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Tuesday November 20, 2001

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

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*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
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the Nunavut Power Corporation*

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(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

Uriash Puqiqnak
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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

*Minister Responsible for Nunavut
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Public Works and Services*

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(Baker Lake)

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday November 20, 2001**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, , Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, 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.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ublakkut. Good afternoon Mr. Premier, Members. Before we return to the Orders of the Day I would like to acknowledge and greet some very special guests that are here from Manitoba for a few days of meetings with various ministers here in our government. A number of these people have dealt with us and met with many of us over the last number of years regarding power line discussions between Manitoba and Nunavut and also road links between the two regions.

I would like to give a special welcome to the Honourable Jean Friesen, the Deputy Premier and Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Welcome to the Assembly.

>>*Applause*

Another good friend the Honourable Eric Robinson the Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs.

>>*Applause*

The ADM for Tourism for Manitoba, Hubert Meseman.

>>*Applause*

The DM of Transportation, Andy Horosko.

>>*Applause*

Special Assistant to the Minister Mr. Friesen, Val Bingeman.

>>*Applause*

David Chadwick, Special Assistant to Minister Robinson.

>>Applause

A long time friend to the people of Nunavut and also to the Northwest Territories, Ross Thompson, with Community and Northern Development.

>>Applause

Somebody that is no stranger to many of us here, Richard Connelly, he is the Liaison Officer between Nunavut and Manitoba.

>>Applause

Last but not least, another good friend and a long time friend to the Keewatin and Nunavut, Jack Wilson of Manitoba Hydro.

>>Applause

Welcome to the Gallery and welcome to Nunavut. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 100 - 1(5): Extension of Workers' Compensation Board Intergovernmental Agreement

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the Legislative Assembly that on November the 13th, the Honourable Joe Handley and I signed an amendment to the intergovernmental agreement on a shared Workers' Compensation Board. This amendment will keep this shared Board together to serve both employers and employees in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

The last agreement, which was negotiated prior to April 1, 1999, had the shared Board as an interim arrangement that would come to an end by the end of this year. The Government of Nunavut undertook a consultation with Workers' Compensation Board stakeholders in Nunavut and it soon became clear that a shared Board was in the best interests of both employer and employee groups in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, from both an economic and service standpoint, the arrangement allows the Workers' Compensation Board to continue to be a cost effective organization. The Workers' Compensation Board is committed to reducing accidents in the workplace, but should an accident occur, it is also committed to providing quality rehabilitation and fair benefits to the injured worker.

Mr. Speaker, sound management of the Board has resulted in the highest Yearly Maximum Insurable Remuneration paid for injured workers in any jurisdiction across

Canada. It is also has the lowest assessment rates for employers. This is indeed good news for both employers and employees and for investment in our two territories.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Minister Handley for coming to Nunavut to sign the renewed agreement on the shared Workers' Compensation Board and for the opportunity to discuss Workers' Compensation Board issues during a joint ministers' meeting on the Workers' Compensation Board that I hosted here in Iqaluit.

Over the next few years we look forward to seeing an increasing presence of Workers' Compensation Board staff based in Nunavut to serve Nunavut based employers and employees. Mr. Speaker, later today at the appropriate time I will be tabling the Annual Report for the Workers' Compensation Board for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 101 - 1(5): Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly that the Department of Community Government and Transportation has secured 645 thousand dollars over the next three years from the Canadian Coast Guard for the establishment of Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary units in Nunavut.

Over the next three years, we hope to establish 30 units throughout Nunavut. These Community Units will consist of two or three local boats, with five or six trained members per vessel.

(interpretation ends) Each vessel will be outfitted with all required safety equipment as well as all necessary search and rescue response gear. All members will receive training and will learn key concepts of conducting marine search and rescue.

This training will also include an important component that identifies and records local conditions, concerns and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. Every community in Nunavut will benefit from the program's key components, which include:

- Insurance coverage for each Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary responding vessel;
- Insurance coverage for each Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary responding member;
- Reimbursement of certain operational costs;
- Local training development that has international recognition;
- Assistance from and co-management with the Federal Rescue Coordination Centres on all Nunavut Marine search and rescues.

Mr. Speaker, we have established the following goals for the development of this program:

- The hiring of a local 'Arctic Operations Officer' to work with communities during the development phase;
- The creation of a Nunavut Specific Marine Search and Rescue Training Manual.
- The development of community based training;
- Increased communication capabilities and awareness throughout Nunavut;
- The development of on going program maintenance for long term marine search and rescue response.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, it is through third party funding such as this that the Department of Community Government and Transportation is working to increase the funds it has available to it for the communities. These new Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Units will make marine search and rescue throughout Nunavut more effective and will contribute to the safety of Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statement. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 279 - 1(5): Suicide of Taloyoak Youth

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with a picture in my right hand to make a statement. At the end of my statement you will understand why I have this picture and what I am talking about.

Mr. Speaker, there are young people out there or people out there in Nunavut who don't seem to be afraid of ending their lives. Yesterday my colleague Mr. Anawak made a members' statement on suicide. I don't want to talk about suicide two days in a row but my community has been affected by suicide. When there's a suicide the parents and the family go through a hard time. Not just the family or just the community but all the communities of Nunavut are affected.

Mr. Speaker, in my community of Taloyoak there was a suicide just last October. I was wondering if I could talk about this. I got the permission from the parent to make a statement on this and I got approval from the parents and that's why I'm making my member's statement today.

Mr. Speaker, last May when we held a session in Cambridge Bay, a few young kids from Taloyoak came to be the pages for two days. Once the session was over, on the last day

of our session they took pictures of the speaker, my community pages and myself. I have that picture with me and here it is.

One of the pages, Jayco, on October 25 committed suicide in Taloyoak at the age of fifteen years old. It was just twenty six days prior to his sixteenth birthday when he committed suicide. He did not make it to his sixteenth birthday. He was our page, he worked with us and he would deliver our water during the session. He was our page and we had more opportunity to use him but he cut his life short.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the parents and send my condolences to the parents and sympathy. I would like to tell the young people that we care for them. Please don't be alone, don't feel alone. There are people out there that you can talk to who are just waiting for you to approach them. They are your friends, even us Members of the Legislative Assembly, fellow human beings and we're just waiting for our young people to approach us.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And also during the appropriate time I will be asking questions about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Member's Statement 280 - 1(5): Expansion of Kitikmeot Boarding Home-
Yellowknife**

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the sixth of August of the past summer in Yellowknife, I had occasion to visit the Kitikmeot Boarding Home in Yellowknife. I had lunch at the Boarding Home, met with the staff and toured the facility.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to Kitikmeot Health and Social Services, the staff of the Kitikmeot Boarding Home and especially the Government of Nunavut for providing a good service to Kitikmeot in Yellowknife, NWT.

Mr. Speaker, having had the privilege of first hand experience visiting the home I now realize that the Kitikmeot Boarding Home is too small to facilitate the demand placed upon the home by the Kitikmeot residents. There have been times when medical patients from Kitikmeot are required to stay at other places in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, we should at this point in time look at the possibility of expansion of the boarding home in Yellowknife. It needs to be expanded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 281 - 1(5): Manitoba Delegation Acknowledgement

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. I thought I was going to go last. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to thank the members of the delegation from Manitoba. They are very friendly and everybody in the Keewatin area knows them. There is a good working relationship between the Keewatin and Manitoba.

Usually they send representatives over to the Keewatin area and I would like to say that there is an excellent working relationship between Manitoba and the Keewatin. Richard Connelly has worked extremely hard so that there is consultation between Manitoba and the Keewatin and I would like to acknowledge him. He is very well known by the mayors in the Keewatin area and by the community representatives. He understands Inuktitut I believe and he is also my in-law.

He is part of the family. I would like to at this time to thank the delegation from Manitoba for taking the time to come up here even though they live far away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 282 - 1(5): Clyde River High School Graduation and Recognition of Qikiqtarjuaq Residents

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all go through challenging times in our life and I would like to recognize Jake Jaypoody for completing his Grade 12, he is from Clyde River. I was invited to the graduation ceremony but I wasn't able to attend due to other commitments. I am sure the Minister of Education is extremely proud of this young fellow. Ever since grade twelve was put into smaller communities there have been many graduations.

It is something that we are very proud of. Also to make another comment. The people of Qikiqtarjuaq are people that I am very proud of. They are extremely receptive and friendly and because of their hospitality I am able to work harder when I am in the House. Even though I am not from Qikiqtarjuaq I would like to thank the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq for opening up their arms. I can say I will help them to the best of my ability and that includes all the residents of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statement. Mr. McLean.

Members' Statement 283 - 1(5): Relationships of Kivalliq Businesses & Mayors with Manitoba

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to welcome the Manitoba delegation to Nunavut again. We keep seeing them a lot of them lately and they are more than welcome to come back.

Over the last several years, members of the Kivalliq business community, mayors and yourselves have been having numerous meetings and trade missions with the Nunavut Government. Back and forth building strong trading ties and friendly relationships.

Mr. Speaker, people in Manitoba and the Kivalliq have a strong relationship over a long number of years and wish to continue this. You yourself Mr. Speaker, have been one of the strongest advocates for a highway and power grid linking Nunavut.

Also Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask our government to work harder in developing these dreams of the Kivalliq people and also look at building a stronger tourism relationship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Great statement. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 284 - 1(5): Kivalliq MLAs & Mayors Meet Manitoba Delegation

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in September my fellow colleagues, Manitok Thompson, Kevin O'Brien, Glenn McLean and James Arvaluk had the opportunity to travel to Churchill Manitoba to participate in meetings with the Kivalliq Mayors and the Mayors representing the northern communities in the Province of Manitoba.

Also in attendance were the Manitoba Premier, Gary Doer, and his cabinet colleagues, Minister Jean Friesen and Minister Steve Austin and Minister Eric Robinson. In addition to these delegates were representatives from industry, trade and commerce from both Manitoba and Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Churchill Manitoba holds special significance for me as I attended school there in the mid-60's as did many other leaders in the north. It was nostalgic to go back and visit places and people that I knew years ago. I will digress a bit here. As I pointed out, when I was in Churchill, all my points of reference for my school were all gone. The Samuel Hearne Hall, the Duke of Edinburgh, all the F12 Upper and F12 Lower and all these places were gone from the map.

But it was nice to go back. It was a welcome opportunity acquainting myself with the new people in new jobs and to build on existing relationships. Mr. Speaker, the meetings

in Manitoba offered my colleagues and myself the opportunity to discuss with Kivalliq Mayors their concerns and their priorities, which have been moved forward to this government for review and discussion.

Mr. Speaker, the meeting in Churchill was intended to further develop the relationship that Manitoba and Nunavut have in a wide variety of areas. These include tourism, trade, commerce, joint studies, projects such as the hydro line feasibility. I asked my colleague responsible for power whether we were starting the transmission line tomorrow after his meeting with them, and the Manitoba/Nunavut road.

This relationship has existed in one form or another for many, many years. Last April a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Kivalliq Mayors and the northern Manitoba Mayors in Brandon Manitoba, that is intended to lend support for mutually beneficial issues and to demonstrate the spirit of partnership and co-operation.

We have expressed our concerns to Manitoba on this trade and we all realize for trade routes to be most beneficial, they must travel two ways and we all have taken steps to achieve this goal. I am confident that the Memoranda of Understanding that have been signed and those being developed by our two governments will be beneficial to all Nunavummiut and to all Manitobans.

Mr. Speaker, Manitoba has always been and will remain a very important trading partner with Nunavut and we as a government should be continuously looking to enhance the quantity and quality of this kind of multi-jurisdictional commerce. The Town of Churchill and the Province of Manitoba were exceptional hosts and it was appreciated by our entire delegation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 285 - 1(5): Closure of Nanisivik Mine & Arctic Bay Impact

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first of all like to welcome the delegation and Mr. Robinson. I believe I worked with one of his relatives.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of my constituents in Arctic Bay. Earlier this month, we heard the news that the Nanisivik Mine will close down permanently in September 2002, four years earlier than planned.

This news has caused tremendous concern and uncertainty in my community, Mr. Speaker. One of the concerns is that of transportation. As members know, we have been seeing steady cutbacks in the availability of scheduled air service in the High Arctic and the Kivalliq.

With the closure of Nanisivik mines, we fear that jet service to Iqaluit will be terminated. The landing strip in Arctic Bay is not adequate to serve the needs of the community, and we do not know what plans are in place to ensure regular passenger transport and cargo services to the community.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pushing for the government to make clear what its plans are for the future of the mine site and the community of Arctic Bay. This month's news makes it more imperative than ever that the government act decisively, because time is rapidly running out.

Mr. Speaker, I have called for the immediate establishment of a high-level working group to address this issue. The group must include representation from the community of Arctic Bay. I will be travelling to Arctic Bay in early December, after our Session is concluded. I want to take this opportunity today to publicly invite and urge the Ministers of Sustainable Development and Community Government & Transportation to accompany me to the community.

It is critical that the residents hear first-hand what plans their government has to ensure that transportation links with the rest of the territory are maintained, that the environmental clean-up proceed on track, and that all efforts are made to assist the community in planning for the post-Nanisivik era. Thank you, Mr. Speaker that is my statement.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 286 - 1(5): Iqaluit District Education Authority Meeting

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous efforts of the Iqaluit District Education Authority over the last year and I extend my recognition to the members of the IDEA and to all the teachers and support staff, especially those at Nakasuk School who have had a very trying year, for all their continued dedication.

Last night was the occasion of the Iqaluit District Education Authority's Annual General Meeting. It was heartening to see the Minister of Education and members of his department in attendance as well as Mr. Picco, the MLA for Iqaluit East.

A Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Tootoo: We heard some very frank discussion on some issues that are currently facing teachers in Iqaluit. The need for Inuktitut language programming at all grade levels is critical to our future and to meet the objectives of the Bathurst Mandate.

Concerns were raised about the high drop out rates in Grade 10 in Inukshuk School. We also heard about the increasing difficulties of teachers facing large and ever expanding class sizes. Mr. Speaker, when teachers have a class of 28 to 30 pupils, that teacher cannot provide a quality education, no matter how hard they try.

Despite repeated requests and well-founded arguments for additional teaching staff, the solutions to date have not been adequate. There is a risk Mr. Speaker, that this situation here in Iqaluit could possibly become the norm for other communities as they see their populations rise as well. I urge the Department of Education to continue working towards solutions to meet these pressing concerns and I look forward to meeting with the department and the District Education Authority representatives to work towards resolving these issues.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of those involved in providing education to our youth and I encourage them to keep up the good work and not to lose heart. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 287-1(5): Expansion of Kitikmeot Boarding Home in Yellowknife

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to make a statement and support my fellow Kitikmeot colleague. I've gone to the Kitikmeot Boarding Home a number of times and visited those who've gone to the hospital. They've mentioned to me a number of times that there's overcrowding.

Those that go into the Boarding Home from the Kitikmeot say the facility is small in terms of rooms because it is used by all of those in the Kitikmeot. At times it becomes full and other accommodations have to be provided. In Kugluktuk we got together to discuss the issues of the Boarding Home in Yellowknife. It is not roomy any more. There are many that go into that facility and once there's no room then they go into other First Nation's facilities. I'd like to mention the workers try very hard.

There need to be more Inuit working in that facility because our dialects are very different. For instance, the Gjoa Haven dialect and Kugluktuk dialects are not the same. This needs to be rectified. People from Kugluktuk say there need to be plans to enlarge this facility. We'll have more on this later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 288-1(5): AGM of Iqaluit District Education Authority

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night with Mr. Tootoo I also attended the AGM of the Iqaluit Education Council. Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit DEA is fortunate to have several long term members like Mr. Josie Papatsie, and chairperson Cathy Smith who bring continuity as well as corporate values to the association.

Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to acknowledge the attendance of our Minister of Education, the Honourable Peter Kilabuk. The IDEA as well as the Iqaluit Principals gave an overview of the past school year successes as well as Mr. Speaker, explaining some of the pressures facing them. There were some excellent discussions on the pupil/teacher ratio as well as some of the constraints placed on staff with the increased enrolment in Iqaluit because, as you know Mr. Speaker, of the increase in population.

Mr. Speaker, the IDEA plays a significant role in our community. This past year it has been very stressful for the IDEA in several different issues that they had to deal with including Mr. Speaker, a change in the Iqaluit school boundaries. Mr. Speaker, many of the parents and teachers attending the AGM gave some excellent constructive ideas on how to relieve some of the pressures often facing the teachers as well as the classroom situation as Mr. Tootoo rightly pointed out earlier, with the number of students in the classroom.

Mr. Speaker, we look forward to continuing the dialogue with Minister Kilabuk as well as the IDEA over the coming weeks of these and other issues with the Iqaluit Education Authority.

I want to point out Mr. Speaker very quickly that education councils in all of our communities are volunteer boards. And these volunteer boards put in a lot of effort and time without much public fanfare. I think I would like to take the opportunity for you in the House to join me not only to thank the Iqaluit Education Authority volunteers but all volunteers in Nunavut who put in so much time above and beyond the call of duty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I don't recognize too many people from my community in the Legislative Assembly and it is a happy day when one or two of them show up. Today I am blessed to have a close personal friend and Deputy Mayor of Baker Lake, Joe Niego.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery Joe. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because I don't get too many opportunities to recognize visitors in the gallery, I like to take the opportunity any time I get a chance. I would like to recognize Jeannie Ugluk from Taloyoak. She is here escorting her child.

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I have recognized the Manitoba delegation already, I would like to recognize them on behalf of the government. Especially the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs Jean Friesen and Eric Robinson. Even though there is a session happening in the Manitoba legislature, they are here to meet with us. So I am very happy. They have been very supportive in our meetings and I am very appreciative of them being here. I would also like to recognize their staff and welcome them back to Iqaluit. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the basketball team from Arctic Bay. They have been here for quite a while and I think they are leaving tomorrow. I would like to welcome Manasie Kiluqisaq, Daryl Levi, Nathaniel Charinard, Japie Levi, Roland Tuktu, Tom Naqitarviq, Darren Ujukuluk, Peter Tapani, and Naisana Ejesiak. I'd like to welcome them to the Gallery.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've never had the opportunity to welcome non-native people. So I would to take that opportunity for the first time. I would like to welcome the Manitoba delegation to Iqaluit.

I am hoping they would consider the Baffin when they are building the grid line and the highway. I know I was wondering if they could build a highway through the ocean. So therefore I too would like to recognize and acknowledge them and I am sure they will consider my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker. Although they were already recognized, I would like to recognize a person from Arctic Bay. Manisa Kilukisiaq. I wanted to recognize him because he is the son of my older brother's son. My older brother has relocated to Arctic Bay so I would like to recognize Manisa Kiluksiaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to recognize some of the members from Manitoba that are here visiting in our Capital. It is great to see them here. I would especially like to recognize someone that I never realized was a relative of mine until a couple of years ago and that is the Honourable Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Eric Robinson. He calls my uncle his brother, so I guess that makes him my uncle.

I would like to welcome you here to our territory and our Capital and also a special welcome to Richard Connelly from Rankin Inlet and myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on Mr. McLean's earlier member's statement, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery the official from Manitoba Hydro that I have had the opportunity to meet with several times now over the past year and a half, Mr. Wilson. Welcome to the gallery.

I would like to point out to you Mr. Speaker, who have been working very hard on the Kivalliq Transmission line, that our discussions were quite fruitful this morning and I would also like to welcome at the same time, Mr. Eric Robinson. It is refreshing Mr. Speaker, to have the opportunity to speak with someone that is dealing with a lot of the same issues in the northern or rural area, from a southern jurisdiction, like Manitoba.

So that was refreshing. I think we are able to work on a plan incorporating the hostel in Churchill in what we are trying to attempt in Rankin. So I found the discussions very good and the knowledge of Mr. Robinson quite refreshing in that context. So I would like to welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 282 - 1(5): Income Support Clients and Hours of Employment

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for making me go first. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education since he is responsible for income support. The clients on income support have no other choice because there are no job opportunities in the communities.

I know that you are reviewing income support. The clients are eligible for support if they have fourteen hours of work. I was wondering how and when this came out, having to work fourteen hours. I would like that clarified. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a point. Not everyone that is on income support has to work fourteen hours. But if the recipient is on a training program in lieu of receiving income support, they have to have the fourteen hours. For some of them there are less hours as agreed to between the two parties.

I would like to thank the member for bringing this up because there has been a lot of misunderstanding about how this works. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a supplementary comment. Some of the students work until they are about 18 years old in order to upgrade their skills. Sometimes if there is room at Arctic College, they have to do some upgrading. If a student is upgrading, is that 40 hours included if they are in a training program. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These are two different topics. For a student who is upgrading to complete his GED there would be an agreement between the two departments and this student would get student income. If there was an agreement, the number of hours would be included in there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In my first question I made a comment about the 40 hours and the minister responded by saying that these are two separate items. Could you elaborate on the difference between that. That is directed to the Minister of Education. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Education, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could use an example. If we are basing it on our 40 hours, every time there is a training program there would be an agreement between the two parties. It would be an agreement between the employer and the department.

If you are going to be taking out people on the land and hunt for the community, that 40 hours would be included in there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there was an agreement between the employer and the department how would that work. If I want to make an application to social services and if there was an agreement between the employer and the Department of Health and Social Services, how would it work. I would like the minister to elaborate on that further. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier there would be an agreement between the two parties or maybe it would be clearer if I said it would be an understanding between the two.

It would be an agreement for the student to complete a training program. If both parties agree, then it would be an agreement between the two parties themselves on whether it is 30 or 40 hours. Let's say it is 40 hours, then the employer and the recipient would know that once they complete their forty hours the recipient has the ambition to go into a training program, and then the student would get financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 283 - 1(5): Meetings with NTI on NNI Appeals Board

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister Responsible for Public Works & Services. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I was asking her how things were going with the NNI Appeals Review Committee and she indicated that they had been pretty much at a stalemate.

She also indicated that they had held a number of meetings to try and resolve some of these issues. I would like to ask the minister if any of those meetings that were held, if they were just held between departmental officials, or did she participate in any of those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those meetings were held by departmental officials from my department and I also met with the political bodies of NTI and the President Paul Quassa. I met with him in my office concerning this. So my staff have met with him and I have also met with the NTI President on this issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the minister has also been involved in some of these meetings. I guess I am just trying to find ways, as I know that there are a number of appeals out there and it would be really nice for the sake of those people that have appeals to get these issues resolved.

I think, as in anything, the best way to resolve an issue is to get everyone at the table at the same time. So I would like to ask the minister if she would be willing to commit to personally, along with her staff, the staff from NTI and some elected officials from NTI that are there right now, to sit down and try and iron out all together the differences that they have on the terms of reference that seem to be the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been over two years that I have been working with their organization and departmental staff. But we have never been able to come to an agreement with the NTI delegation.

The government deals with all the contracts and they hold the money that would be distributed for the contracts. We have had meetings, myself I have met with the past President Paul Quassa, but at this time the position of President is up for election, and we have come to a blockage. It would be nice if we could come to an agreement with NTI.

These are government dollars we are talking about they are not NTI's money. In regards to the appeals board, we have set up the terms of reference already, from the Department of Public Works. If we could get NTI to understand where we are coming from we would be able to come to a solution.

But NTI is concerned about all aspects and would like to be included in all the work that Public Works & Services is doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I asked the minister and again, I would ask the minister, maybe once after December 10 when they have a new President elected, if she would be willing to commit to sit down with her staff, with the new President of NTI and their staff and try to sort out this problem.

As she said, it has been over two years that they have been arguing and haggling over this. It has to end sometime and the only way you are going to do it I think, is if everyone is sitting at the table and you are not getting, the staff are telling me one thing, and this is what one side is taking forward and the other staff are telling the other politicians something else.

If everyone is all together at once, and there at the same time, then there won't be differences of opinion that could be very easily straightened out if everyone is in the same room at the same time. I am going to ask the minister again if she would be willing to commit to doing that once they have a new President elected for NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am always willing to talk to any political body if it involves my department. But in this case the money, the capital dollars, are coming from the government. It is a public government, it is a public body, and if we started getting capital dollars from NTI, then maybe we could start talking about design of contracts and other things.

Right now, at this time, all the capital dollars are from the Nunavut Government, they are agreed upon by this body and the appeals board mandate is only to hear appeals according to the NNI Policy. Right now NTI wants to be involved in the design of the building, in the award of the building, in the administration, in the interpretation of a contract and at this time I am not willing to expand the appeals board's mandate.

Because 100% of the capital dollars come from this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wasn't asking the minister for the details, as she said yesterday that's her understanding of what the problems or what the roadblock is. I don't know if that is the same understanding that NTI has.

All I am asking is if the minister would be willing to commit to sit down with everybody in the same room and try and get together and work together to overcome these differences and agree to terms of reference. I mean what will it take to say come on to NTI to agree to these terms of reference to get the appeals board set up so that we can hear the appeals. You know some of them are in the second year now.

How long do those people with appeals have to wait. I think it is in their interests and everybody's interest that has appeals out there that this gets sorted out and I think the best way to do it is to have everyone sitting down at the same table. I am not disagreeing or agreeing with what the minister is saying is the problem, but it's not going to get solved

unless everyone is sitting down in the same room to try and resolve it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The only people that I am willing to meet with are the political body and I have done that. Because I will not be directed by somebody else's officials on how this appeals board should be set up.

I have asked my staff to meet with the officials of NTI. They have talked to each other and they have a disagreement. I am always willing to talk to the political people, I've done that, and I've talked to the NTI President. Elections are coming up. Whoever is the President if they want to talk to me, I will talk with them.

But I just had meetings with my officials and I'll see what the outcome is of those meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 284-1(5): WCB Services in Nunavut

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board regarding his Minister's Statement.

I was hoping that the Nunavut residents would be focused on because we've had problems in the past because the WCB office was too far away from our communities. So we really have to pay particular attention to this so they can feel at home and so they can welcome the clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I would say to the member is that the Workers' Compensation Board has staff based in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet and there are plans to expand their staffing levels in the next fiscal year. The staffing based in Nunavut they plan on expanding that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Headquarters is in Rankin. But we have problems and concerns about the people of Nunavut. Are they going to be dealt with. Will they be properly serviced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the current manager of the Nunavut operation for the Workers' Compensation Board is based here in Iqaluit. They provide services like I said through the Iqaluit and the Rankin office for all of Nunavut right now. There may always be issues surrounding some of the Workers' Compensation Board services but there are structures for appeals of whatever decisions are made. Whatever problems there are in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understand the response. Was that a yes or a no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it was a yes. Thank you.

Speaker: I guess it was a yes. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 285 -1(5): Plans for Expansion of Kitikmeot Boarding Home

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a statement about the Kitikmeot Boarding home. I would like to direct my question to the Department of Health and Social Services. This is not a new problem. Last year we also talked about the Boarding home. I want to ask if the minister has any plans to expand the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I was in Kugluktuk with the member a couple of weeks ago, the issue of the boarding home in Yellowknife came up, not only in our meeting with the Mayor and Council but also in the public meeting.

At that time I confirmed to the Mayor and Council that we are involved in a review through an RFP on the contract in Yellowknife. That would entail looking at the facility itself, the function of the facility as well as the people using it. That would then determine Mr. Speaker, if an expansion was necessary or needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the response, it seems like there are two points here. He seems to be referring to the contract but I am speaking about an expansion. Would that be in the contract then. Which contract are you referring to. Is the contract part of the building or part of the Health Department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, part of the work that we are doing on the boarding home in the Kitikmeot which is located as you know, in Yellowknife, is to see the amount of patients that would be going to Yellowknife.

So in two years, when the new facility is in place in Cambridge Bay, part of the reason for putting that facility in Cambridge Bay was to eliminate some of the travel that is occurring right now from the Kitikmeot to Yellowknife. With the facility in Cambridge Bay we would expect that the number of people going to Yellowknife and staying at the facility would decrease. Therefore and thus, Mr. Speaker, we need to be able to track those numbers and then extrapolate from that where we are going with the amount of people that would be staying in the facility.

So at the present time I am not doing an actual expansion plan, because we first have to ascertain how many people would be using this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always expressed this point. It has been two years since we have first discussed this. Two years is a long time to wait for an expansion or to get a facility into Cambridge Bay. We should be thinking of the needs of the Kitikmeot people today. We have to make the patients feel at home.

So is this going to be in the contract so that we can expand the present boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard earlier in the member's statement about the services that were being offered in the boarding home and the good work that was being done there. What we do on a regular basis Mr. Speaker, and we have been doing it in Yellowknife, is get feedback from the patients.

And there have been concerns, as the member has pointed out, with overcrowding at certain times in the facility. Part of the review that we are doing right now on this contract is to look at that. To see indeed, if there is a need for an expansion of beds and so on. But at the same time we have to do it in the context of what would be happening with the other facility that is coming forward.

So Mr. Speaker, I can't say right now that we are going to actually expand the facility because as you know, the facility is not owned by the Government of Nunavut, we are doing it through a contractor, the owner of the building. Mr. Speaker, we are in a position right now where we only own actually one boarding home facility and that's the one here in Iqaluit, which is leased from the Baffin Education Board, the student hostel.

The rest are leased premises through the contract that we have for boarding patients, whether that is in Edmonton or in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that his reply of two years is too long. How can you rectify the problem with the overcrowding in the boarding home. Because two years is still a long time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am trying to explain. Maybe I'll start one more time. Mr. Speaker, we are doing a review right now. The tender has closed on the reviewing of the boarding home facility in Yellowknife.

That leads to an opportunity for a possible expansion of the number of beds available. It may not be the same facility that we are going to be using. It depends on whom the contractor is that may eventually win the contract.

So if that was the case Mr. Speaker, there may be an additional number of beds. We would have to look at what our needs are as a government. How many patients would be going to the Lena Pederson home. It is very difficult for me Mr. Speaker, for me to put extra beds in when at this point in time we don't know what number of beds are needed.

We also have to take in context Mr. Speaker the opportunity of the facility that will be going to Cambridge Bay. You can't do both in isolation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 286-1(5): Specific Initiatives for Youth of Nunavut

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Speaker, in his department what specific initiatives is the minister currently undertaking to support youth in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his question. We all try to think of ways to support the youth in Nunavut and undertake different initiatives. But in our department at the moment the budget needs to be approved and that is what we will have to look at in order to deal with the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in what ways is the minister working with his colleagues to help construct recreational facilities for youth in our communities so that they'll have a place to go. In what ways is the minister working with his Cabinet colleagues to help construct youth facilities and what are their plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to his question about the recreational facilities, Community Government & Transportation is responsible for those construction of those.

In regards to the youth programs we don't deal with the construction of facilities. So that is not within my mandate. Perhaps that question could be posed to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister earlier on if he is working with his Cabinet colleagues so that they can make goals and objectives for the youth. Mr. Speaker, how exactly is the minister's department working with the Department of Health and Social Services to address the crisis of youth suicides.

I mentioned this in my Member' Statement earlier on. These things touch on all the social issues. So I was wondering if the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is working with Department of Health and Social Services and what their goals are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): With respect to your questions, our department last year worked with the Department of Health and Social Services on suicide issues and also with the Minister of Education. We worked with them so they could deal with the social issues in the schools. Those are the two main issues that I have worked on with the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his earlier response he said that funding has been approved for the youth programs. Can you tell me what your department has expended on youth initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): When we start dealing with the Main Estimates I am sure that you can ask that question at the appropriate time. So I cannot respond to that question at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 287-1(5): Review of NNI Policy Completion

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Public Works. The Manitoba delegation must understand that is consensus government and we are not the opposition. This is consensus government. You look at a little uncomfortable over there but if you want to be on our side just feel free to come sit over here.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that little bit of time.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk about NNI over the last two years and I for one on the initial set up was involved in NNI. We took it into the committee of the whole and we debated it for a whole afternoon. I think we were genuinely interested in working with NTI on the NNI Policy.

But over the last two and a half years myself, as a former businessman, listening to various concerns and the pros and cons of the NNI, I am wondering if it is serving us as well as we think it should. My first question today is, I know the minister is doing a review of the NNI. Can she tell me when it is going to be available to the House. Thank you.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even in a consensus government we have heated debates and that's just part of government. I could say that NNI has really improved the Inuit businesses and Inuit labour in our territory. We have done well on that. We are doing a review on the NNI right now and I couldn't tell you when it is going to be done, I don't have that information right now but we are doing a review of the NNI policy.

I have had a lot of positive comments from local businesses that would like more Inuit labour, and I think it has done some of its job. I know that in the last few years, the companies that are contracting are starting to hire more Inuit and trying to train more Inuit because of the NNI policy. The only problem that we are having is the appeals board, it should be just following the NNI policy.

NTI may have concerns about design and award and other things. That's the only area that we are not agreeing with in terms of setting up the appeals board. Maybe we all want, the population of Nunavut would like to improve our Inuit businesses, we want to get our Inuit people jobs and that's what both NTI and the government have wanted.

I know I am getting a lot of questions, because I know it is a little bit frustrating for the members, and for myself as the minister, but there are positive things that are coming out of the NNI policy in terms of contracting and giving jobs to the local people. We are doing a review of the NNI policy and I will let the members know as soon as that is available. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were elected as a public government, as the minister said earlier, when my colleague was questioning her. It is a public government and it is public money. I think the role of the Government of Nunavut is to get best value for their money regarding tenders or RFP's. That said, we have to be careful, I know NNI and we as a government support it 100%, but it is a policy and policies have to change from time to time.

When the report of the review is completed, could the minister commit to this House that she would table it for us to bring into committee of the whole. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that. Thank you.

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

Question 288 - 1(5): Funding for Suicide Prevention

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. As we were talking about earlier today, we were speaking about the issue of suicide among the youth in Nunavut.

Some of the communities have committees but they're not funded by any particular organization. Is it possible to fund the youth committees in Nunavut so that they can work on suicide prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: They can't hear right now. Do we have our sound back. Mr. Nutarak, can you hear me. How about the visitors in the gallery can they hear. Can we all hear. Let's proceed. Continue. Do we have sound now. Mr. Nutarak. Can we proceed. Agreed. Carry on Mr. Ng. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Can they hear. Not much. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat myself. I think the member probably raises a good point, there is in the Department of Health and Social Services funding for suicide programs and support and those that are involved in suicide intervention.

As the Minister of Finance I'm not the one directly responsible for placing money and the funds into each departmental budgets. The ministers are responsible for bringing forward

their submissions departmentally and then all the Financial Management Board members debate those programs and policies and we try to set the main estimates for each year.

So I mean it is an issue. I think that all members are aware of and certainly the minister responsible has been listening to the discussions on this issue. And they will all recognize that as we move towards our next budget finalization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand exactly where the minister is coming from. I don't believe that the people out there, the people of Nunavut and the youth of Nunavut know where to send their proposals. Apparently there's money set aside for suicide prevention and intervention. Can the people of Nunavut be made more aware of where to send their proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for that specific program, we obviously, I believe we have the interest so that goes to the Minister of Health and Social Services who has the direct responsibility in that program area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu, if your following supplementaries are related to your earlier questions, I suggest that you wait and the next question address it to the minister responsible. Thank you. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 289-1(5): Involvement of Arctic Bay-Nanisivik Working Group

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Sustainable Development. When you are setting up the working group for Arctic Bay are you going to include Arctic Bay representatives as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will include the communities that will be affected. That is the only way that we can proceed properly. Yes we will be asking for support and representation from the community of Arctic Bay when we are establishing the working group. We will be working on the closure of Nanisivik mine and yes there will be representation from Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we were told that there will be an immediate establishment of a high level working group. I'd like to ask the Minister when this working group will be established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be working on it immediately and we are presently reviewing what we talked about yesterday. We will do it as soon as it is possible because of course the closure is right around the corner. We will work on it immediately. I cannot at this time state the date. But it will be done on a high priority basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am thankful that the minister is responding to my questions and on behalf of the people of Arctic Bay, I would like to thank you. When are you going to come with me to have a meeting in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is a positive question. I've never been to Arctic Bay since I got my ministerial portfolio. I would like to have a good close working relationship with the member. I will leave it up to her to set up the dates so that we can go up to Arctic Bay and check out both mines in the High Arctic region.

Of course I would like to talk to the member so that we will decide on a date that is most appropriate for her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course the live coverage. I would like to meet with him as soon as this session is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. There is no question there. Just a statement. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 290-1(5): Review of Kitikmeot Boarding Home-RFP

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would also like to thank you for recognizing me. I will be posing a question about the Boarding home that I went to see this summer.

As I said in my Member's Statement, I realized the facility was too small and there were children and newborns in the Kitikmeot boarding home. At times there were boarders from the Keewatin area. I would like to ask the minister if there is going to be a review of the Kitikmeot boarding home. That is my question Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. There is an ongoing process right now with an RFP that has been issued and closed to review the operations of the Kitikmeot Boarding Home in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for your response. I was thinking about the youth, the children and the pregnant women that all live in this boarding home. They have to have a comfortable place to live and they need more space for the children, the newborns and the mothers.

That's why I asked you when you are going to be reviewing this Kitikmeot Boarding Home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in an answer to a previous question by the Member for Kugluktuk, I tried to point out that indeed, part of the RFP proposal that is in place is to look at the size of the current facility and the need if, based on the numbers, warrant an expansion of the beds that are available.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, we want to make sure that the patients staying at the home are well served and well served by the facility and that includes that wherever possible, we eliminate the possibility of overcrowding. That's what we are trying to do Mr. Speaker, in the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 291 - 1(5): Hours of Both Spouses Required to Qualify for Income Support

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct another question to the Minister of Education. As I said earlier, I was speaking about the number of hours that the income support recipients require. Does that include myself and my wife, that we should have forty hours also to qualify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well they would have to be dealt with separately if you were a couple. If you both approached the department for example, we would figure out if it is going to be a training program and if you are going to be working together, but the daily rates would be set out separately. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Education said that they could approach the department at the same time. I would go first as the man, and my spouse would come in right behind me. I would like further clarification from the minister on what types of agreement we would come up with as a couple. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I used a couple as an example, if they wanted to work on the same project like working in a day care centre, they would be seen as working together. If there is a difference between the types of training programs that the man and the wife wanted then they would be dealt with separately.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): As a couple if we want to go for assistance because we have no job and the situation can't be helped. If the Minister of Education was an income support worker and we went to him, can he say to me, I can give you income support only if you have the 40 hours. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anyone can receive assistance through Social Services. I just want to make that clear. Clients are still eligible to receive assistance even without the hours. But if a client comes in we could have an agreement where you would gain 40 hours in order to put you in a training program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Again to Income Support. We have a severe housing shortage in Nunavut. For example as a couple we would be in one house and we would have our in-laws, our grandchildren and extended families all living in the same house. If I went as a client as the head of the household to social services, would I only receive the amount that equals my wife and myself. Does it also include the extended family that is living under the same roof. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you came in as a client we would of course include you because you have no other means. And if there were people in your house such as your children and extended family they could also be included.

We would also ask questions to find out if the people living under your roof qualify to be included in the amount that you would get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 292-1(5): Update on Human Resources Tracking System

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. Mr. Speaker, last spring in March I believe I asked and enquired of the Minister as to whether he has any way of tracking our staff and our turnover rates within our public service. At that time he indicated that they were finalizing or hoping to have by the end of March a new Human Resource system in place. I am wondering if you can update this House as to if the Human Resource system is in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Responsible for Human Resources. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources has been working with the Department of Finance to try and put together a tracking system, along with the payroll system that we have to be able to provide us with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that's the answer that I got last spring, except that last spring the minister indicated that they were hoping by the end of last March to have it in place.

I would just like to ask him if that system is up and running yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I am looking through my briefing notes, to try and find the actual note, but I know that there has been some work done, but I don't have the exact progress report with me, but I will commit to providing that information to the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since he is going to be providing that information to me that would be great, but I would also like to ask him if he could include whether it is the same system that was being worked on or trying to be implemented last March.

If it is the same system or if it is a new system and the costs involved with the implementation of that system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is an implementation team that has an established time frame for testing and training users and the essential implementation of the system. So it is now anticipated that the system will be operational early in February, according to the information that I have. In respect of being functional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is quite a time lag, almost a year from when it was supposed to be ready, eleven months. I would like to ask the minister, as I asked in my earlier question, is it the same system that they were to have ready in March of last year or is it a new system and the costs associated with that if it is a different system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the work and delays are in respect of trying to integrate a system that would be more functional. That's one of the main reasons and it doesn't appear to me that it is a different system in that they are trying to integrate the current payroll information. Part of the problem is trying to make sure that the integrity of the payroll system is intact, while at the same time trying to be able to access some of the employee data that Human Resources requires.

That's why there has been a joint working group between the two departments, because it has been a bit more complex than expected and hence the delay in some of the implementation, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. You will note that question period is now over and before we continue, we will take a short twenty-minute health break. Members there is coffee in the members' lounge. The Deputy Premier and the Manitoba delegation will join me in my office for coffee. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>House recessed at 3.24 p.m. and resumed at 3.52 p.m.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Haviyok.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 013 - 1(5): Status of 2001/2002 Capital Expenditures

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2001-2002 Capital Estimates of the Government of Nunavut provided for one million dollars in the capital expenditures for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I'm sorry I should have said

first this is to the Honourable Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I'm sorry I didn't say that in the first part. Question number one.

1. What are the terms of reference for 300 thousand dollar study awarded to Lord Cultural Resource Planning and Management Limited to develop a strategic plan for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.
2. Two hundred thousand dollars was allocated to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in 2001-2002 for the Nunavut Youth and Elders' Centre. As of November 20th, 2001 what has the department spent these funds on.
3. Three hundred thousand dollars was allocated to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in 2001-2002 for a Nunavut Language Centre. As of November 20th, 2001 what has the department spent these funds on.

Koanaqutit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 05 - 1(5): Medical Travel and Choice of Airline

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a petition from Repulse Bay. The petition is about the cancellation of air services to the community of Repulse Bay. The petition has 207 signatures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing & Special Committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing & Special Committees

Committee Report 11 - 1(5): Review of Bill 9 - Change of Name Act 2001

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with an overview of our Committee's Report on the Review of Bill 9 – Change of Name Act, 2001.

Bill 9 was introduced in the House this past May during our Cambridge Bay sitting, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Education for review.

Members were very pleased to see Bill 9 brought forward. The intent of the Change of Name Act, 2001 is to simplify the process of changing one's name and to make the process more accessible to the people of Nunavut. This Bill is based on recommendations

brought forward by Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit, Nunavut's Law Review Commission, and is a result of the government's commitment to make our legislation reflective of the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut.

Over the past five months, the Committee solicited input on Bill 9 from across Nunavut and Members would like to thank those who presented their views to the Committee for their submissions.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of our review, Members of the Standing Committee are of the view that Bill 9 is a good first attempt at improving our legislation. However, a number of concerns were raised. These included:

- the view that certain sections of the proposed Act might lead to confusion or difficulties not faced by the current Act;
- the fact that many recommendations proposed by Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit are not addressed by the Bill; and
- continuing concerns relating to the implementation and administration of all statutes governing the registration of personal identity information.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Health and Education does not support the adoption of Bill 9 at this time. While the Committee recognizes that we are all impatient for made-in-Nunavut changes to our legislation, Members feel that it would be preferable to make changes in the most comprehensive manner possible, rather than settling for short-term fixes on a piecemeal basis.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee's Report includes the following recommendations:

- that the process for correcting erroneous identity-related information, as well as the change of name process, be consolidated under a single piece of legislation;
- that the process for verifying related documentation be more flexible and that application forms be simplified;
- that any new legislation be accompanied by an extensive public information campaign;
- that the Government support an increase in budget for the Department of Health and Social Services to be able to implement the new identity legislation when it comes forward; and
- that the Department of Health and Social Services improve the administration of the current process for correcting errors as provided for under the Vital Statistics Act.

Given the tragic events of recent months, Members feel certain that Nunavummiut will understand the need for the Government to take more time to ensure that the system of personal identification in Nunavut is as secure as possible. As one of our Law Review Commissioners pointed out, Nunavummiut, as well as other Canadians, will, more than ever, want to have correctly spelled names and accurate documents to prove who we really are.

In closing, the Standing Committee on Health and Education is of the view that Bill 9 should be permitted to fall off the order paper. Members applauded the initiative of the Department of Health and Social Services in making this first attempt and suggest that the Department carefully consider the Committee's recommendations, and work to introduce a new statute.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to move that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House, and that it be entered into the record as read.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Do members agree that the report that has been received be adopted and entered into the record as read. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Introduction

Bill 9 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in May of this year, during the Cambridge Bay sitting of the Assembly, by the Honourable Edward Picco, Minister of Health and Social Services. Members of the Standing Committee were very pleased to see Bill 9 brought forward.

The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on May 24, 2001. Given that Bill 9 received second reading just prior to the summer, the Standing Committee requested and received permission from the House to report back at the next sitting of the Assembly rather than within the normal 120 days.

Background

In the early days of this Assembly, Members had raised the issue of naming as a concern to Nunavummiut. The practice of government officials, RCMP and Hudson's Bay managers many years ago, and, more recently Project Surname (which took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s) resulted in many Inuit having their names incorrectly spelled or even improperly allocated.

The Government responded to the concerns raised in the House. When Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit, Nunavut's Law Review Commission, was established in 1999 with the mandate to identify laws that are not consistent with the vision and goals of Nunavummiut or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, the first set of laws to come under the Commission's review related to the themes of names, identity and family. After extensive public consultation, the Commission's First Report was tabled in the House in October of 2000. The Report contained a number of recommendations relating to the Change of Name Act, the Vital Statistics Act, the Custom Adoption Recognition Act, and the Official Languages Act.

Bill 9 is a direct result of the commitment made by this government to make our legislation reflective of the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut. The intention of Bill 9 is to simplify the process of changing one's name, making it easier for Inuit to correct errors in their names. Bill 9 would replace the Change of Name Act and would allow people to change their name by application to the Registrar of Vital Statistics, which falls under the Department of Health and Social Services, instead of through the Nunavut Court of Justice. The Bill would allow for a one-year period in which fees for name changes will be waived. Members were pleased to note that the Bill would eventually provide for people to have their names registered in Inuktitut syllabics as well as in English (Roman) orthography, an initiative that truly reflects the spirit and intent of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. The overall intent of this Bill is to make the service more accessible to the people of Nunavut.

Since the creation of Nunavut, the process for changing one's name has been implemented through Nunavut's Court of Justice. In April of 2000, the Minister of Justice announced the Change of Name Initiative, a program designed to make the change of name process easier for Nunavut residents. The Court Services Division and the Department of Justice worked together to simplify the application forms and to train staff to process applications during court visits to the communities. In addition, a 1-800 number was established, court fees were waived, and a working relationship was established with Vital Statistics. This is the process that is currently in place.

Committee Consultation on Bill 9

As the Maligarnit Qimmiirujit Commissioners had already visited communities and heard directly from the public on these issues, Committee members reviewed the information and decided to focus consultation efforts on soliciting input from representative levels of municipal government and from key stakeholder groups, as well as from constituents and the general public.

In mid-July, the Chair of the Committee wrote to all Nunavut Mayors and Senior Administrative Officers inviting communities to make written submissions on the Bill, or to indicate their interest in appearing before the Committee. At the same time, the Chair wrote to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Social Development Council, the Chairs of all three Regional Inuit Organizations, and the Chair of Maligarnit Qimmiirujit, inviting each of these bodies to make written submissions on the Bill or to indicate their interest in appearing before the Committee. Given the Nunavut Court of Justice's experience in implementing the Change of Name Initiative, with nearly two hundred applications processed in the year 2000, representatives of the Court of Justice were also contacted for submissions regarding Bill 9.

Input on the Bill was solicited from the public through the local media. Newspaper advertisements were placed in Nunatsiaq News and News North from July 20 to August 31, 2001; a Public Service Announcement was provided to CBC North for radio

broadcast and a short text calling for public submissions on the Bill was broadcast on local community television stations.

The Standing Committee on Health and Education would like to thank those representatives who presented their views to the Committee. The comments and suggestions received were most useful in reviewing the Bill. Copies of submissions received are included as appendices to this report. While recognizing that Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit had already addressed this issue in depth at the community level, Committee members were still somewhat surprised with the level of response to an issue that concerns a great many people.

Committee Concerns

Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education are of the view that Bill 9 is a good first attempt at improving legislation for the benefit of Nunavummiut. The intent of the Bill is to simplify the change of name process and to make the service more accessible to Nunavummiut. However, Members of the Standing Committee raised three main areas of concern with Bill 9.

The first area of concern relates to the wording in some sections in the Bill where the new phrasing may lead to more difficulties or confusion than the wording in the current Act. The notion of “custody”, for example, refers to the rights and obligations that an adult may have with respect to a child or a person who lacks mental capacity. Certain provisions of the proposed Act that relate to custody do not adequately take into account the various situations that may arise when one individual is making decisions for another. In addition, Members felt that the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit had not been adequately addressed with respect to the issue of consent and the age at which an individual is able to make decisions for themselves.

Proposed sections of Bill 9 relating to marriage and divorce are not as clear as in the current Act, which quite satisfactorily explains that applications for change of name are not generally required in these circumstances. In addition, changing the term of residency in Nunavut from one year to three months before being permitted to apply for a change of name increases the potential for people to abuse the Act, for example, by moving to Nunavut and changing one’s name in order to avoid paying child support.

The second area of concern lies with the fact that Bill 9 only addresses a portion of the recommendations found within Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit First Report to the Premier. With respect to the legislation under review, the Commission’s Report contains several specific suggestions for amendments to the Vital Statistics Act that are not addressed, even though Bill 9 makes other amendments to the Vital Statistics Act. For example, the Commission recommended that traditional Inuit naming practices be recognized in the Vital Statistics Act by allowing a greater period of time to register names for newborn babies. Bill 9 also does not refer to the Adoption Act, nor to the Custom Adoption Recognition Act, which both contain references to the change of name of adopted children. In discussions with the Committee, the Maligarnit Qimmirrujiit Commissioners

reiterated their view that a single piece of legislation should cover all aspects of identity (including name, gender, birth date, place of birth, etc.) instead of having multiple pieces of legislation as is presently the case. Even with the adoption of Bill 9, this situation would continue.

The Committee does note, however, that many recommendations presented by Maligarnit Qimmirujit do not require any change in legislation in order to implement them and improve the situation for Nunavummiut. Many concerns heard by the Maligarnit Qimmirujit Commissioners, and subsequently discussed in their report, relate to the correcting of personal information. Making the necessary corrections is currently possible through section 28 of the Vital Statistics Act. Members agree with the Maligarnit Qimmirujit Commissioners' view that there is presently much room for improvement in how this service is made available and delivered to the residents of Nunavut. Committee members encourage the Department of Health and Social Services to carefully review the recommendations in Maligarnit Qimmirujit First Report specifically as they relate to the current administration of the Vital Statistics Act.

The third area of concern relates to the implementation of Bill 9. The Committee understands that if Bill 9 were implemented, one position would be transferred from the Department of Justice to the Vital Statistics section of the Department of Health and Social Services. But this will not be sufficient to make the system operational. In order to deliver the change of name service at the community level, staff such as social workers or nurses will require training to take on this task on top of their existing workloads. Where other agencies such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or Regional Inuit Organizations may agree to provide community level support in this process, they too will require training and resources. The Committee is concerned that the Department of Health and Social Services does not have resources to spare at this time to take on this process. The Department of Health and Social Services already faces the struggle of delivering mandated services within its allocated budget. It is for this reason that Committee Members are of the view that without the certainty of additional funding being allocated, adopting Bill 9 at this time could cause additional strain on the Department of Health and Social Services.

Comments

Based on the Committee's review of the content of submissions received, Members do not feel that they can support Bill 9 in its current form. While the Committee recognizes that we are all impatient for made-in-Nunavut changes that will truly reflect the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut, Members feel that it would be preferable to make changes in the most comprehensive manner possible, rather than settling for short-term fixes on a piecemeal basis.

Given the tragic events of recent months, Members feel certain that Nunavummiut will understand the need for the Government to take more time to ensure that the system of personal identification in Nunavut is as secure as possible. As one of our Law Review Commissioners pointed out, Nunavummiut, as well as other Canadians, will, more than

ever, want to have correctly spelled names and accurate documents to prove who we really are.

Recommendations

The Committee supports the idea of simplifying the process for people wishing to change their name. The Committee recommends that the process for correcting erroneous identity-related information as well as the change of name process, be consolidated under a single piece of legislation under the authority of the Registrar of Vital Statistics.

The Committee further recommends that the process for verifying related documentation be more flexible and that application forms be simplified so that all personal identity details can be recorded on one single form.

The Committee recommends that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit be incorporated into the legislation, such as giving people the ability to register their names in Inuktitut syllabics as well as in English (Roman) orthography.

The Committee recommends that any new legislation be accompanied by an extensive public information campaign to fully inform Nunavut residents of the system to change names and make corrections to their identity information.

The Committee recommends that the Government support an increase in budget allocation for the Department of Health and Social Services to be able to implement the new identity legislation when it comes forward.

The Committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services improve the administration of the current process for correcting errors in birth certificates (such as birth date, gender, spelling of names) as provided for under the Vital Statistics Act.

The Committee recommends that the Government co-operate with organizations such as NTI or Regional Inuit Organizations to support individuals in getting their names changed on documentation originating in other jurisdictions.

The Committee recommends that the Government co-operate with those in other jurisdictions, especially in the NWT, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, where many Nunavut residents are born, to consider waiving fees relating to the correction of errors in names.

The Committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services give further consideration to the issue of repatriating records of individuals who were born in what is now Nunavut from the NWT. The Committee understands that this would be an irregular process between jurisdictions, however, Members are of the view that with adequate political energy and motivation, the Government could succeed.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education do not support the adoption of Bill 9 - Change of Name Act 2001. The Committee feels that the Bill should be permitted to fall off the order paper. Members applaud the initiative of the Department of Health and Social Services in making this first attempt and suggest that the Department consider the above recommendations and work to introduce a new statute. The Committee looks forward to reviewing a new and improved Bill in the near future.

Speaker: Agreed. Before we continue with item 12, I would just like to recognize one of my constituents, a new constituent of mine from Arviat. David Akoak, who is the new Vice-President for the Housing Corporation, which is located in Arviat. Welcome to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 043 - 1(5): WCB Annual Reports 1999 and 2000

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents. Workers' Compensation Board Annual Report 1999/2000, 2000/2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 044 - 1(5): Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund Tabled Document 045 - 1(5): Incremental Costs - Cambridge Bay Sitting May 2001

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Members I have some documents that I wish to table. I wish to table the audited financial statements of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Fund. I would also like to table the incremental costs incurred by the Legislative Assembly specific to the May 2001 Cambridge Bay sitting.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 12 Appropriation Act No. 1, 2002/2003, Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001/2002. Minister's Statement 96 - 1(5), Ulaajuk School - The First of Many to Come.

The Committee of the Whole will have Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. I haven't seen you since last year as the Chairperson of Committee of the Whole and I am glad to be back. I would now like to call the committee meeting to order. We have the following items to deal with, Bill 12, Appropriation Act 1, Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act 2 and Minister's Statement 96 - 1(5).

What is the wish of the committee.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to start with Bill 12. Capital Estimates for the Housing Corporation for Nunavut, 2002/2003. Once the Housing Corporation is done, we would like to start off with Public Works & Services capital estimates for 2002/2003. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 12, Appropriation Act 2002/2003. Housing Corporation's capital estimates will be dealt with and then Public Works & Services.

Mr. McLean as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, would you proceed with your opening remarks.

Bill 12 - Appropriation Act No. 1, 2002/2003 – Consideration in Committee - Nunavut Housing Corporation

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2002-2003 capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee had the opportunity in June to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the draft 2002-2003 capital estimates.

The Standing Committee is pleased that housing remains a priority. As the Minister of Finance stated in his fiscal update, housing accounts for over one quarter of planned capital expenditures. However, regardless of current spending on public housing, it is clear that the housing situation in Nunavut remains in crisis.

Mr. Chairman, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada recently released their Final Report of the Research and Consultation Project Concerning Inuit Housing Across Canada. The report states that "the housing crisis has been widely cited as one of the key elements in the escalating levels of family violence, self-destructive acts, high school dropout rates, substance abuse, and overall decrease in physical health standards that have had such a devastating effect on Inuit communities." This echoes the Conference Board of Canada's

major report on Nunavut's economy, which was tabled in this House in May. It is clear that more must be done.

Given this situation, the Corporation's work with NTI to present a united front in efforts to lobby the federal government is commendable, and the Committee would urge the corporation to continue with these efforts. According to the Corporation's own 2001-2002 business plan, the waiting list in August 2000 shows that 1,100 families are waiting for some form of housing assistance. In addition, due to the number of youth between the ages of 14 and 18, the potential demand for housing will increase by approximately 260 homes per year over the next five years. Increased funding is key to building much-needed public housing.

The Committee was pleased to see the Minister following recommendations to attend national conferences on housing and noted the Minister's attendance at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Meeting of Ministers responsible for Housing in London, Ontario, this August. At that meeting, it was agreed that Ministers would work on an affordable housing program.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was also noted that the Housing Corporation addressed concerns regarding the allocation of public housing by distributing new allocations more evenly. However, we remain concerned that this is the second year that will pass with some communities not seeing a single new public housing unit or retrofit.

As Members will recall, in the fiscal update, the Minister of Finance mentioned one-time funding. It is the suggestion of the Committee that the Nunavut Housing Corporation utilize one-time funding to build housing in those communities that have not seen any new construction for the last two years.

In addition, the Committee is looking forward to seeing plans for the program to provide public housing tenants the opportunity to purchase their units. This program has definite potential but the Committee has identified a concern. The possibility exists that those tenants who are capable of purchasing a public housing unit will get the most desirable units and those who are unable to purchase will end up in the least desirable units. For this reason, the Committee is looking forward to reviewing this initiative prior to its introduction.

The Committee is also looking forward to seeing the final report on the Rent Scale Review. As Members are aware, the GN has embarked on a government-wide program review. The Committee hopes that worthwhile initiatives are not stalled until that review is complete.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee would urge the Nunavut Housing Corporation to bring forward their new programs and projects in a timely fashion so that they can be implemented to improve the current housing situation in Nunavut.

That concludes my comments on the capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Individual Members may wish to raise questions or make comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. The Minister Responsible for the Housing Corporation already made her opening comments. You may go to the witness table with your officials. Sergeant-At-Arms escort the officials in please.

Thank you, welcome to the witness table Madame Minister. Please introduce your officials.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right Pam Hine is the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and to my left David Akoak the Vice-President. Also to my left working on policy and finances, Chris D'Arcy. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. Before we proceed with questions, do members have any general comments. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. My general comments will be that we are going into our third fiscal year in housing and we haven't seen much of an increase in the budget for housing. Every year, we seem to have a surplus in the government as a whole.

For some reason, the department that needs it most doesn't get much of a boost from the surplus. To me that's a tragedy, because I think we are losing pace with the growth in Nunavut in regards to housing. It is not because the minister's not concerned about it, I think she is very actively pursuing trying to get as many units built in Nunavut as she can.

I think her department is trying to be innovative in trying to bring units forward, whether they are leased from the private sector or she is getting into joint ventures. The stats that we always seem to get is that we need 1,000 units or 2,000 units and it was nice to recently hear that the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada have brought it to the forefront also.

I am sure the minister will be working with ITC in trying to champion the cause for housing. My concern is like I said earlier that we seem to be in a surplus situation and I recently did a tour of 13 communities in Nunavut under the Nunavut Tourism review and I made it a point to walk through the communities to look at the state of housing in the communities.

I did that as Chairperson of the Standing Committee. I noticed that a lot of the houses, through no fault of the local housing associations, are starting to deteriorate. There are a lot of windows in older units that need to be replaced, the siding on them seems to be deteriorating and I know the local housing associations have to work with their budgeted expenses.

So my only comment on that is that I'm hoping at the end of this session, on this department that we'll make a motion to try to increase the minister's budget in housing. Maybe look at doing a retrofit program next summer, because like I said earlier I'm starting to see housing deteriorate and the retrofit program is a very successful program.

It seems to me when I was in one community there were four or five local people putting in windows and doors in one community and they were very happy about doing it. That updates all those older units and it's much cheaper, and it doesn't increase the O & M of the Housing Corporation overall. So that's just my opening comments and I'm hoping the Finance Minister will be a little bit more receptive in spending some more money on the Housing Corporation and I know that the finance Minister and the Housing Minister are saying well it's a cabinet decision and there's other priorities involved in the government.

But we said this from day one of April 1999 that housing is the number one priority in Nunavut and we as a government are we going to start recognising that we have to do more in our communities with housing.

So that's my opening comments and I'm not reading from prepared text today, it's just that I'm hoping we'll start looking at more units in Nunavut. It doesn't cost O & M to fix up units. Those are my opening comments Mr. Chairman and I would like to ask some questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask this one question now and get it over with because it's been a question I've wanted to ask for a while. In our draft allocation of housing units in June, and I hate to refer to a draft allocation when the allocation we actually got was our main estimates.

How is the department going about the allocation of housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to building the houses and how they are allocated to the communities, this will be overviewed by Pam Hine, I'll give the mic to Pam but what we usually look for is the number of houses in each community and how many individuals are living in each house.

We concentrate mostly and allocate houses to the communities where there is the most overcrowding. We first look at how many houses are built in each community and see how many individuals are living per house, then we base the allocation on the most overcrowded communities.

(interpretation ends) I'm going to ask Pam to elaborate more on my comments. I think it's a very fair process and I know the staff and housing managers have talked about

allocation of units and it's an easy way that we tried to address the issue and it's very clean and fair across the territory. I'll ask Pam to elaborate more on the allocation of units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The minister actually gave a very good explanation and I am not sure how much I can elaborate on what she has already said. We realize that there is need in all communities in Nunavut for housing. But to determine the communities in most need, we do look at the number of public housing units in that community and the number of tenants living in those public housing units.

We come up with a ratio, the number of people in units, to determine the amount of need. We use this method to help determine the overcrowding situation. With that allocation we then allocate our units. Any community that has more than four to eight people per unit, will receive four units.

Any community that has more than four to eight people per unit, will receive four units. Any community that has more than three people per unit will receive two units and it continues going down that list until we basically run out of money.

I don't think there's much more that I can elaborate on the process of this department that Minister Thompson hasn't already stated. Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Any additional questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: That's a good answer. It makes sense. I guess it's based on numbers. The other question I want to ask in regards to M & I retrofits. A community may have enough houses and I don't want to start talking about my community. But the community may be lower on the list of housing needs than another community that's at the top of the list.

And like I was saying earlier in my statements when I visited certain communities in Nunavut when I was doing my tourism consultations I noticed that there's a large number of houses deteriorating that haven't seen much M & I work. And I come from a community that the reason the community does have a lot of housing units is because they were a little crafty years ago by not writing off units.

They were told once a unit lives its usual lifespan they could write it off. So what's happening in communities like mine now we've got about forty units that should have been written off and destroyed over the last ten years. But through other various programs the Municipality and the Housing Corporation would be able to keep them sort of maintained to a liveable standard.

But I know these units now are past the stage in life where they're liveable. Like they're not much more than two-by-four walls and the windows are forty and fifty years old with

single panes. I have forty or fifty units in the community like that. But they're on the block of housing that is in the numbers. And my concern is that with the way that the M & I allocation is, that these units are not getting the attention they need. And we know what happens when people live in units that are thirty or forty years old that haven't been fixed up. There are old doors and windows and stuff like that.

So, on the allocation of M & I dollars, is it based on the condition ratings for each community or is it based on the per capita of housing for the size of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's based on the condition ratings of the community in consultation with the Local Housing Organizations. That's what it's based on. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to see that's been fairly done based on the condition rating of houses and things like that. My next question is in regards to housing programs.

There's a fifteen thousand dollar down payment program if somebody is wanting to buy an existing unit in a community and there's twenty five thousand dollars available for somebody that wants to build a new unit. And I don't know how successful that has been. Has the money that's been allocated for this program been used up to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this program has been successful. I'll ask Ms. Hine to give you the proper figures on that. Thank you.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year we have approved twenty eight down payment assistance programs to purchase existing units and seven down payment assistant program applications to construct new buildings. So it has been successful and there is some budget still remaining in that allocation. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. How many units was the budget set for and did we use it and how much money is left of the program. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I made a gesture that I would like Ms. Hine to answer the question. Thank you.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our corporation we're block funded so the money that was set aside for homeownership, which is two million dollars a year, is used for all homeownership applications. We don't put line by line items for each program because with homeownership it's very hard to actually try to predict the number of applications that we will receive for one program or another.

So the money is at the district level and at the district they co-ordinate to deliver the programs and we try to give priority. If it's to buy a house, we try to give that priority and if it's a number of applications that are actually looking for a renovation programs.

So it's a little different than a department but the 2 million dollars that is used for homeownership will be used for homeownership and we will try to help as many applicants as possible with those programs. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That's 35 units through both programs that's an average, I am just throwing this out, 200 thousand dollars a unit so that's, in 600 thousand dollars worth of grants generated 7 million dollars worth of homes, homeowner sales which I think is great. Like I say constant turnover of houses is not so good but bringing on 35 extra homeowners in Nunavut at 7 million dollars of sales is a good start.

Does the minister anticipate that if they raise the minimum level from 15 thousand to 25 thousand for purchasing an existing unit and say 40 thousand for building a new unit would she consider this if she can afford it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would consider that, we would have to go through the process of Cabinet Members and so on but I would certainly consider that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a few more questions, and I will give everybody else a chance.

On the thinking of the people living in public housing and then being able to purchase the unit, I see that as a good sign. But then there's the down side of it that people will try to buy the newer units and you know that will cause a deterioration in housing standards for

the less fortunate people that can't afford to buy a unit or don't have the education to get the job, to be able to get into the job market to purchase the unit.

How's this program going so far, could you update the committee on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the officials of my department have been talking about this with the LHO managers and the stakeholders and there have been people interested in buying the homes that they've been renting for years and years. That's throwing the money out the window when you are renting, that's sort of the attitude of some people.

It's better to invest in a home that you have been staying in and we haven't gotten to the final stages yet on this option, it's just one of the options that I've been thinking about because it's what the communities have been telling me. I know that two years ago, some communities were saying that it wouldn't be a good idea if the government was to sell the units they were renting.

I don't believe the officials have finalized anything yet, we're in the first stages of trying to come up with different ways of doing this program. I can ask Pam to give us more details on the status of that.

I mean at this time it's just one of the options to get more houses on the ground. To get more houses into those communities if we were to sell those units. So Mr. Chairman, if you will allow me I can pass the microphone to Ms. Hine. I would appreciate it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Agreed. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program. We have done a lot of thinking on this program and we have the same concerns as the member has announced as well. We don't want people buying units on speculation. We don't want people re-allocating to the best unit in town in order to get the best deal. And we have taken this into consideration.

One of the ideas we had in mind was to have a qualifier that you must live in a unit for a period of time before you could buy it. We presented our overview of what this program would like to all the local housing organization managers that attended the meeting here in Iqaluit in October. They actually had some concerns on that angle. Just because a lot of families must move because of their family size and change and we shouldn't discriminate or hold them back from buying their units if they so wish.

So what we came out with at this point is that any unit would have to be agreed upon by both the local housing organization and the Housing Corporation. Then that way it gives a bit of buffer so we can take a look at each case on an individual basis to stop their

concerns regarding speculation or re-allocating and transferring units to get the best one in town.

So we had the same concerns and we will make sure that we work on this, fine tune it and present it to the Standing Committee. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to hear that. Like I say, what's to stop private developers from making deals with tenants to buy their house and give them a bonus for buying it. That is my fear. That is my fear that this could happen. And the next thing we know we are out of housing.

The other thing that I wanted to talk about is I'll ask it as a question. Your program that just seems to be a flurry in my community is applying money for funds to fix windows and doors. They are all private homeowners and they were really excited about the program and they finally got approved. They just got approved three weeks ago and it is very difficult to replace windows and doors and steps and everything at this time of year because they missed the barge season and things have to be flown in.

Windows and doors and various insulation packages. But it is a good program. I think the meaning of it was really good. So the question that I am getting to here is that this program is a good program. But if it is going to be carried over again could you see that it is carried out in a timely manner where people could have their stuff on the barge rather than have to airship it in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got a lot of positive feedback on this program and people were quite excited about it. The negative part of the program is the cheques came in too late and the barge had already gone. We will try to do it better next time. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is going to be a final comment on that. Better late than never. It is a very successful program. The private homeowners sometimes get a little depressed in owning a home and price of fuel and their property taxes and insurance and stuff like that. And this was a much needed boost to a lot of them to know that there is money out there available under a grant to increase the value of their homes.

I don't want to say the wrong thing here. Sometimes the private homeowners are starting to look like public housing units because they are so busy paying other bills. So I am just asking you again to make sure that this program would go ahead and if you would increase it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my final question.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you. Mr. Chairman. We will continue this program. It is a two year delivery on this program. It is a good program and we will do the best we can to follow up on the questions of the member. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Thompson. During your question I appreciate that you are raising good questions and I won't stop you from continuing. You can ask as many questions as you want. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to comment about what was just said. I apologize, it's too bad that the funding is not adequate in terms of the housing associations or the housing corporations' programs. I know the Housing Corporation wants to help individuals that are in need, and they travel to Ottawa frequently to lobby for housing programs for Nunavummiut.

I know they try to lobby for more funding. The minister in particular has been working very hard to lobby for funding in Ottawa. I stressed that we support her initiatives and I would encourage the minister to get support from the cabinet members and in particular the Premier so that we can get more adequate programs for Nunavummiut and for the communities. Because we do need funding for housing.

Looking at that, the community housing needs, we know the communities do need more housing in all 26 communities. I would like to ask which communities are the first or the last in terms of housing allocations. Because there are some communities that have requested housing last year and didn't get any at all. There were others that already received housing a year earlier that received more housing again for next year.

I just want to make this known, and I want to ask which communities are in need. We as Nunavummiut want to support the communities that are most in need for allocations. It is the same thing in terms of my community, if my community is in need I would like the support of my colleagues. We should all support one and other in terms of finding more adequate housing for those communities most in need.

As we know, when a community is in need and is going through a hard time we have to help that community. Especially when there is overcrowding in one household in a certain community it becomes very hard for those involved. And as well the allocations to the communities. How would that be planned perhaps in the next coming year. Perhaps once we start realizing which community has the most need for allocations. For example in my community we have a lot of people who are on the waiting list and there are more young people applying for public housing.

And as I stated there are a lot more people on the waiting list. And there are more and more young people that would like to be independent in renting their own public housing. And that is the case. I understand that you stated that funding is inadequate. As well you

heard Mr. McLean say that if the government should have a surplus, Glenn said that he would like to support your department in the amount of 4 million so that we can meet the needs of those people in need of public housing.

Not too long ago as we are aware the Finance Minister also said there is 50-55 million dollars transferred from the Canadian government to Nunavut. Perhaps your minister through your department can try to allocate some of that funding to put into these Housing Corporation programs.

That is all for my comments. I will have questions to follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have seen the list for 2001 allocations and I am reviewing the 2002 list. I just want to use an example maybe. I'll try to make it clear. We have a list going down and there is one community that is on top.

Then as you go down comparing the two lists there is a change. The priorities change. The community that was ahead in the first year to get houses was sort of dropped way down. I am not sure how that works. I am trying to get some picture as to why it dropped so low compared to the 2001 list.

The reason I am asking is because this community didn't get houses that year and yet the community dropped lower. I am not sure what that is. Maybe you could explain the reasons for that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the allocation of units, I think it is pretty hard to please everybody when we have 26 communities and we just have just a certain amount of capital dollars to address the issue. So we have to think this through. The best way that we have done this is that we get the numbers from the Local Housing Organizations themselves. So we ask them how many units they have in their communities.

How many people are living in those units and then the number comes up to us. And it doesn't matter if the names of the communities are not there. Because we base it on the number of tenants per unit and then we rank them with those numbers. Then the community name comes after that. I understand the member's frustration. We could do what the task force recommended and build all over the place with 1 hundred units, which we did. Then we got criticized for not building any in the communities that had the most needs and were frustrated the same as the others that didn't need as much.

Some of our communities in Nunavut, the birth rate has gone a lot faster or there are more in those communities. Some of them are really lacking in social housing units. And I understand the frustration of the member because according to the list that we have

come up with in consultation with the LHO managers, the numbers come directly from the communities and it is not based on the waiting list, but based on the units we have and how many people we have in those units.

The list is pretty straightforward. Some of the communities for so many years have had an overcrowding situation and it is going to take a few more years I think anyway to put them to the Canadian average, which I think is 2.7 or something like that.

We have done the best we can to try to spread the units this year for the coming year again. All I can say Mr. Chairman is that when I went before the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee tells me don't do it this way. If they have a better idea for allocating the units it might not be fair because we would be starting to have favouritism instead of looking at the actual numbers we have in the communities and how many tenants we have in those units. We have thought this through. Through the officials, through the LHO's, for the last two years and I think this is the best way of addressing the housing needs.

If we were to get more capital dollars we could certainly strengthen the number of units across the Territories. Right now with the dollars we have, we will be able to build more than 50 units and we will be able to cover most of the communities that have the highest needs. With that Mr. Chairman I would just like to conclude my comments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Thompson. I would just like the members to watch what questions you raise. Some questions might have been raised already. So just be cautious as to what has been asked. Thank you. Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Haviyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you want to ask a question sometimes you have a follow up question. So it gets longer. I understand what you are talking about. When you were talking about the Housing Corporation it is hard when you have inadequate funding for the population that we have.

When you go down to Ottawa for consultations or for meetings and when you state that in Nunavut there are many residents who are in need and the funding is inadequate to run those programs, I wonder what they say, when they answer your questions. What are the answers that you receive.

Do you make your comments clear or your statements clear, what do they say, perhaps they would say the funding that we would allocate is smaller, I'm just wondering. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyak. Madam Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have gone down to Ottawa and to other communities to have cabinet meetings. When we meet with the other Ministers, only the Ministers are allowed to speak at that meeting so regular

citizens cannot make their comments. At the Ministers' meetings, only the Minister responsible for housing can speak.

So we can't get anyone other than the minister to speak but I can tell you every time I go down to Ottawa to meet with the my counterpart, every time I met with him he understands my predicament. He understands that the Inuit of Nunavut have a housing crisis, they do understand that. But also they have to allocate the funding across all the provinces in Canada and Territories and once they allocate that funding whether it be transportation or education we get a smaller portion of funding just because their funding has to be budgeted and allocated for all Canadian jurisdictions and they do understand our predicament.

In 1993 the construction of housing of special units was shut down from Ottawa, so that they stopped building units at that time, and if we were to find funding to build units for rental units there's no funding out there but we have to work with them and that's how we can come up with an agreement.

Mr. Chairman I expect that within maybe at the end of this month that I will be meeting with my counterparts perhaps the Minister's Responsible for Housing and it'll be very interesting to have that meeting and I would like to hear that they will be allocating us some funding at least.

If they can provide us this funding we could build additional units or increase the units that are going to be built. ITC and Nancy Karetak-Lindell and myself and NTI and all my Cabinet Colleagues, one at a time have reiterated that we require more units when they meet with their counterparts in Ottawa. The Minister of the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation does understand our housing shortage.

They follow policies when they start allocating their funding and due to our smaller population we get the minimal amount of funding but perhaps I expect in my Quebec meeting, I expect to get additional funding but that's just an expectation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We would like to hear your response when you get back from Quebec as to how the meeting went. I will return back to the question.

There are communities that go in some kind of order for those that need it the most to those that need it least.

For instance, Kugluktuk was ahead of Pangnirtung and Chesterfield in terms of prioritizing housing needs. Those two are ahead of Kugluktuk now. Yes, those communities are in need of housing too. Yes, I realize that. In Pangnirtung and Chesterfield. I am not against that. I am saying how was this decision made. Those

communities that needed the housing first were put on the bottom. I am not against those communities but how did situation come about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Kugluktuk is not at the bottom. Kugluktuk is still in the same place. We will build units in Kugluktuk. The member has always been stating that Kugluktuk, that at least if we can build units that are geared towards the youth that he would be happy.

So for that reason we will build units in Kugluktuk. I spoke with the Hamlet Council of Kugluktuk and the LHO about building those units in Kugluktuk. (interpretation ends) I don't want to frustrate the members. But we are doing a special project in Kugluktuk. It is still on the list. I know it was before Chesterfield and Pangnirtung. We are going to do a special project in Kugluktuk. We haven't skipped Kugluktuk.

The member said that he would like the units to be more geared towards the youth population. That is what we have gathered from the member. We could build two units in his community or with the special project we could build six. We are doing a special project in Kugluktuk according to the wish of the member. We have not moved any of the houses, we are doing it according to the number of tenants per unit, which we got from the LHO's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Haviyak do you have any further questions.

Mr. Haviyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can hear you. I can see what you are doing here. I understand that. The way it shows, because it shows zero, it seems it went to the low part. That is why it seems like they skipped it and went back down to Pangnirtung and to Chesterfield. Maybe their needs were lower than Kugluktuk and our needs were higher.

I understand when you say there is a special project. But if it wasn't that case. I guess the needs for Kugluktuk were lower than Pangnirtung or Chesterfield. I sorry, I'm getting myself confused on this. I understand where you are coming from. There will be a special project I guess.

But when you really look at the way it works, it's just like it is skipped out. That's how it seems. I will ask a question later on but that's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. That was a comment. I think Madame Minister would like to respond.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The choice is Kugluktuk gets two units like everybody else or we can do a special project and he can get six. Because we did, in Baker Lake the elders' home was in very bad shape, so we were able to do a

separate project, which should have been built last year. Because the member and also the Hamlet wanted us to build an elders' home.

So we did a separate project for them under our reserve and we are able to do that. We have not moved any community higher than anybody. The member has a choice. Does he want the two units, or does he want a special project with six units that will work with their Hamlet on that, or the LHO. It is really up to him. We can move to another community that has been asking for more youth oriented apartments or something else like the member was doing.

I can easily change those numbers and give Kugluktuk two units if he would like that instead. But I thought that Mr. Chairman, he wanted us to do a separate project after we talked to him, because he has been wanting something that was slightly different. So it is really up to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thanks for the clarification. That's good. I didn't have the numbers earlier on, so I was just trying to confirm the numbers, that's why I was raising it. Now that I know where you are coming from I would rather go with the six units. It was not clear before, I was unclear. I am sorry if I said that. It is clear now, we will go with the special project. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Although I didn't hear a question. That was more of a comment than a question. Madame Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that my officials have been speaking with the member here and I am sure that he understands that we are just following the numbers in the communities and also how many tenants there are in the communities.

We are just following that, it doesn't matter what the names are of communities. We just follow the number of tenants and the number of units, so it would be the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the Chairman of the committee mentioned earlier and to flog it again, it is something that I have been saying since day one, is that housing is one of our top two priorities and I think it is time we start putting our money where our mouth is.

It was nice to see the capital allocation for housing is up to 17 million dollars from 14, but the year prior to that it was at 19 and pre-division for Nunavut it was 50 million. The Baffin Region alone used to be more than what the total budget for the whole of Nunavut is now. So I would really like to see and I don't doubt that it is for lack of trying on the

behalf of the Department or the Corporation and the minister. But again, as the Chair of the committee stated, the rest of Cabinet has to take it, you know put your money where your mouth is.

Housing we all agreed in the Bathurst Mandate was a priority and I'd like to see it become a reality instead of just being talked about.

Some of the other things that I'd like to ask some questions on or look at. The Chairman also talked about looking at the purchase program that's out there for public housing units. I know given my the past experience, people that have been, in the past have been brought into the homeownership program after not realizing you know what they got themselves in for and we're finding that they couldn't afford it.

So I know I mentioned it in the question period in the Leadership Review. But I think it's something that's very important because you don't want to be setting people up for failure to be you know foreclosed on. And I think some of the past programs did that and I want to be very careful that we don't do the same thing.

A lot of the people that are probably going to be targeted for this program I would imagine that bitterness they've held for a long time or a lot of elders. To make it short, people with fixed income and any fluctuation in their cost of living, you know there's all kinds of costs public housing tenants don't have but they do as a homeowner. I can't overemphasize the importance of making sure that both things are taken into consideration.

I believe there's got to be a different criteria that's looked at than what's already there. With the existing programs we have right now we are looking at providing assistance of fifteen thousand and twenty five thousand I imagine in these cases the houses are going to be sold for a lot less. And people probably wouldn't be able to qualify to the banks for a very high mortgage. So the very limited income basis that we're working with is even more important that it be looked at properly.

Another thing that I'd like to see is again the Chair recommended more money be put into the M & I and the maintenance of our units. Our inventory is getting older and as our inventory gets older it costs more to maintain it. That's one thing that I think in the past through lack of resources and not by lack of wanting to do something about it, if due to the lack of resources for the maintenance function of the corporation hadn't been neglected, it's not that they didn't want to do it they didn't have the resources to do it.

I think if we maintain and look after our housing by retrofitting it and making them more energy efficient that would save us money. It would reduce our own end cost in the long run. I think that's important. I think I'll leave it at that for my comments Mr. Chairman and I do have some questions.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister had indicated that there were thirty five applicants under the NDAP program and that there was roughly two million dollars allocated towards homeownership. In what percentage of use roughly is that as far as what percentage of the funding for homeownership programs has been used to date and what percentage hasn't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. D'Arcy to respond to the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't actually finalized our second quarter results as of yet. But we do know that to the end of October, there have been fifty applications under NDAP purchases, of which 28 have been approved. There have been 10 under NDAP new construction. So that's about 1 million dollars I would say, so far out of the 2 million dollar appropriation, in terms of pending applications. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, then what he is saying is it looks like roughly half way through the year we have 50% of the program used. I am just wondering if they think, or feel and given the history, that most of these programs are accessed during and prior to construction season and sealift. Because usually after that there is not a whole lot of demand for them.

So do they anticipate using the other 50% or are there new applications coming in. I know you gave the first half of the year results. But I was wondering if they anticipate enough applications that they will be able to prove to be able to use up the rest of the program funds, given the timing that it has to be done prior to the end of March without any sealift, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 2 million dollars is also for the home repair programs, the emergency repair programs and the senior citizen's home repair program. All of those are rolled up under the 2 million dollar umbrella. So far this year there have been 462 applications for all of those together, many of which are still undergoing scrutiny. We would expect that we are going to be subscribed and over-subscribed. As long as those applications are approved before the end of March, then we will consider them done and people will be able to float their materials up next year and be able to do that program.

So we are quite confident that we are subscribed and over-subscribed. Along those lines we are still working with CMHC to partner some of these programs so that we will be

able to get some additional funding for this fiscal construction year, if you like, as opposed to the summer actual construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is an impressive number of applicants of 462. Out of those 462 how many of them would have been approved. Like a number of approved versus, were there a lot that weren't approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far we have had 101 approvals. I do not have the number of people who have been denied. But sometime at the end of the year, we will be able to do a post-mortem on this year and be able to look at what we are doing for next year. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I look forward to getting that information and I think the reason for inquiring about that, is that I believe and it is obvious that the Chairman thought so too with his recommendation.

I think our housing programs, our homeownership programs or any of our housing dollars need to be geared to the people who need it the most. I feel under the current program, given the very limited assistance, that is usually families with dual incomes that really, they probably could do without that support. Where the people that really need that support are single income families, people that can't afford a huge mortgage to buy a house and I think those are the people that we need to try and target our programs towards.

And that would be interesting to find out if the people that didn't get approved under the current program what some of the reasons were. Was it, you know because of income levels and you know we need to take a look and analyze that information to see where, you know who is missing out on these programs and try to address those things. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think that's more of a comment to us. We can certainly look at it, it was at very good suggestion to the Housing Corporation and we'll certainly see what we can do. We'll give all the statistics after the programs are done to the members, to the Standing Committee so they can work with us and we can work with them and see what we can do with their ideas.

I appreciate the comments. Just before I close. Mr. Chairman. My son is here and I've never really recognized him in this House before so there's my son Trevor Thompson with the glasses over with there with the white t-shirt and also his friend Unalik Irniq. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am just going to shift gears for a different topic. I'm not sure if the minister or one of her staff indicated that in the allocation of the public housing units they looked at any communities overflow by an X number units, any community over three got X numbers of units until they ran out of money.

When they are looking at determining the number of tenants per unit and I understand that they get that information from the housing authorities and associations, when listing the people living in those houses is there a consistent form that they used in determining those numbers, throughout all 26 communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have what is called a rent scale database, which is given out to all the local housing organizations. This is the database we use to record all the inventory on the units and the number of people living in those units, so it's consistently reported all across of our LHO's and that is the information that we use.

We make sure we do verify them and to see if it looks like any misinformation is being put in through data entry. So we do up a quick sort of review to make sure that there's nothing jumps out like a data input error, and we also look at the number of units that they are showing against our own inventories so there is a double check on those numbers so it's recorded on a consistent basis throughout the communities. Thank you

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know, I've had discussions with our manager of the housing authority here, you know over the years both as a co-worker and now, as someone that always tries to do what they can or tries to push the cause of housing, just to keep informed on things.

And one of the things that I think I recall in discussions with her, here and Iqaluit I know, we have a waiting list of probably anywhere between 70 and 80 people and that doesn't include people that apply that aren't eligible.

So if they owe arrears at all they are not eligible, if they don't meet the residency requirement they are not eligible, they are not included on that list, if they've been evicted, you know for whatever reason. They are not eligible and they won't show up on

any list. The reality is those people are still living somewhere in this community and the fact is they are more than likely living in a public housing unit with someone else.

They don't show up on any list. And on top of that factor if you look at it there is a great deal of people that are moving from the communities to Iqaluit looking for work. There are students that are coming here to go to schools. They have family, the kids that are staying with people in public housing units. Friends or relatives. I asked about the consistency of those number and there does seem to be to my knowledge that some variables that won't show on that list. And I am just trying to think if there is a way we can address this.

You can look at the list. Iqaluit has got a couple of units the first year. They didn't receive anything since then. I believe the way the numbers were done and were allocated were consistent but I don't believe it is an accurate reflection. Again if you take something and try to use it across the board. There are always exceptions. As a capital and the largest association with over 400 units, there are a lot of people here. It is an exception to the rule. I don't believe that it is taken into consideration.

I am wondering maybe we need and I suggested two and half years ago, some kind of an analysis or a needs assessment. A detailed needs assessment specifically for housing needed to be done in order to be able to set the needs because the needs here in Iqaluit and the circumstances here in Iqaluit because of the numbers, because of the size, because of the rapid growth and the population are different.

If this is thrown in with the same thing as everything else it doesn't fit the formula. We found the same thing in education. We have to try and find a way to address that issue because there is a huge need in Iqaluit. For the second year in a row we are not getting any units. I put that out.

Also that is more of a comment, Mr. Chairman. I guess the question I guess is when they were deciding on the allocation of units. If there was a community that got units last year, say we ran out at community X and then the next year you run out at community X again, if there are still 5 communities that were above 3 and didn't get anything for 2 years. This could be looked at.

I would like to ask if this was something that they looked at or considered when they were allocating the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the staff worked hours and hours on this allocation of units with the amount of money we have and the amount of houses we can build. I know that they looked at quite a few options. One of the options that has come forward was why not base it on the waiting list. If we based it on the waiting list this would all change.

According to this allocation formula that we did, number of units per number of tenants. Cape Dorset is 13th but according to the waiting list Cape Dorset is first on the list and Hall Beach is somewhere else. This is not according to the waiting list because waiting lists were as soon as they knew they were building a hundred units, some communities came with 40 new numbers and some numbers went way off the track. And stuff like that. And I think the members are aware of that.

So I know the staff have been working very hard before the allocation of units and if I can get more funding the two communities that are next in line are Whale Cove and Iqaluit. I understand the situation in Iqaluit and it is sort of the same in Rankin. It is probably worse because there are so many people coming to town looking for jobs in the capital.

We will certainly try to build something here in Iqaluit if we can get more funds. Because they are on the list and I understand that there are people that are not on the waiting list because of their arrears. With the needs assessment that the member had asked for I am going to ask Ms. Hine to answer that question Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments that the member is making are ones that we have been also been talking about as well. There are a lot of hard to house people in Nunavut. We are talking about public housing and overcrowding. But we do recognize that there are other people that are just not on the waiting list not on these houses. We are only getting a small portion when we talk about public housing, social housing.

To help us get a better understanding, to make sure that we are capturing some of these people that are not on the list, we did complete a needs survey. It was completed in part with the Bureau of Statistics in our Nunavut household survey. And we are desperately waiting for the results of that survey so that we can actually take a look at these other figures. Figures that we would not be getting from community lists, so that we can make sure that when we are successful, and I'll say when we are successful not if, with other federal dollars that we can make sure that we put those extra dollars in the communities that need them the most. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Anything else. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I wasn't saying just going by the waiting list. Those people probably won't show up on the household list either as the number of people living that house. That is why I am saying that is where it will more than likely lead to discrepancies here in that. The number of tenants per units. Those people won't show up on that list. That is what I was referring to. Not the waiting list.

The minister indicated that there were two communities, above three, I guess, three plus communities that didn't receive units. What did it cost the Housing Corporation to build

one of those units. What are they projecting to cost them to build one unit in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually there are five communities that are not getting anything next summer unless we get more funding. One unit costs about 190-200 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there are five communities but it is the number of three plus that didn't. And you mentioned that too. But even five communities that aren't getting anything and if the need is there, at 200 thousand a pop, that's a million dollars. And even if we can strip it down to the criteria that the department or corporation looked at of having three or more people per unit.

In those communities that's only 400 thousand dollars, so maybe you know that's something the regular caucus can look at putting forward a motion to get extra money into putting at least one unit each of those communities. It's only going to cost a million dollars, now I think one of the things that I know better than anyone, that you have to look at is not just the capital cost you have to worry about.

I would be interested to hear, you know what would be the O & M implications, what can we afford O & M wise on top of what we already have already. I don't know if they have that information or not, it costs 200 thousand dollars to build these units but O & M what's the annual O & M cost to go along with that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you. It costs about 190 thousand to 200 thousand to build a unit and about 20 thousand per O & M a year for a unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll leave that alone now. I am satisfied with my answers right now, and I know what we have to try to do to see some changes now exactly.

Mr. Chairman. Looking at the details of capital for the Corporation and there's for Iqaluit, it says that there is 367 thousand indicated just for another M&I and retrofit. I understand that I think you recall last year that there some funding in there for the utilidor upgrades that there are number of units that were scheduled to be hooked up to the utilidor last summer but the city wasn't able to move forward with that last year and we're planning on doing it this coming summer.

Are those funds are in that amount or are they in there at all and if they are not, if they are able to go ahead with that this summer, will those funds be available. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We haven't gone through line by line and we're still under questioning Madam Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to answer the member's question, yes that project is included in here, we won't go into the detail until we actually get into capital but we can explain it a little bit more as we go along.

So just to answer that question about the utilidor project, it is considered for next year under the M&I for Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Hine. Any more. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just briefly. I realize that this department has a big responsibility and funds are few, the department is short of funds to build units in the communities but in the next five years looking at the next five years.

Does the minister feel that you will continue to lack funds. The population sizes in the communities are increasing annually, and I am wondering if the communities will be able to receive units in the next 5 years. Should we expect to see units being built.

I am wondering if this problem will continue, but I will raise questions after my comments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question is during the minister's opening comments she has worked with the LHO boards and when she was visiting the communities. Did they go to all the communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities are expecting or hoping for units in the New Year and the numbers that we receive from the communities, for instance in Repulse Bay, Veteline Tapatu is the manager for the Housing Association. So we would communicate with Veteline to get numbers as to how many units are needed.

It's the same for other communities like Coral Harbour, there's Cary Nakoolak. We work with the Housing managers and we are able to find out from the managers how many units are needed and for those communities that we haven't travelled to, we are able

to get that information from members or from the housing association offices through our officials.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation:) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your response. My next question is about the people that are renting public units. Is there a rule as to how many people can live in one unit. Because there is overcrowding in some communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we weren't lacking units and if each community enough houses, couples with their children would be able to have a house. Each one would have their own room and two children to a room, if there was enough space for all the people in each community. But there is no regulation for what you were asking about.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. I will now go onto Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my comment short. In Nunavut we have a shortage of housing. There are 26 communities and all the communities are looking at getting extra units. Communities' population sizes are increasing. I can use myself as an example. My daughters are married and they have children. I have grandchildren. Our family seems to increase in just a few years. I know it is impossible to give each community the amount of units they need.

Each unit is about 200 thousand dollars and living in Nunavut we need homes. We need houses to live in. Although some units are overcrowded, as Inuit we would never turn our children away if they didn't have a place to stay. I am wondering how we could work more closely with the Housing Corporation so that we could increase the allocated units.

Last summer, there was a plan put in the community for the Inuit to be recognized because there is a housing crisis. We know that our communities want to be recognized because my constituencies were planning or asking and publicizing the fact that we are in a housing crisis in one community out of 26 communities in Nunavut.

How can we give more support. How can your department can give more assistance to the government. Like for example in my constituencies, the private businesses have been requesting to build units themselves. They have been requesting this from your department. But they were never approved. So I'll conclude with that now Mr. Chairman. I do have two questions.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an agreement for this to go through for 5 years. That payments will be made for 5 years. There is going to be an annual payment and this will improve our housing crisis.

For individuals that have their own homes, I think our housing crisis would improve if individuals or families were to build their own home. So what is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak, thank you . Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were whispering and I almost forgot. Yes, we are leasing them for five years and these units were already built and we did not have to construct these units. We did not have to use capital but we only used our O & M dollars.

In Gjoa Haven that's what happened and I understand what happened in Gjoa Haven. What I'm trying to say is if the O & M is not going to be too expensive to lease them, yes we can consider it. Perhaps as long as it was constructed within our capital dollars. But we're committed to five years to lease these units.

I have been trying to get the members to understand that one unit costs twenty thousand dollars for O & M. The O & M for a unit is twenty thousand dollars. It's quite expensive so that's why we want to construct these units ourselves. We'll construct two units in Gjoa Haven and I know that there's a housing crisis.

I would like to thank the Gjoa Haven residents and Clyde River residents that were on the television to make the world understand that they are in a housing shortage and it helped, and I'm very appreciative of that fact because the public had a better idea of what the crisis was. But we have not made any plans for leasing and we have no capital for a lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister and Mr. Chairman for your response because I wanted to get that clarification and I appreciate that. I would like to ask that these communities, what the population requirement is to make capital plans. If you have any population estimates so that you can figure out what units are required.

Do you go to the communities and consult or work with the managers of Local Housing Organizations to find out how much requirement there is for units. Have you made any plans in regards to that. Do you go visit the communities to assess the housing shortage or to assess how much that community will require and to assess how much we can't meet the needs. Although we do have the plans. This is how much we won't be able to keep up with the needs financially. Do you make those sort of plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The LHO managers in your communities, those are the people that give us the figures, and what the population growth is and how much heating fuel they utilized. For example, all the fuel or all the energy we use, the rental scales and how much LHO is funded and these reports are sent to our departments. We do get that information as to how much funding they have left and whether the LHO is in deficit or whether they have paid for their deficits. So all this information is given to us by the LHO managers. We do have those managers in all the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just prior to having the Government of Nunavut there were plans made. Especially for the decentralized communities. One of my communities has decentralization.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation, does that department look at decentralization. Like for example if you build units in one community, or do you look at the decentralized communities when you start allocating units to the communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have stated before in the beginning. I think there were three members that I responded to. We based everything on the units that are rented in the community and the number of people in the household. Even if they are a decentralized community or if it is a capital city, we don't even look at that, how many units we have in a community and how many people that live in one household is the information that we follow.

Even if we don't mention the communities. It would be ideal. We would be basing on the number of units and the number of tenants.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Just a brief comment. I just want to say thank you to the Minister of the Housing Corporation because she has set aside some units for Pond Inlet to be constructed in the future. I also want to point out that these units that have been set aside for Pond Inlet, I don't want them to be reduced at all, and if you will be thinking about reducing them, please get my permission first or consult with me. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That was not a question. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. That is how it is. Once this budget is passed we will agree with it. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't think there are any further comments. I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. We have very few items to deal with, this Housing Corporation's supplementary appropriation is very short. There's someone who wishes to make a motion to report progress.

It's non debatable and it's 6 o'clock. We can ask the Speaker to come to the Chambers.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12 and would like to report Bill 12 is still under consideration and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do we have a seconder. Do we have a seconder. Mr. Nutarak, he's the seconder today. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those against. Carried. Item 21. Third reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the day for Wednesday November 21st.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 12
- Bill 13
- Ministerial Statement 96-1(5)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This meeting stands adjourned until tomorrow at 1:30. Just a note to the members we have supper tonight, a Premier's supper at the Discovery Lodge Hotel with the Manitoba delegation at 6:30. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5.41 p.m.*

