who have read the NNI policy, we all know that there are strong corporations in the Nunavut area such as Canadian North and the co-ops and Nunavut Construction and the list goes on.

We support those corporations because they are all Inuit owned but they are big corporations and they compete with the smaller companies or enterprises in Nunavut. And we have heard that by using the NNI policy if the individual wants to appeal that's the end of it, the smaller company does not have any further appeal system.

I asked the premier this question, I would like to ask you a similar question. There are a lot of small businesses that are not happy with the NNI policy. Are you going to look into it again because they are Inuit owned companies as well but they're smaller than those bigger corporations. Are you going to take a look at them again to see whether they can have a separate policy for the smaller ones and a separate policy for the bigger corporations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I can understand the member's concern and we have been concerned as a government ourselves hearing it from the smaller communities that they have a problem with NNI.

Like I said before Mr. Chairman, we will be reviewing the NNI policy and we will be open to any suggestions as to how we can change NNI policies to assist the smaller enterprises in the communities and sometimes they have negotiated contracts.

And perhaps we have to take a look at it again to amend it to make sure that it is reflective of small communities or corporations. The member knows that during the territorial government days the smaller companies used to be given negotiated contracts to build houses. That is how the small companies grew.

But now they are not awarded contracts and the bigger ones aren't awarded contracts. And they are having problems now. Perhaps. So what we have to do is as a government we should be able to negotiate contracts. Maybe that is the best way to go about it.

To give the smaller companies a chance to be awarded contracts from the government. I have said numerous times we have to be able to talk about this whole problem as a government in order for it to work properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: You are finished on your supps. You have three more questions left. Thank you. Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we made recommendations to the minister as a housing task force. But the recommendations that we have made to the minister have not been acted on to date. We wanted to have the housing corporation go to the communities and hear the views of the communities in regards to housing.

They have not met with the concerns. The people are concerned about housing. But we have not heard from the housing corporation on how the people can be involved. And in regards to petroleum products, the Department of Sustainable Development and NTI worked together to lower the price of fuel but I couldn't understand why Sustainable Development and NTI took the initiative instead of the Petroleum Products Minister.

I felt that this was not done right and if there is going to be another increase in fuel oil, perhaps I think what the minister's department should do is if there is going to be another increase then her department should take the initiative to lower the fuel costs.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Unfortunately you are only able to make a statement as you have no questions left. Thank you for your statement. Moving on, next on our list for statements or questions. Actually this next member also has no questions left, but is able to make a statement. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Thompson as a minister I would like to ask the minister about Public Works & Services because this concerns my community. I would like to say that I support her department in regards to fuel delivery contracts in each community. Also in regards to fuel price increases in Nunavut. In our communities and in the north it is very cold and everything is very expensive. As well there is a high cost to run gas and electricity.

Sometimes it is very hard to try and pay your bills when it is so expensive. I also want to talk about housing. We know there is insufficient housing in Nunavut. I would want to know what plans other than the five year capital plan there is for housing. Do they plan to lease more houses. If the government has no money for housing, is it possible to get into partnerships with businesses, such as the Nunavut Development Corporation to build houses and to lease them.

I would like to ask the Minister of Housing if they could get some assistance from the people that have businesses in the communities. In her statement she said that she has some house leases. I wonder if as a government we would be able to lease more houses. At this time, Mr. Chairman, those are my comments. If possible perhaps I could take away a question from somebody else and then I could give away my question to somebody else later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What leadership is the minister providing on the rental review to the benefit of Nunavummiut...(interpretation

unavailable)...policy usually says that when someone gets paid by the carvings, they have to put a certain amount of money aside for rent. These are my comments Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is, has there been a change in the rental scale to date.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 25 communities in Nunavut, we work very closely with them. It is still a concern that we don't answer to all of them. But with respect to Mr. Alakannuark's comments and concerns, I met with the Housing Authorities in Rankin Inlet and we were dealing with that issue at that time. This was discussed at that meeting and this type of meeting has been ongoing. It will be dealt with within the housing organizations, then I will be passing their report on to members here in the House.

I think we will be meeting again some time in April as we deal with the rental scale issues. I will be consulting the members with respect to the rental scale after I meet again with the local housing authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: I apologize, members for the delayed translation. Mr. Alakannuark another question.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a supplementary to my question. I would like to ask a question in regards to the casual workers. They might be working for up to two weeks or four weeks but their rent has increased dramatically so anything you're going to be doing for that sort of stuff doesn't happen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman...(interpretation unavailable)...we have to meet with the local housing associations first and ask them what they would like to see and this review is taking place right now.

We dealt with local housing associations and we're going to have to bring these to the committee responsible for housing. Then there is also an issue where there is concern about people who are employed for a very short time and the amount they have to pay. I'm going to have to answer these types of questions but at this time we have not responded to this concerns to the members, but are reviewing these issues and then they will be brought forward to the committee meetings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Members' statements. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment to the minister from one of my ridings and this has to do with Nunavut as well. She has said that she's willing to come to some communities I represent and people from these communities are very thankful for the fact she's able to come into our communities.

There are two concerns with respect to housing, in the Keewatin region it's referred to housing in another way, if we say that there's one unit. If we talk about one unit that has three bedrooms we might refer to it as a two bedroom because it's a second smaller room in some of these houses. I think sometimes the kitchen and the living room is referred to as a separate room, when you're talking about the number of bedrooms.

Another concern I brought up here in the Assembly, home ownership, when one gets their own home, they are not educated enough as to how to do the maintenance. So more people would like to see courses and programs that could help them keep up their units and maintain their own units.

There's a problem in the communities because there's no store where they might be able to purchase materials for renovating their house for instance. And the people who own their own homes would like to have more places to call and find out as to where they can get maintenance materials. I have another question after this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: It is getting late. Members' questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with respect to the older units that have the same price as today's new units. What is the housing corporation doing about the older units and their high cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have discussed this issue. At this time we are coming up with a plan. If the units that are being rented at this time want to be purchased it is open. Sometimes when people are renting these older units they rented for so long maybe they are finished paying the mortgage.

There is a document that is written from our department that states what can be done in respect to renting units for a longer period of time and what they can do is purchase their units. There are some information items that they can use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again here with these departments to come back to the commitment of the government to devolution to the communities. I think there are many things done by the departments of PWS and Housing Corporation that could be

devolved to the community level and give people such as project managers to the communities and provide support to the communities only if they request it and if they need it.

I think it would be good in order to provide communities not just the decentralized communities but put jobs in all the communities. I think that having positions like that in the communities, these people play important roles in encouraging economic development in their communities. And to take advantage of other spin off opportunities as well. It is my hope that with the program review that is coming up that this is something that will be explored.

With housing and as the ministers and the members know, this is something I feel strongly about. I think that housing is one of the top two priorities of the government. It is nice to see finally again this year an increase in housing. Albeit you know I look back to pre-division, the NWT Housing Corporation capital was 50 million. Now we are back to 17 million dollars Nunavut wide.

I think, I don't know if you can fault the minister for that or not, but I think that is something that again, is a Cabinet priority that everyone needs to look at and address. All you hear is about the housing crisis that we face in Nunavut, now it is not only social housing and homeownership but it's into staff housing now and is affecting the ability of our government to be able to hire staff. So I think it's important and it should be looked at with more dedication from all the Cabinet.

I think the money that goes into the Housing Corporation for capital and the homeownership programs and any of the programs, we need to ensure that it is directed to the people that need the money and need the housing. The NDAP program I believe is a fine program but I don't think it targets the people that need housing.

Fifteen thousand dollars towards a mortgage, if that is all people need, a lot of times it is dual income families that don't really need that support. The people that really can't afford a house and don't have a stable or a strong income need housing and I think that's where our programs need to be focused. I will leave my comments at that, Mr. Chairman, I know my time is up and it is getting late. I will just ask a couple of questions.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister, when she talked about the housing that was put up, and I think she mentioned that there are another 50 public housing units going up this year. I know, given the limited resources that are out there and the ongoing costs, what type of criteria do you use when you decide on where you are going to allocate these housing units.

Also where or have they looked at any other alternatives besides just the construction of houses, leasing or anything like that first of all to housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The allocation of these houses is based on where the most need is. The Canadian average for housing is about 2.3 people per house and the Nunavut average is about 3.6 or something. So we have put the communities on a list where we find there is more need for housing based on how many people live in one house and that's how we are allocating the houses.

It is not based on criteria where we didn't do construction here this year so let's create employment and put a house there. It is based on how many people live in one unit. If we have 50 houses in one community and we have 400 people living in that community and there are a lot of people living in one house, it is based on that need, so it is most needed where we place those houses.

I think there was another question, but the other comments the member made, we are open to, and we have always had very good support from the regular members and I appreciate that from the members, especially Mr. Tootoo, who has always brought up the housing crisis into this House.

I have always had a lot of good support for our housing needs in this government. It is still one of the priorities of this government, unfortunately we can't just put all the capital dollars in housing. We have done what we can to build houses and the allocation of those units, as I said before is based on where it is most needed. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members' questions. Mr. Tootoo, try to limit your questions to one at a time, thank you .

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll use the second one I tried to sneak in as a supplementary question. I'm surprised Mr. Chairman, it must be late, that one slipped by you and the minister picked it up prior to you doing it.

I guess in instances where I know that 50 houses over 26 communities, we can't have houses in every community. Would the minister be willing to look at options to look at other alternatives other than construction in any community that may show an interest to provide other options for social housing other than construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: One of the options that I'm looking at is a rent to own program where we have a lot of renters that have been renting for years, and never owning their homes. If we can sell those units to those people and use that money to build new units we will do that. That is a program that we are working with right now.

The rent to own program is an option we're looking at, we can sell those older units to people who have been renting them. We can use that money within that community to build new units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe this is my second supplementary question. Before I go on with question I want to make an announcement for those of you who were not there at our supper break. It was a warming event that went on to celebrate Nancy Tupik's birthday tomorrow and I want to wish her a happy birthday and I also found out since that one of our pages is also having a birthday tomorrow, that's Sarah Currie, sitting down there to the left of Mr. Clerk. I'd like to wish them happy birthday.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister mentioned this rental owner program and I think this is a good idea. It's innovative and it's nice to see there's some innovation and looking at different ways to be able to alleviate some of the problems that we have. My only question or caution, based on my experience of what I've heard over the years with people that have gotten into the access program or the different housing programs, is that once they got into them, they realized there are a lot more costs to homeownership than there were in public housing or in social housing.

They didn't have to pay the utilities, they didn't have to worry about anything, maintenance or anything like that. I would ask the minister what steps are they going to be taking to ensure that those people that may look at getting into, especially since they are older units, are aware of the costs that may be involved in owning their own homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's why we have criteria for the NDAP program so that the people that buy homes will be able to afford the houses that they buy. It does cost money to operate a home, it's just a part of a growing society where the people will just have to learn to operate their homes, and one of the things my department is doing is an education campaign for the public.

So that the public realize how much it is to operate a home. And through that we should be able to educate some people to decide whether they want to own a home or not. It is part of our society being more independent and it is just part of a society that will have to bear with the pain in some cases of earning their own home.

To be more independent we have to promote that independence for the people. What we started is an education campaign that it cost money to operate their own home but we have homeowners in Nunavut. Quite a few homeowners. I believe the younger generation will get into home ownership a lot faster than the generation we are in. It is part of this growing society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Members you'll note the time that we allowed for this evening is up. Given the fact that we have only two members left to speak, do we have agreement or consensus that we should try to finish the minister this evening.

Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: We have agreement. Members' statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is still an important department. Public works and housing are pretty major and the people are waiting for the review of the rental scales.

A good leader would have fixed this up. When the minister is asked questions in the committee of the whole she doesn't always have responses to many of the questions that are posed. Perhaps her staff is not briefing her. Is there a problem with the leadership or the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The minister has stated that they do train staff for her department. Even though there was a training program, have you set up other training programs so that the staff will be updated on new things.

Chairperson: Madam Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My staff tries to keep an eye on the people who need further training but then there are a lot of other reasons. There are some that do not show up on time and because of that and through no fault of their own, they end up leaving our department. I like to see my staff coming to work on time and being punctual and having good work ethics.

Maybe that is why there has been turnover in our department. But if a staff person needs training we encourage our staff to do that. I could use an example of the Petroleum Products Division and staff members who went on a training program on contracting and contractual procedures. It is part of the retention of staff and reducing turnover, we are dealing with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Supplementary. We are being very conservative on our questions this time around. If I needed further training how would I go about accessing those programs. Do I take the initiative and ask to go into training or is it the responsibility of my boss to get the whole thing going so I can get this training. How does it work for anybody who wants training. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All government staff go through a performance appraisal on an annual basis or a semi-annual basis, and if they need further training on computing or finances or anything, it is their supervisor who goes through the weaknesses or strengths of each employee. If they want to take a finance training program for example, they can go through Arctic College, or if a lot of people on our staff needed computer training, they could do this.

For example, we sent some of our staff members from the outlying communities to take computer training for example. It is through this performance appraisal process that we find out if a staff person needs further training in relation to their job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This is a supplementary. The minister said that sometimes the staff members require further training after two years or so. Can they take annual training or do they have to wait two years before they go on to further training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a staff member, each member has different responsibilities. Some staff need to take further training on an annual basis, it depends on what their responsibilities are within the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Thank you. Members' statements or questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Her opening statements were very interesting. I would like to make some comments. I know this has affected my constituency regarding the petroleum products contracts. I have some constituents that weren't happy with the awarded contracts.

This is just what I have heard. That the Co-op put in a higher bid but there was a lot of concern about the contract that was awarded the work. I don't know if what is going around is true or correct, but these are concerns that have been brought to my attention.

The government is able to award contracts by sole source awards. There was some concern regarding an awarded contract. I know that you are able to award contracts to the higher bidders but....Those are my comments Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Members' questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have only three more questions, so I will use one of them for this minister. When a contract is offered and there are bids put in, are the contract amounts able to be published or are the amounts bid by the different companies confidential. I am wondering if we can get that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The bids that are put in are all different for contracts. And we don't award contracts just based on who is the lowest bidder.

We follow the NNI policy and if the individual is from that community, if the individual is Inuk, points are given and there are conditions that have to be followed and not just for petroleum products officials. Other officials go through the bids. They have other agencies working with them.

When a bid is put in the contractor is able to say whether that information should be kept confidential or not, and there is an Access to Information Act. So if somebody is interested in finding out that information they have to go through that act.

It was an RRP that was put out it wasn't a tender. We were able to identify how much we were going to spend. For instance 300 thousand for a certain project. So it is different from a tender for instance for building homes and houses. Tenders and RFPs don't depend just on the lowest bidder. There are conditions that we have to follow and we are not able to release that information. But through an act they can try to be retrieved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated that the contractors or the companies that put in bids are...this is supplementary to my question. I am not just supporting the ones that did not receive the contract. I am not taking sides or anything but I am just raising these questions because concerns have been brought to me by my constituency and when the contract was awarded did they not give it to the former contractor because of their performance with the contract earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contractor that helped with the contract, the former contractors it didn't have anything to do with the their performance or how they dealt with the contract that was a problem.

They did a good job and we didn't take them out because they didn't do their job right. When we looked at the bids and they were all reviewed and we looked at all the

contracts, well the individuals that are in charge of looking at the contracts were looking at them, I wasn't involved with it but there are procedures they have to follow when awarding a contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a supplementary, my last question. The minister just stated, I'm not really sure, but the minister outlined the procedures that they follow. It seems like she said it is not just petroleum products people that are involved but there are also other people involved.

It seems to me like the people administering that process must look at or evaluate the people that are trying to get the contracts to see if they are doing the job properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's still going to be appeals from those people who were not awarded the contracts.

So we will be looking at appeals, we will be looking at the people that appealed, I could use this as an example. If I was to build a house and I was awarded a contract to build a house I could look into or evaluate those people that have been doing the contract for say fifty years to find out how those people that were given the contract for fifty years did it the right way.

What we do is use the NNI Policy and there are some contracts that are open to the public, for example to build houses or to provide services such as fuel delivery. Yes, I understand the member's comments and question. We could have just given the same people the contracts but it had to be a request for proposals after about five years to have it open to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. I have nobody else left on my list, or maybe I do. Just one moment Mr. Arvaluk, I realize that you have a question, at this point I think the pages have been here long enough that they are falling asleep. So we will allow the pages to go home. You are excused.

>> *Applause*

Pages, tomorrow at 1.30 back in the chamber. Thank you. Members' questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are beginning to enjoy ourselves, it is quite late. I would like to ask a question along the same lines as Mr. Irqittuq's question. They had to freight some fuel to Igloolik by air. Who paid for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This didn't proceed. What we did was buy it from the local company. As far as I understand they were supposed to freight it to Igloolik, but there wasn't going to be a fuel delivery truck so what we did was purchase the trucks from the local contractor that were already in place. We ran into trouble with that so we had some money to deal with this.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you bought it as a government, after you purchased those, the people that didn't win the contract, the amount they received and the amount that was lost, what was the difference.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't provide the number, so I can't answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand and I appreciate that. However can you tell us at least a percentage as to the difference between the winning bid and the losing bid after the purchase of the truck to award the contractor the winning bid. What percentage did it go over the losers bid at the end. Or will that be taken into consideration before you start awarding contracts for those contractors without any equipment. Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very interesting this leadership review. I was just reminded that we are not reviewed on the technical aspects or programs of our departments but on our leadership. So I can say that under my leadership I said the fuel delivery should go efficiently and start November 1st and that happened and I could say that happened under good leadership of mine. I don't have the percentage with me right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister. Are there any further questions to minister Thompson. Are there any further questions or statements. We have completed housing and DPW. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Members I have one announcement here which is in reference to the Clyde River trip which was for tomorrow which is cancelled and is scheduled for Sunday. That is providing we are finished tomorrow. Anybody that is interested can speak to Mr. Iqaqrialu and the proposed time on Sunday is 10 am to leave and returning at six. And we will resume our leadership forum tomorrow at 1:30 in the chamber. Thank you and good night.

>> *Leadership Forum adjourned at 8.37 p.m.*

