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Friday November 30, 2001

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Ireqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

*Minister Responsible for Nunavut
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(South Baffin)
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Minister of Human Resources;
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(Kugluktuk)

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(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday November 30, 2001**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning. Ublakktut. Good morning members before we start on the Orders of the Day, I would like to ask the Clerk to ascertain if the Commissioner of Nunavut, Mr. Irniq, is prepared to enter the chamber to give assent to bills. Mr. Clerk.

Assent To Bills

Commissioner Irniq (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning Mr. Speaker, Deputy Premier Mr. Ng, Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. As the Commissioner of Nunavut I am very pleased today to assent to the following bills.

Bill 12 - Appropriation Act No. 1, 2002/2003 - Assent

Bill 18 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - Assent

I am pleased to have been able to assent to these bills this morning. To all Nunavut residents I wish you the best Christmas season and a safe trip home to all the Members of the Assembly. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 127 - 1(5): Archaeological Exhibit

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I would like to inform the members about an important educational project created in co-operation between my department and the Canadian Museum of Civilization. We have prepared an

archaeological exhibit called the Ancient History of Nunavut. Twenty reproductions of tools, hunting implements and art objects are copies of those recovered over many years prior by archaeologists studying Tuniit and Thule sites in Nunavut.

This beautiful exhibit encourages us to recall with pride the skills and knowledge of our ancestors. People who thrived for countless generations by finding all they needed from the land.

Three travelling exhibits were donated to each of the Regional School Operations so that Nunavut students can enjoy and learn from them. Each exhibit is accompanied by an educational kit including a booklet and 20 photographic slides. This exhibit also reminds us about the value of protecting and caring for our archaeological sites so that we will continue to learn more about our past.

The Ancient History of Nunavut is on display in the Legislative lobby and I invite members to take some time to view it for themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 128 - 1(5): M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Moratorium

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning my colleagues. In January 2001, based on the best available scientific information and the Department of Sustainable Development's management recommendations, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board reduced the 2000/2001 M'Clintock polar bear quota and a moratorium began with the 2001/2002 hunting season.

(interpretation ends) Department of Sustainable Development officials met with representatives of the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations from the three affected communities as well as the Kitikmeot Hunters' and Trappers' Association to draw up new management plans for the polar bear population.

During those meetings the harvesters raised two important concerns. The first concern was that not enough Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit has been used in the management of the population. Therefore in September of 2000, my department conducted interviews with experienced polar bear hunters in the region.

Mr. Speaker, this was conducted months before the moratorium was concluded. The results were used by both Department of Sustainable Development and the NWMB in establishing the quota reduction and moratorium. The Department of Sustainable Development, NWMB and NTI are also planning to jointly fund an extensive Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study proposed by the Gjoa Haven HTO. It will examine polar bears, sea ice conditions and seal abundance in order to try and understand more fully what has

been happening in this region and to see how Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit can contribute in future polar bear management.

The second concern was that the reduction of the quota would result in significant economic loss to the communities. Department of Sustainable Development created a special economic initiative fund that will allow the three effected communities to develop and implement the economic strategies that would lessen the expected losses of income and work arising from the moratorium.

In June 2001, in order to ensure that the affected communities fully benefited from the fund, Department of Sustainable Development contracted a consultant to work closely with HTOs to identify feasible community based economic alternatives for the HTOs and document these results in a M'Clintock Channel Options Report. This report is now in the hands of all the parties involved.

(interpretation) I feel that our efforts to date to protect the M'Clintock Channel population and develop new economic opportunities in this area are progressing well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 129 - 1(5): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be tabling the Annual Report of Nunavut Arctic College, before the Members of the Legislature in both English and Inuktitut.

The college's annual report contains interesting information about the college's highly successful 1999/2000 year of program and service delivery. Details of the programs provided by each campus and the Nunavut Research Institute are included.

In an effort to ensure that College programs are accessible to all Nunavummiut, and to ensure the most cost effective and efficient delivery, the Board of Governors of the college continue to examine ways to align management and administration for the maximum possible benefit. An important highlight of the report is that during the 1999/2000 academic year, 77% of college students were able to register for courses, including certificate and diploma programs delivered in their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I am pleased to table this annual report and I commend Arctic College on its accomplishments. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 130 - 1(5): Interdepartmental/Interagency Suicide Prevention Committee

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a fine example of people working together to show their profound concern for the toll that suicide has taken in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the inter-departmental, inter-agency suicide prevention committee began when a representative from our department joined forces with another individual from education many months ago. Mr. Speaker, as a result of their efforts the committee has grown to include representatives from the Department of Sustainable Development, Human Resources, Education, Community Government & Transportation, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Health and Social Services and Mr. Speaker, Justice.

In addition, we are joined by the Nunavut Social Development Council, the RCMP, the Nunavut Federation of Teachers, the Nunavut Help Line and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I should also add that elders form a very important part of this committee.

This committee represents the best in people. They have volunteered, they have taken on this added responsibility because they feel deeply that something has to be done. Their contribution is a credit to their initiative and to the support of the many directors, managers and assistant directors, assistant Deputy Minister as well as Deputy Minister within the various departments.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that we would all agree that suicide prevention is everybody's business. The members of this committee have demonstrated their commitment to this belief.

I believe they would be able to appeal to and mobilize a wider array of personnel and services that could be done by any one department alone. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking the Members of the Interdepartmental Agency on Suicide Prevention Committee for their initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 357 - 1(5): "Grind and Brew" Relocation**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I always try to support the private sector in this legislature and promote them. Today is a bit of a historical day. One of this

community's landmark Inuit businesses is shutting its doors and relocating. This business serves up the best cup of coffee in Nunavut.

The cozy, friendly, hospitable Grind and Brew will be moving to new premises. I had my last cup of coffee there this morning, Mr. Speaker and asked the owners why they were relocating. They told me that the loquacious Health Minister would show up for his favourite brew and drive out all their customers.

Mr. Speaker, this is why they are relocating and they are hoping that it takes him awhile to find the new location. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter & Applause*

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

Member's Statement 358 - 1(5): Cough Medicine

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the House that ITC is going to have their 30 year Anniversary soon. They will be celebrating their 30 years and I can speak for all Inuit to say that we are all proud of them. We can now stand on our own today because the initiative ITC took on many years ago.

What I wanted to talk about today was that my two sons have had a very bad cold and it reminded me that when I was just a young lad I used to take cough syrup. There were no hospitals at that time. Father Forney use to give out the medicine a long time ago. One time my mother asked me to go get some cough syrup from the mission house. So I went there and he gave me a bottle of cough syrup and I went out I took a sip, I started walking home but my coughing was still persistent so I took another sip of the medicine.

Down on the ice I could see people playing soccer and I wanted to go there but my cough was still persistent, I finished the whole bottle of cough syrup and I still had a cough. I was walking for 5 minutes and I was still coughing. I went home and my mother asked me, so where is the cough syrup. So I showed her the empty bottle and I was still coughing. I don't recall the rest of it because I think I fell asleep from overdosing on the cough syrup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 359 - 1(5): Nanisivik Mine Closure

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker today I would like to express my dissatisfaction with the way the government is handling the Nanisivik Mine closure.

Earlier this week I heard the Deputy Minister of Community Government & Transportation say on CBC that the Government of Nunavut has not yet received any official notification of the closure of the mine. Mr. Speaker, I can't understand this anymore.

Over a month ago Breakwater Resources publicly announced that the mine will close in September 2002. Later today I will be tabling the press release that the company put out on this issue, so that the government can see what the news is for itself.

Mr. Speaker, I have been pushing for the government to establish a working group to address this matter. I will continue to push for general community representation on any body that will make decisions affecting the communities I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I will push to get a commitment from the Minister of Sustainable Development that he will move forward on this issue. During this time of uncertainty in the high arctic it is important that the government be clear about its intents for the communities there. It is important that we not hide behind bureaucratic formalities instead of taking action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 360 - 1(5): Assistance by Catholic Priests to Kugaaruk

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a joke to tell you this morning even though it's Friday when we normally make light statements.

Mr. Speaker, I have vivid memories of the days gone by. Among those memories that are most close is how kind and generous the missionaries were about forty years ago. Mr. Speaker, our community was called Pelly Bay at that time but has changed its name to Kugaaruk. There was no Hudson's Bay Company post, no RCMP and no doctor or nurse. The only non-Inuk in Kugaaruk at the time was a Roman Catholic missionary named Father Vanderville.

They were occasional visits from one of the priests but most priests lived a solitary life. Mr. Speaker, to say the least many of the missionaries wore many hats besides their spiritual guidance. As far as legal prescription would allow it they distributed medicines and provided medical help to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the many missionaries of the days gone by that cared about our well being then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 361 - 1(5): Arrival of Police in Inuit Camps

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a few comments about something that I have experienced and it is a true story. I'm sure it happened not only to me but probably many others as well.

My friend, Mr. Picco, as you know is a non-Inuk, a Qallunaaq. When we were young in the 1960's we'd rarely see non-Inuit and when we did we would be very intimidated and it was a scary experience. That was the way of life in those days in the 60's.

When the RCMP came to our outpost camps they set up a camp across from our camp. So it was quite scary to go near the camp because of course they were RCMP. The sins or naughty things I had done in my life were coming back to me, because of this authority.

>>*Laughter*

So I'm still me today but it's totally different now. My friend Mr. Picco last year, this is a true story. I asked him some questions and we left the House and went to a quiet room by ourselves. We just about got into a physical fight at that time. So this how changed it is from days gone by to now, how Inuit view the Qallunaaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 362 - 1(5): Arts and Crafts Producers

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to say hello to constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about carvers. I don't talk about carvers every day. But I rise today to speak about carvers.

I understand what carvers go through because I was a carver myself. The carvers are a recognized group within Nunavut. Our carvers are known worldwide because of the excellent work they do. I would like to recognize the carvers as well the seamstresses that do tapestry, crafts and wall hangings.

This activity shows what resources can be utilized in the Nunavut communities. This is shown through tapestries and through soapstone carvings. They are not only soapstone and tapestries, there are stories behind all these artistic creations. Because of these talents we can say that Nunavut is very creative. Nunavut has creative people who are very artistic.

Sometimes communities are not able to support local artwork. The sealskin sewers and other artists are not supported enough in the communities because of the lack of

employment in the local communities. It is difficult sometimes to buy their carvings. But we want to keep on supporting their artistic responsibilities.

Even if it is very difficult as carvers and seamstresses I would like to encourage all artists to keep up their work because they'll always be supported in some way. So for this reason Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the carvers and tapestry makers and seamstresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 363 - 1(5): Polar Bear Zones

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your statements this morning. Today I rise to talk about polar bears, since I too have hunted polar bears. I have the utmost respect for them. Today polar bears are getting closer to the communities, they can appear at any time.

In my community, we've always had problems with polar bears. When a polar bear biologist came to Clyde River we informed him and told him that where the polar bears roam is not predictable. They travel to and from Greenland and the biologists were not aware of this. But at this time they have produced a map with boundaries. I am not able to draw a map as well as a biologist.

But this is a diagram that I drew of a farm with fences and boundaries, much like the biologists drew a map of our polar bear homelands. This is the way the biologists would have you believe that our polar bear population lives, with boundaries that they don't go outside of. This is nonsense, polar bears don't respect boundaries, they go wherever they want to go. We don't have herds of polar bears like the biologists are used to, like on a farm where the biologists come from. We do not have farm animals in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 364- 1(5): Meaning of Quickstop

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members know I am a bit on the heavy side and I went to the store with my son to the Quick Stop, which in English means you can be in and out really fast. When we got there I opened my truck door at the same time as my son did. I remember coming out of the truck but my feet didn't land properly and I slid right under the truck and there I was lying on my back under the truck.

As soon as I fell down I tried to get back up as soon as possible. As soon as I got up I started looking around to make sure nobody was looking at me. My son who was in front of the truck, even before he came to the other end of the truck I got up so fast from the ground, before he came around to check on me.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to tell you that I now know the meaning of Quick in Quick Stop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause & Laughter*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 365 - 1(5): MLAs Vs. Women's Hockey Team Challenge

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to draw the attention of all Members of this House and people that are watching on TV to an event that will be happening today. Mr. Speaker, the women's hockey team in Iqaluit has challenged the Members of the Legislative Assembly of this House to a hockey game tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we played them last year in a game and it was a narrow victory. I know that they have improved Mr. Speaker, their number has grown. This year I am kind of worried. We are going to be without our Gilmour type player, Mr. Akasuk, who will be travelling on government business. I am kind of worried that without his Gilmour type play we won't be able to succeed tonight.

Another thing that worries me Mr. Speaker is that we have a Pavel Bure type player, Minister Picco. Pavel Bure is well known as a hog and cherry picker. We are kind of worried about having a player like that in our team.

Mr. Speaker, as you know if you watched the game last year, Mr. Picco was a defenceman and it is the first time in my life that I've seen a defenceman always hanging out in front of the other team's net. It is something that worries me and hopefully the lesson was learned and we won't see that similar type of behaviour this year.

Another thing that I am kind of worried about is Mr. Speaker, last year we had Mr. Okalik in the net with us and he too is out of town on government business. So I am kind of worried that I understand that we have a rather Liberal goal tender in the way of Chris "de'Save" Lalande and I am kind of worried. I have never seen him play. So I am really worried about it.

What I think we are going to have to count on Mr. Speaker is our solid defence play like Jacque Lemers Minnesota Wild and that is what we are going to need. Solid defensive play and hopefully we will be a team on the move lead by the Minister of Transportation this afternoon Mr. Speaker.

I urge all members to come and watch if they are not going to play. This is a fundraiser for the women's hockey team and all monies raised will assist them in travelling to competitions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 366 - 1(5): Above and Beyond Magazine Owned by Inuit

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I made a member's statement about Up Here magazine and made a grave error. I had suggested that this magazine was owned by Inuit when in fact the owners are non-Inuit from Yellowknife.

I was trying to refer to Above and Beyond magazine when I was talking about the little boy wearing a caribou outfit in the advertisement. I just wanted to correct this mistake I made. Up Here magazine is not owned by Inuit but Above and Beyond magazine is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 367 - 1(5): Hunting Experiences in Hall Beach

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the members for mentioning me in their statements and I would also like to mention the statement made by the Member for Kugaaruk about Ataqu Vindi Vindi. When I lived in Hall Beach about 17 or 18 years ago Ataqu Vindi Vindi used to live there too. I could tell you some stories, maybe on another Friday about that.

Mr. Speaker, the best way of learning is to watch and to see how things are done. Mr. Speaker, the Member from Hall Beach and Igloolik, the Member for Amittuq, Enoki would also tell me how to tie my kamotik, and indeed Mr. Speaker, he showed me how to tie it several times. I remember Mr. Speaker, many times my jerry can would fall off, my fox would fall off Mr. Speaker, and my kamotik would become untied.

He would keep trying to show me the proper way to do it. He got me one time from an old guy who has now passed on, Mr. Tassurapik, some ujuk rope and I still couldn't get it right. Later that spring and summer Mr. Speaker, we went seal hunting and when we were out seal hunting I tried three or four real long shots and we were at a place near Igloolik, I guess about 20 miles north of Hall Beach in a place called Uglik. North Uglik Island.

Enoki said to me, you're no good at long shots you can't hit anything. As soon as he said that the seal came right up next to the boat, maybe a foot away. He was driving the boat

so I had a chance to shoot. Now the seal was right there and I took careful aim Mr. Speaker, I shot twice. The seal got away, I missed.

Enoki told me to give up hunting and to give up shooting, he told me to maybe give up trying to tie a kamotik. But I thank Enoki because he never gave up on me. Later that winter we went out hunting and my machine broke down. I used to hunt by myself and he would always tell me, are you losing your mind. At that time we would use a rope for pulling the kamotik, we didn't use a hitch.

I was about 25 miles out of Hall Beach and it was getting a bit stormy as I remember and my machine broke down. I couldn't get going and all of a sudden this lone skidoo came by and it was Enoki. I think I would probably still be out there, so I would like to thank him for not giving up on me and for helping with my shooting.

I think my shooting has improved in that fourteen or fifteen years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk. Do you have a statement. If you do put your hand up.

>> *Laughter*

Member's Statement 368 - 1(5): Recognition of Cape Dorset & Kimmirut Pages

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I hope you are playing hockey tonight.

>> *Laughter*

I haven't seen you play hockey yet, so hopefully we will see you there tonight. Or these guys will.

(interpretation) I would like to thank my family, my wife and my children for their ongoing support. I believe that students are very important for the viability of Nunavut. I asked the Department of Education who helped students from two communities in my constituency come to Iqaluit to attend educational programs being provided here in Iqaluit.

So from Cape Dorset I would like to recognize the pages, Sarah Ashoona over there and Susie Ashevak just by the door and Niviaksie Adla is over here. The two from Kimmirut are Cynthia Pitsiulak, and on your right is Davidee Temela, these pages are from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. I will be playing hockey tonight, and I will be playing on the boys' team. Members' Statements. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud to recognise two people that are very dear to me, both people were campaigning on behalf of my election as I was trying to become an MLA. I have asked these people to come this week.

When the Nunavut Government was just being first talked about this person was very helpful in negotiating for Nunavut to become a reality with the Federal Government. So I would like to recognise Lucassie Ivalu for his hard work when he was negotiating for Nunavut. As well from Hall Beach, Linda Seakuluk, as she was also doing this. I am planning to marry her next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to welcome to the gallery Mr. Ivalu, that well known entrepreneur, from the community of Igloolik. I also want to welcome Linda Seakuluk to the gallery. She is wearing a Toronto Maple Leaf jersey as Enoki just said.

>>Applause

Two years ago when I was in Yellowknife as an MLA, Enoki used to phone me and we would make bets on hockey games Especially when the Chicago Blackhawks were playing the Toronto Maple Leafs. As I remember I think I lost every one of those bets. But I would like Mr. Speaker, to welcome Linda to the gallery, I think at home maybe tonight if Enoki is going to the game with Linda I can provide a Chicago Blackhawks sweater for Linda. I think she would be very proud to wear that instead of the Leaf one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 369 - 1(5): Role of DEAs Working with the Department of Education

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister Responsible for Education. The other day he did a Minister's Statement talking about the new Education Act for Nunavut.

In his statement Mr. Speaker, he talks about the responsibility of the DEAs. I'd like to ask the minister what role does he see the DEAs playing in education in working with the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our policies specify what kind of roles and responsibilities the DEAs will have at the community level. We work closely with them while we are looking for new teachers and they give us assistance in hiring new teachers. I am very proud of the fact that they can hire their own teachers at their local level.

We work with them on the calendar year planning and although we have many responsibilities our goal is to have the best education system for all the students in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware and I've mentioned also in the House, I'll use as an example the DEA here in Iqaluit. I am sure other DEAs used to be responsible for signing off and reviewing the budgets and monitoring how the schools were doing financially with their budget. Is that something that the minister still sees as a role to be played by the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact I have seen documents that show clearly where correspondence was forwarded and communicated with the District Education Authority on the specific matter of sharing with them the information as to how much the budget was and this was done earlier in the year.

It has been done with the DEA in Iqaluit. But I also want to assure the members that this practice is done with all the other DEAs in Nunavut as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other day I tabled a document and it was information provided to the DEA by the department when the DEA asked the department if they could see where their schools were at financially.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, they have seen that document that I tabled. All it had was the name of the school, a list of 8-9 numbers and a budget amount. Nothing telling what it is for, or information as to where they are to date. Does the minister feel that is adequate information for the DEA when they are monitoring and evaluating how their schools are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The specific document the member tabled in the House, I do admit that is not adequate for the DEAs to monitor their functions. How that came about Mr. Speaker, was when they had problems with the software and when this was provided to the principals and DEAs the original detailed information at that time could not be provided because of the difficulties they were having with the software.

As a result that information was used as an update. But again because of the difficulties with software, the proper document was not provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that it was a software problem. I wonder if the DEA was informed that it was a software problem and this page of numbers that don't mean anything, were actually something that was pared from the normal.

Will he ensure or commit to ensuring that adequate information is provided to the DEAs on a regular basis from now on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to assure the members that with the upgrading of the systems that we've gone through over the last couple of years, that we will provide as much detail as we can to the DEAs to the best of our abilities with the computers and software that we are using today. I will commit to making sure that my school operations in all regions will follow this guideline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 370 - 1(5): Allocation of Extra RCMP Positions

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker, there was a press release earlier this fall that the RCMP had managed to secure I think it was 13 to 14 extra positions for Nunavut for the detachments all across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret the crime rates in Nunavut are going up everywhere, especially in my community of Baker Lake with instances of alcohol. The RCMP in my community are working very, very hard to give us a safe environment in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Justice how they allocated the additional RCMP officers to communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Acting Minister of Justice, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the discussions that were held with the Department of Justice as well as the Federal Government represented by the RCMP was to look at two member detachments. So the allocations that were made were based primarily on having at least two members in communities' detachments.

For example, Grise Fiord increased from one member to two members and it is a safety issue. So that's how the allocation was initially done in consultation with the government and the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the very hard work that the Department of Justice does and I also appreciate the very hard work that the RCMP does in our communities.

But, Mr. Speaker, when they're allocating police officers in communities I know a community like Iqaluit has 14 or 15 and they have a regional detachment of 20 or 30. A community like Baker Lake is probably the third or fourth largest community in Nunavut. Like I said I don't like pulling statistics out there.

But did they think about allocating the RCMP officers by talking to the community about the active number of case files they have in the community and allocating Officers on that basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the major factors in the allocation of resources by police detachment by community is the amount of workload or caseload that the RCMP officers would have at that department.

One of the recommendations and now it's been implemented by the Department of Justice and your Government of Nunavut in consultation with the RCMP is to have six positions which would be based, for example, on relief duties as well as when extra resources are needed in a given community.

The other point that has been made Mr. Speaker, as I think is exactly what the member is pointing out and that is in the evaluation of the workloads at the community level for those standard basis.

So for example Mr. Speaker, we know of some communities where we had one safety issue that dictated that we have at least two members. That has been done and we are using the six extra resource positions that are available now to do some relief work as well as compensate when the caseload is higher in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to know that there are six resource positions available. Like I was saying earlier, and like I have been saying in this House for the last couple of months, about the very successful program that they ran in Baker Lake by a constable there that has since relocated to the south.

This was the DARE program and prevention is one of the things that the RCMP like to do. Crime prevention. But in some communities like my own their workload makes it so hard and it is so high that they have very, very little time to do crime prevention.

I wonder if the acting Minister Responsible for Justice would look at the Baker Lake situation and see if he could have an extra constable relocated there to do crime prevention. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is something that I will take up with the department and advise the Deputy Minister that there is a request now coming from Baker Lake and have them contact the Hamlet and Mayor in Baker Lake directly on what seemingly the needs are.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, we have to be cognizant of the fact that the RCMP of course know what the caseloads are best in their communities, and see what type of representations are made between the department as well as the RCMP and communicate that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 371 - 1(5): Artifacts Exhibition

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. He talked while ago about some artifacts that are out in the hall of the Assembly.

He wanted us to take a look at them whenever we can. I just wondered which community these artifacts came from. Did they get them from various communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those archaeological exhibits came from various communities in Nunavut. I am not really quite sure which communities each artefact came from, but if you take a look at the exhibits today you can read the information about where they were found. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So was he talking about them before he saw them, is that the case.. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have the information here in front of me at this time, but if I remember correctly, there are some from Pond Inlet, and some are from Nunavik. I think there is one item from Nunavik and Cape Dorset. Those are some of the communities that I know of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 372 - 1(5): Ensuring Patients Have Room in Boarding Homes

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services about some correspondence that I received and I am sure he has a copy of it.

There was an individual that went to the hospital in the morning in Ottawa and then they had to leave in the morning. I am not sure where this individual came from. He or she had to leave and go to the hospital at the same time.

So because he had to leave that day he could not make his appointment at the clinic. They did not want him or her to go back to the boarding home and the individual was unilingual. So this person was invited and to go and stay overnight at the janitor's place. So if these people are going to be treated this way it is not going to be very good for the people of Nunavut.

I just wondered what the minister has to prevent this from happening again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all the member is right that if those types of things are happening they are not acceptable. We have received a letter from Mayor Kautak and we are in the process right now of doing an investigation on the person as well as the incidents that have been explained to us in the letter from the Mayor of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, the member and the Hamlet made a good point. When issues like that happen they should be brought directly to the attention of the department so we can investigate and follow up. None of our patients should be left behind or treated unfairly

because they are unilingual. We want to make sure that we get to the bottom of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 373 - 1(5): Funding to Replace Polar Bear Hunts

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to follow up the comments of the Minister of Sustainable Development about the polar bear study in the M'Clintock Channel.

He said they met with the HTO. The people had a problem with the study because they did not use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and it says that they will be getting some funding in place of polar bear hunting.

My question Mr. Speaker is, because of the weather changes the bears are declining in that area, and because of the climate change the polar bears are always going to be declining. So I just wondered if that is going to be happening in other communities where by they pay some money in place of polar bear hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker the Department of Sustainable Development and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and NTI will be working together to fund this jointly and try to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the study.

On the question the member asked about seeing if communities can be compensated when they cannot hunt polar bear anymore, we are going to study that by working jointly with those entities and with the communities that I mentioned. We will also be working with the communities addressing associated problems and helping out the people of Gjoa Haven in regards to what they want to do. We will also be there so that if anything happens in the communities we will attempt to help them out with funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that communities can be assisted if what happened in Gjoa Haven happens somewhere else. Mr. Speaker, is it in their policy that they would help out the other communities that are having problems with polar bear populations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Sustainable Development, I feel that we have to assist the hunters in the communities. So what we

have done is we had some funding available for the communities that might encounter problems such as the one that happened in Gjoa Haven. We had to work with the HTO to provide some funding for the community of Gjoa Haven.

I am sure that if there was an event like this that happened in any community then we would provide some funding for them as well. Not just for polar bears, but also the people in high arctic because of their mining closure for example. Those are the types of things that we have in place to assist people that are encountering hardships because of the loss of their livelihood. So if something like this happened in other communities we would do our best to provide support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in his response he mentioned the closure of the mines in the high arctic area, and he said that he could also give them support. Mr. Speaker, there seems to be an increase in the number of communities that are having problems. At times it seems that there have been cases where female polar bears have been caught unintentionally and they get penalized for it.

Their quota is decreased if they harvest a female polar bear. It affects the whole community when they are penalized for shooting females. If the communities get penalized then can you decide to compensate them through Sustainable Development, because of the loss of income, or because of the decreased number of polar bears. Could the minister tell us if those communities can get financial support if they catch a female polar bear by accident. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I'm sure the member knows about those policies as he is older than I am and I'm sure he is well aware of the policies and regulations and so on. We have to adhere to the rules and regulations and the member is well aware of that.

In regards to the consequences of defence kills, we do have to enforce the regulations and there's nothing we can do about it until the rules are changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): I'm very pleased that the minister called me an elder. I am well aware of those rules and regulations. I'm sure there are new ones coming out because of the supposed decreased population of polar bears and there is a moratorium according to the statement that he made.

Can you give financial support to the communities because it is in your rules. Some of the communities catch their full quota and at times they have to be penalized because of the harvesting of female polar bears. Are you going to be able to give those communities financial support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is because of the polar bear moratorium on the M'Clintock Channel, that there are emergency funds available and we're able to give them financial assistance. I'm sure that it will help out the community.

We work extremely hard to help out the communities as the Department of Sustainable Development. We're looking at other avenues to support the communities. That's what our department does.

In regards to the question the Member from Amittuq asked, about an overkill of polar bears in Igloodik for example and if we are able to give them financial support, we have no money available for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 374 - 1(5): Traditional Hunting Techniques

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. In his minister's statement he mentioned that they will be looking into traditional practices to do an extensive Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit study.

There are a lot of Inuit out there who harvest wildlife for sustenance and of course they're more nutritious than southern foods. Could the minister tell us if we're going to be using traditional hunting techniques in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like your question. I am sure that the traditional hunting techniques are still being used, we have the kakivak to catch fish, and we have the use of harpoons for the seals. We are still using the traditional hunting tools. I would like the member to rephrase his question and tell me exactly what he is talking about. We have to look also at the dangers of hunting but we never know what they are going to be in the future.

We will make sure that they use their traditional hunting techniques and tools, because of course we have to think about the youth and make sure their safety is considered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have all heard about the individual that wanted to hunt a polar bear using a harpoon. Could the minister tell us if he is willing to support those types of things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister Responsible for Sustainable Development. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first was appointed to this portfolio and after consulting with NTI and the NWMB, I said that the Wildlife Act will have to be reviewed soon so that we can make it relevant to Nunavut.

The Members of the Legislative Assembly and the constituencies will be involved during the review of the Wildlife Act. We could put hunting polar bears using traditional techniques in the Act. After the review and the amendment of the Wildlife Act it will be Nunavut made. If it is the wish of the people of Nunavut to allow hunting bears by harpoon, we could consider including that in the Act.

But of course we will have to review it very carefully before putting such clauses in the Act. We will include NTI and NWMB in the review as well and we would like everyone to be involved. The current Wildlife Act does not include some of the land claim agreement clauses or articles. We will look into it and it would have to involve all of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 375 - 1(5): Loss of Revenue from Carving

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. In my member's statement I spoke about Nunavut artists and carvers in the Kitikmeot region. During September in my riding, the carvers received a fax indicating that their carvings were not sold in Winnipeg, and the carvers lost some money because of that. Since the carvers are no longer selling their carvings I was wondering what kind of plans the Department of Sustainable Development have to address this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to carvers and artists sales have gone down since the September 11th tragedy in the United States. The sales of carvings and tapestries have gone down, but we want to work with the Nunavut Development Corporation more to promote artists' work.

We also took into consideration Mr. McLean's comment about this as a suggestion for what we could do in Nunavut. We want to promote more artwork and carvers from

Nunavut. These are in our plans for the future. We are in support of all artists and seamstresses in Nunavut and we will be dealing with their work in the coming weeks.

I will be making a Minister's Statement and reporting to you on this issue and what we are doing for the carvers and tapestry makers of Nunavut. We will be also supported by the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. We provided 150 thousand dollars last year to this association, so they can promote their work. These things are all beneficial to Nunavut residents with respect to their economic gain. We will be in support of the arts and carvers of Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister's department for promoting artists. He said that he will be working on it this week, and in the coming weeks. We have been wanting more support from the Nunavut Government since before September 11th because the prices and sales of these carvings and tapestries have been going down for a while.

Art prices and sales of these carvings and tapestries have been going down. So the artists and carvers will be expecting some support from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will work closely with the communities to find out how we can promote carvings. The two communities I'm representing are also involved in this as well as other communities and they all feel this crunch as well.

But as the Nunavut Government we have to support the carvers and seamstresses. We have to support their work. We're not sure what their future is going to be but we will do everything we can to support these artists and carvers and seamstresses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 376 - 1(5): Number of Grievances Filed

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister Responsible for Human Resources. He looks kind of bored sitting over there, no questions directed towards him. So I guess I'll make him feel like he's still wanted as well.

Mr. Speaker, I think it was well over a year ago or so I asked the minister if he had an idea of how many grievances were filed against the government by the union. I'd like to

ask the minister if he has any information on the number of grievances filed against the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Do you want to answer, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any information on that so I imagine that things are going well. There may not be any grievances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I asked for information and I obtained it from the Nunavut Employees Union web site. It talked about the number of grievances that are out there.

Mr. Speaker, in 1998 I'll just go over some numbers here, since the minister says everything's fine. I'll just give you some numbers. In 1998 there were eight, 1999 again this is pre-division 38 grievances. In the year 2000, Mr. Speaker, 76 grievances filed against the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2001 from January to October there were already 67 grievances filed by the union. I'd like to ask the minister if he will commit to providing me with some information in this House. The information as to why we're seeing so many grievances, what they're for and commit to having that type of information on hand so he can answer our questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to provide more detail on that information once it becomes available.

Obviously the Nunavut Employees' Union has picked up some of their resources in respect of some of their personnel and dealing with their employees. So that could be a result of some of the grievances accounting for some of the increases in the grievances, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last time the minister indicated that it was a detailed question and they didn't have the capacity to be able to provide all that information in a timely manner. I still haven't received a response from a year ago to get that information, I still haven't received that information.

Maybe he should, just as a suggestion to the minister, he may want to consult with the Nunavut Employees' Union if his Department of Human Resources can't get the

information maybe you should look elsewhere or request advice on how they can compile and get that information for the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for his suggestion and in fact I will log onto the web site after question period, of the Northern Employees' Union and see what is available there and contact my department as well. Thank you.

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

Question 377 - 1(5): Working Group

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. In respect to establishing the working groups that were mentioned, when is this going to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Deputy Minister spoke about this the other day. In my department we are working on the logistics of the working group. When we establish this working group we will be keeping in touch with the members as to what is happening.

But we can't say at this time what date the group will be established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I rose to direct questions to the Minister of Sustainable Development and he also agreed that the communities would be worked with and consulted closely.

I want to find out if the communities will in fact be consulted about the mine closures. This is the first time we have had these types of mine closings in Nunavut, and it is becoming a reality. So can the minister state for sure that the communities will be closely involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. That's what we are planning to do. The Nunavut communities have to be consulted. I am not sure exactly how they are going to be involved but there will be involvement of more than one community. They will be working closely with finance officials. We are not sure exactly

how this is going to work, but the Department of Sustainable Development will also be involved in consulting the communities on the mine closures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for his response. I wanted to get a response from two ministers, the Minister of Sustainable Development and Community Government & Transportation. I would like to ask them to go to these communities to plan for the closures of these mines, before the working group is established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I have spoken with the Minister of Sustainable Development about going to these communities. But perhaps I am the problem here.

I am not sure when I'll be available to go to those two communities. I have other responsibilities that I have to deal with after our session.

It is obvious that we will be going to these two communities. I cannot say what date I'll be travelling to these communities though. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 378 - 1(5): Study of Grizzly Bears - Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit & Biologists

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, over the last year we've had some situations in our community that were almost tragic and in a couple of the cases, people were seriously injured by Grizzly bears. Earlier in the spring I asked the minister if he could commit to do a study on the situation in Baker Lake.

In the meantime, there was a grizzly bear spotted in the Finance Minister's riding of Cambridge Bay and that was a first. I am wondering if the Honourable Minister could update me if they are going to do some kind of study using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the biologists on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we are seeing a lot of grizzly problems in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot region, which is the riding of Mr. Ng and also Mr. Haviyak, and Mr. McLean.

I think this is a very serious issue and before anybody gets seriously injured, I believe I could make sure we do something about it. I will inform my staff to make sure that we are trying to do something on this issue.

We have been seeing a lot of grizzly in Nunavut now and we have to make sure that we have good research on these grizzly bears. I'll make sure to inform my staff to look into this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the minister is responding to the needs of affected communities. Like I say it seems to be the opposite of what is happening with the polar bears. There are a decreasing number of polar bears. Could the minister commit and tell me when he would initiate this study and see that there isn't a problem in the area with these animals. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my staff to work on this on an urgent basis with the communities affected. We want to promote tourism too in that area so we have to be very careful about how we deal with bears, not just grizzly bears and not just polar bears.

So we have to be very careful so that we can promote tourism at the same time. Yes, I will commit to working with the communities that are affected by the grizzly bears. This is very important so we will work with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 379 - 1(5): Urgency of Polar Bear Issue

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Department of Sustainable Development. Yes, our way of life is just one culture and the previous request to harvest a polar bear with a traditional method is our way of life. For safety reasons that individual was denied.

Recently near Rankin Inlet there is a polar bear mauling. Last summer in one of our communities there was a polar bear that mauled a tourist. During the summer in the month of August literally every day in the community of Clyde River we have to protect ourselves. It has become a daily task to protect ourselves from the polar bears because they come into our community so often. In addition, in the Gjoa Haven region they have to protect themselves from the polar bears, because the number of polar bears is increasing. I am sure they will have to protect themselves also.

In view of that, when the department says the polar bear biologists will deal with the issue on an urgent basis they sometimes over power the Inuit needs. I don't like seeing

this happen. I know this is an urgent case but what does an urgent case mean to the minister and his department when the polar bear biologists say they have an urgent case. So my question is, what does he mean by dealing with it on an urgent basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I am not to sure if he is talking about the funding that I alluded to earlier on or is it because of trying to get the polar bears out of the community. I don't understand the member's comment about urgent cases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Clarification. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I was too clear on my comment, too simple. We heard in the past that the number of polar bears were decreasing and when the polar bear biologist says that the number of polar bears are decreasing they work on an urgent basis. I don't think that is the case.

I think they should be using the Nunavut harvesters, on the land experts, rather than the polar bear biologists. I was wondering would it be considered an urgent case when we have polar bears coming into our community on a daily basis, as I stated earlier. I asked if we could get an employee during the summertime and this individual could be a polar bear watcher to keep the polar bears at bay, so that campers can enjoy the outdoors. Would this be considered an urgent case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our staff with Renewable Resources are working in almost all the communities. I think there are only three communities in Nunavut that do not have Renewable Resource Officers. Those are the individuals that work on urgent community cases, and they work with the communities and us. They can request renewable resources to work with polar bears on urgent issues. The communities have to work with the wildlife officers, but that is the communities' responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state further that just recently this past October there two biologists that came into our community just to scare the polar bears away and there were three Officers in total just to scare the polar bears away. It became understandable at that time that they used bear bangers, and they are very loud, to scare the polar bears away. This might damage their hearing. I was wondering if he could commit to me that they are not just pestering the polar bears because there are too many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his questions. Yes, we would like to know how to scare polar bears away using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. So therefore, we have to work together to determine the best possible way to scare polar bears away.

My question is what would be the best way to scare them away. That will be my question when we are working with the communities. How can we lure the bears away without abusing them. I will ask my officials to work with the communities Renewable Resource Officers to find out the best way to scare polar bears away in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to hear. I wonder if his department could do a study in Clyde River and Broughton Island about the frequent visits by the bears and the kinds of problems they are creating. Because we are losing everything from our shells and ammunition and other things.

Last summer I went out hunting and caught a seal and I made a rope. The rope was taken by a polar bear, even though making the rope was a lot of effort. We are losing our equipment and the government or the polar bear biologists are not replacing this equipment. I wondered if Sustainable Development could do a study to see what kinds of losses we are experiencing in Clyde River and Broughton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I realize this is a problem in those two communities. Perhaps other communities as well. I will look into seeing whether my department can find out what is happening in those two communities, and they can consult with the two communities to determine the real problems there.

The HTO and Wildlife Officers can probably work together to determine what the problems are and we will keep working to try and protect the people in the two communities from the bears and hopefully those officers will do their best to correct that problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members will note that question period is now over. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 061 - 1(5): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Inuktitut and the English copies of the Annual Report of Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Williams.

Tabled Document 062 - 1(5): Letters & Press Release Regarding Nanisivik Closure

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Table three documents. The first of these is a News Release dated October 29th, Breakwater Resources announcing that the Nanisivik mine will be closed in September 2002.

The second of these letters is dated October 21st addressed to me from Cominco Limited informing me of the mine closure and providing me with additional information.

The last document is dated November 26 from the Hamlet of Arctic Bay addressed to me as the MLA for Quttiktuq. In the letter the community indicates although the Vice-President of Breakwater has met with the Mayor of Arctic Bay, the Government of Nunavut has not yet contacted the Hamlet on the closure of the mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kilabuk.

Tabled Document 063 - 1(5): Response to Tabled Committee Report on Income Support

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff has been working quite a bit. I would like to table a document in Inuktitut and English in response to the Standing Committee's recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Tabled Document 064 - 1(5): Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances & Expenses

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have a document members I would like to table. I wish to table the following document. Report on the Payment of Indemnities, Allowances & Expenses for the year ending March 31st 2001.

Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 015 - 1(5): Referral of Language Commissioner Annual Report to Ajauqtiit

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Quttiktuq that the Annual Report for 2000-2001 of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut be referred to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit and that the Committee report back to the House at the earliest opportunity with its findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Nutarak.

Motion 016 - 1(5): Referral of Information & Privacy Commissioner's Report to Government Operations

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Member for Baker Lake, that the Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner be referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services for review, and that the Standing Committee report back to the House at the earliest opportunity with its findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. 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 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001/2002. Tabled Document 41 - 1(5), the Nunavut Liquor Act Report, with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair.

Members we will break for lunch. Lunch will be served at 12.15 in the Tuktu Room and you will report back here to the Chamber at 1 o'clock. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12.03 p.m. and resumed at 1.07 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. I will now call the committee to order. We have Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001/2002. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: In committee of the whole today we would like to deal with Bill 13 and Tabled Document Liquor Act Report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Do we agree that the committee will deal with Bill 13. Does the Minister of Finance have any opening comments. Minister Ng.

Bill 13 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2001/2002 - Consideration in Committee

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for the opportunity to discuss the Government of Nunavut Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 for the fiscal year 2001/2002. The purpose of the Supplementary Appropriation bill is to provide additional funding to the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002. Authority is requested for a total of 41 million 47 thousand 500 dollars in additional appropriations.

This is made up of 37 million 588 thousand 500 for operations and maintenance expenditures and 3 million 459 thousand for capital expenditures. The operations and maintenance appropriation requirements include 14 million 913 thousand dollars across the Government of Nunavut for increased compensation and benefits costs associated with the NEU collective agreement.

Twenty million 750 thousand dollars to the Department of Health to meet anticipated operational expenditures, and 307 thousand 50 dollars to the Department of the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs to fund the Ikuma II Working Group.

The capital appropriation requirements break down to 1 million 368 thousand dollars to the Department of Community Government & Transportation for the Pond Inlet sewage lagoon which is comprised of a special warrant of 500 thousand dollars and 868 thousand dollars in a Supplementary Appropriation.

Nine hundred and 20 thousand dollars for the Bathurst road and port project contribution and 1 million 871 thousand for Community Government & Transportation to fund capital shortfalls in their budget.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my remarks. I look forward to answering any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Minister do you have your officials here with you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: My officials are on their way. But I am ready to go. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Would you like to go to the witness table and your official will be guided to the table as well when he comes in. Thank you. At this

time we will wait for your officials. I just want to let the members know that Bill 13 is on page 6. We will begin on page 6.

Minister Ng I would like to ask you if you want to wait for your officials or would you like to begin. Comments from the members. Questions from the members. If there are no comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, looking at the amount of this supplementary appropriation, my understanding of a supplementary appropriation is that it is for things that weren't thought of or weren't inquired or we never thought these things would be necessary.

Looking at one of the items that the minister mentioned, almost 15 million dollars for increased compensation and benefits for Nunavut employees as a result of the collective agreement. Is this still one. To me having a supplementary this large is quite a substantial amount, 41 million dollars. What kind of budgeting, proper budgeting would not seem to end up being out this much money. Like in general. What practices are used. Are there things that could have been incorporated into the initial budget that we knew about.

Things that may not have been necessary to show up in here. One example that I'll use is just in the compensation and benefits that was budgeted for and I said in the past that we are budgeting based on being 100% staffed. To me even though we are not going to be 100% staffed, we are still budgeting it that way. That is not proper planning. If we know that we are going to be 80% staffed, that 20% go could towards other programs and services and all the members would have some say in where it is going.

When we see a supplementary appropriation for the most part, a lot of this stuff is done by the time it comes here. So I would like to ask if the minister can respond to those general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I guess, Mr. Chairman, in the normal course of business in an ideal situation, you have everything planned and everything works out the way it is planned.

In the case of, if you look at the amounts that I mentioned in the opening comments, and Mr. Tootoo pointed out the 15 million dollars approximately for the NEU collective agreement. Although we could have put an amount into the budgetary estimate until an agreement was finalized, but why pre-judge what the outcome would be. So in that case, this 15 million dollars is for the 2001/2002 year for the two and three quarter percent increase for the Nunavut Employees' Union and it is spread out across all government departments to reflect the monetary increase as the result of that ratified agreement.

For the issue of the other amount for Health and Social Services, as member know approximately 20 million dollars. Given that we have talked about this in the House and

in committee on various occasions on whether or not there is sufficient funding for the department, and it has been as the minister has articulated on several occasions, that has to be verified. There was some extensive work carried out in conjunction, between the Department of Finance and the Department of Health to substantiate some of those amounts and that is what is reflected here to deal at least with this year.

Next year's main estimates will obviously be reflective of some of those additional needs as well. So I mean, by and large, that's the bulk of the 40 million dollars or so of Supplementary Appropriation requests. But in respect to the member's question about staffing and budgeting based on actual expected levels versus vacancies.

One has to remember that even though the departments, roughly the government is around 80% of staffing, there is a 20% as you know vacancy rates, let's not forget that the work still continues to be done. There are still costs involved in getting that work done even though there is that vacancy factor because there are consultants that are hired to carry out work, there are staff that are putting in tremendous amounts of extra work and overtime, there are casual employees, indeterminate employees that are hired to fill in on a short term basis. So there are all those factors that require funding for departments.

Now, if we were to cap it at, say 80% of funding for departments based on the expectation of 80% of staffing and put the 20% into programs, what happens when your staffing gets increased past 80% and you have to cut back on programs that you have allowed to be funded from the vacancy levels. Because that would create some significant problems, I don't think any of us would want to have to face having those cutbacks.

How do you explain to the public at large that yes, we had this program and now we have additional staff requirements and we have to reduce those programs. So I guess that's the basis of the rationale that we use in our budgeting and how we operate on the fiscal side, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pretty sure that in the minister's fiscal update he mentioned the fact that a lot of the accumulated surplus that we had was a result of lack of capacity in the government and all those vacant positions, and that's where a large portion of this surplus is coming from.

Or a portion, an amount of it, is coming from the almost 15 million that is in here for additional costs associated with the collective agreement. Is the minister saying that all the amounts that have been budgeted for in the main estimates for compensation and benefits has been spent and it needs this much more to top it off to meet those needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to correct the member, Mr. Chairman, I have never said that the bulk of the surplus has come from the vacancy levels of this government. There certainly is, as I have said in the past, a portion of that, but it is not a significant component of the overall accumulated surplus of the government.

We have recognized that it has given the government some flexibility to deal with funding matters in other operations and maintenance and capital requirements. As I said earlier, there have been casual employees, consultants, overtime and all the other things associated with completing and delivering government services that is funded from some of the excess under-spent salaries and benefits from the government.

Yes, Mr. Chairman, the 14 million 913 thousand dollars for compensation and benefits costs two and three quarters of the adjustment is for the civil service as a result of the collective agreement for those employees. That is what is in this supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess as a result of the 20 percent vacancy rate that the government has, was that amount taken from the number of positions with the government and the pay ranges that they are at and whether they are vacant or not, to come up with this number. Thank you Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a detailed calculation of what is making up or comprising that 14 million 913 thousand dollars. My official when he comes might have those details. I have a break down of departmental costs with me, but that is the extent of the details I have. I am certainly willing to provide any more detailed information that the member wants at a later date, if my official doesn't have it when he arrives Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Remember that you didn't want to wait for your official. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess what I am getting at is I am wondering if the methodology that was being used in calculating this amount was based on all the PY's within the government that are there and multiplied by the percentage increase. Is there a potential that some of this 15 million dollars is targeted toward these vacant positions that could end up being lapsed anyways, because there is no one in those positions. That's what I was trying to find out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said to Mr. Tootoo, I don't know. But like I said earlier as well, there are casual and indeterminate and non-funded positions

within the government as well that if they are unionized would require the adjustment on their salary. So that would certainly compensate for some of the amounts of the cost and benefit increase. That might or might not be used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. Just a general question here I guess, on the almost 38 million there that is for operational and maintenance expenditures. What percentage of that funding, I guess I am asking the minister if he knows or not, or if he has to wait for his official to find out, what percentage of that, whether that be lapsed benefits due to vacancies, programs that aren't being used within the government and those types of things. Where is that money coming from and then where is it going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well certainly Mr. Chairman, some of the information isn't as detailed in each of the departments depending on the transfer amount. Those are the items that we will get into once we get into the departmental review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. Before we go any further I believe your official is here. Sergeant-At-Arms could you escort the individual please.

Thank you, Minister Ng would you please introduce your official. Thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I have me with me Mr. Ted Dingle who is the Senior Financial Analyst for the Department of Finance. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am fully aware of the detail in here. But I was wondering if it had a breakdown of percentages. Overall, the whole thing without looking at it. Just to get an idea of where the funding is coming from and where it's going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman by and large the bulk of it is additional funding, a supplementary request so it comes from the accumulated surplus that we have, as far as where the funds would be paid out of.

And just earlier in respect to Mr. Tootoo's question about the numbers for the Northern Employees' Union increase, it is based on all organizational chart positions. In another words, they'll be based on 100% of positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look at a supplementary appropriation for over 41 million dollars, and looking at it, 14 million 913 thousand dollars for increased compensation and benefits due to the collective agreement.

Was this a budgeted figure that was in the budget when we approved it last spring. I thought I saw a line item for 10 million. Was this in fact budgeted in the last budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At that time I don't think it would have been a budgeted item. Certainly it would have been in our fiscal framework overall. With the expectation about a reserve for an amount that we would expect to have disbursed.

But again the budget, that is why we are here. Until it was finalized there was no need to predetermine what that amount was until it was finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know the union negotiations were hot and heavy for a while. So I guess it is hard to take it down to an actual figure. We know what they wanted and asked for and what they received. Two different issues. That aside. The part of the expenditure that perhaps I have to look at with a critical eye, is in health.

We know that our health care costs are going to go up. And I know when we looked at the budget and approved the budget figures for each department, that health was maybe too low.

The issue here is another 20 million dollars that comes out of I don't want to say is the blue. It does pop up in the budget, 20 million dollars. So when we approve a budget I know our costs go up and it is operational costs and things like that.

Is this poor budgeting on behalf of the Health Department or is that kind of like money that was just totally overlooked, or is it needed for emergencies in that department. Because when we are approving budgets we like to have half decent figures that are accurate. I am sure there is an explanation why there was an additional 20 million dollars put into the Health budget. But why was this not anticipated in last year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Glenn. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know a lot of the financial accounting was with three regional health boards. Quite frankly some of the information wasn't readily available and wasn't as accurate as it could have been.

Obviously at year end and audit time a lot of those things were picked up. As I had mentioned earlier, the overall needs of the Department of Health and Social Services, may not have been fully addressed when we established the targets that we received from the Office of the Interim Commissioner on day one of April 1 1999.

I said that the minister has frequently articulated that in different ways, whether it is in the House or the Standing Committee or at the Financial Management Board level. After the roll up or the dissolution of the Boards in the final accounting and accruals were to come into place, now that they are more centralized at the Department of Health, it became more apparent that there were issues of costs exceeding their budgeted amounts that had to be addressed.

So you will note even in the first year's Auditor General's report that they were slightly over their budget at that time and in the next fiscal year's they will be significantly over approved budget expenditures. So it will be another matter that will have to be addressed as well. We are trying to deal with this, as I said Mr. Chairman.

This year we undertook actively with the Department of Health, the Department of Finance undertook a detailed analysis of their expenditures and there is a report that is just being finalized now on that. As I said, it will have to be recognized in the upcoming main estimates for the next fiscal year that there will have to be some additional appropriations made for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Glenn.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer. Yes you are correct, I sit on the Standing Committee and I have listened to the minister numerous times saying that his base was way too low in Health, and I am starting to see it now.

Are we looking at increasing the Health Minister's base so that we are not looking at another 20 million dollars next year at this time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes we are looking at increasing the Department of Health and Social Services base and in fact we are using this base here, this Supplementary that is here before us, the 20 million 750 thousand dollars as the starting point with the Department of Health preliminary targets for next year.

However, having said that, once this report is finalized, the Department of Finance will be making some specific recommendations to the Financial Management Board in respect of the Department of Health and Social Services operations. We would expect that some of those recommendations would be put forward for the Department of Health

and Social Services to implement over the course of the 2002/2003 year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good, it seems like your department and his department are working together to look at this. My fear here is that health care costs are going to escalate. They are escalating everywhere in Canada at this point and it is eating up more and more and more of all the budgets in the country right now.

Are we to the point yet, I know it is only two and a half years into our mandate, but are we anywhere near the point of knowing what it is going to cost us to run this health care system for the next two or three years. Or are we just going to be looking at more appropriations over the next year or two. Do we have a base at which we know we can operate and then look at giving ourselves a budgeted figure where we are not coming back in here and saying we need another ten million, another ten million, another ten million and another 20 million year after year after year.

Can we get to the point where we're going to say well okay we think we've got a figure to work with in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Glenn. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, believe me that at Finance Ministers' meetings the Department of Health and health and social program expenditures is easily one of the largest, most discussed topics that we have.

It's not unique to our jurisdiction. All jurisdictions across this country are facing this dilemma of the health budgets eating up program dollars for all other departments as it continues to be growing at the pace that it has been growing over the past decade. And it's a matter of how far governments want to go in reforming the health care system.

As you know it's very sensitive, it's an emotionally charged issue, it's very political. Once you start tampering with the existing programs and services. I mean look at the discussions that take place in this House on a regular basis in our question period, in our committees on our health services and programs.

People don't like to have reform and reductions, they like more programs and more services. But with that comes of course is a significantly higher cost for providing those programs and services. I mean this whole exercise that we're all aware of, of reviewing our programs and services, the program review that we're undertaking, the fiscal review of our programs.

I mean it's all part and parcel of what we're going to see as our priorities for delivery of programs for our constituents. And Health and Social Services programs are certainly a big part of that with the impact that they have on our constituents.

So I mean certainly there's no doubt that you know we all want to provide as much services as possible. But I think it's how much we can afford to provide is another question. So that's the debate that's going to be taking place over the course of the next or for the rest of our term I would think, Mr. Chairman, as we try to move to you know to provide the curtail or expand the program that we have including particularly the Health and Social Services programs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Glenn.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that Mr. Finance Minister, we're all working with the Health Minister. I'm trying to come to a solution on this and a healthy solution in all our communities that like I said earlier the health costs are increasing every year.

Especially more here in Nunavut and the issue of suicide keeps bringing us back to reality on that issue and it's sort of a paradox to where we're going to go with that. But on that 20 million dollar operational expenditures in health. How much of that was medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it might be more appropriate once we get into the detail of the department that I can address that matter from the member otherwise I'm going to end up slipping back and forth between departments and different categories within departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I want the members to know that once we start going page by page there's quite a few numbers to go through so you can ask your questions at appropriate times. Glenn.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll wait until we get into the detail of it. I think that's pretty well my opening comments on the Supplementary Appropriation and I've got more questions to ask once we get into the detail, on the shortfalls of various departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our government system is quite new to us and I would say no wonder we're going through this. But last year we had Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 for 2000-2001. We are now having to deal with a new Supplementary Appropriation Act.

It is almost half of the first Act. For example, I know that we are in our infancy as a government and when we are at the initial stage of anything, I understand we will make some mistakes. I know that our government would like to get capable, qualified staff.

I believe the top officials that work at Finance are very good capable workers because financial issues are very important. I believe the staff is very capable staff that is able to work on the figures. This Supplementary Appropriation Act is required because as the Government of Nunavut we used more money than expected. Looking at the list here. I was wondering what is the cost of doing a supplementary appropriation. The Government of Nunavut has to monitor the expenditures. My question keeps popping up. Do we have capable workers.

Like for example, for the Department of Health and Social Services supplementary appropriation. Looking at our government when they open a new position, they would also like to hire a qualified certified individual. I believe that the people who monitor the finance expenditures, I know that they are very capable workers.

But looking at the supplementary appropriation I know that they are required and I know we need to approve the Supplementary Appropriation Act. But looking at it I am not too pleased. And we have to use the funding for operations and we have to approve them. We will approve them.

Next year, I wouldn't mind not seeing a huge supplementary appropriation. Perhaps when we go page by page, I'll ask more questions at that time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, like I said earlier in an ideal situation you present your budget and everything goes according to that plan for the whole course of the year.

But in reality that doesn't work for us. It doesn't work for any jurisdiction. All governments across this country bring forth supplementary appropriations after their initial budget because there are priority changes.

There are lapses or excess revenues from one portion that the department might want to use or in another or in between departments. It depends on what the nature of that is. But because of the way our system works that all government expenditures have to be approved in the Legislative Assembly. That is why we come back with the supplementary appropriation.

If you want we could always change that and let the Minister of Finance sign off any changes to the budget. But I don't think that would be appropriate for the Members of the House. Because we are all accountable for the money that is spent to provide programs and services for our territory. That is why this is the process that is used. Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is true. I know that you could approve them yourself. It is true if you approve them as the Minister for Finance alone we would not be happy. Yes, it is true and it is a fact.

If you as a minister approved them by yourself it would not be appropriate. We have to review the supplementary appropriations and budgets as regular members. I know that it is our responsibility and sometimes we overlook some issues that the people who work with these issues know about.

So the question that keeps popping up to me is that I know some of the positions at times are not filled within the fiscal year. But the question that keeps coming to be is how can we not estimate 20 million dollars. Is it because we estimated inaccurately. Is it because we estimated it by mistake. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is speaking of the Department of Health and Social Services, that is why we indicated earlier that they did have somewhat of a problem with timely information from three separate entities that were delivering Health and Social Services programs on behalf of all our constituencies.

Since then they have followed guidelines and recorded the information. The Department of Health itself also has some difficulties in their corporate services division. That is the part that provides financial planning and policy assistance to their headquarters. They were one of the last departments to have that section staffed up from what I understand. That has compounded the problem. It is unfortunate that we are in that situation but we are hoping that this won't be the case in the future. They have analyzed and addressed some of the problem areas. As I have indicated there will be a report coming forward with some recommendations and we are trying to make some adjustments to the base target for the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure that they have adequate funding for delivering services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): My last question, when we were first elected we had plans to dissolve the health boards in the three regions and education boards across the three regions. What we heard when we dissolved these three entities was that we would save money and the savings would be used for education. Today we see that although we may have saved some money, we still see a supplementary appropriation for up to 40 million. Yes, around that figure. That is why the question keeps coming up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. If you are going to be speaking please be careful with your documents because it is very difficult on the interpreters' ears. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, It was anticipated that the dissolution of the regional boards would attain some savings for the government by some efficiencies in rolling up what was provided by the boards and the departments. But in the case of Health and Social Services there were some savings that would have been used up in some of the services or the programs that went over budget in their case.

So in fact there might have been a larger supplementary appropriation request for over expenditures. In other words they have not been adequately funded. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any more comments. If you have no more comments we can go to Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): With respect to the Finance Minister's comments when he was talking about the 41 million. Are they saying this is all a supplementary appropriation. I understood that there was over 600 million that is already used for the year.

This is now my understanding that the 41 million is going to be added on top of the annual amount.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The member is correct. If the supplementary appropriation is approved it is added to the already approved budget amount. It increases the overall budget for the year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the 21 million dollars for Department of Health and Social Services which is also included in this supplementary appropriation. The funding for next fiscal year, will they be able to add this much more let's say 21 million, in the next fiscal year. Is that my understanding Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier we have assigned some preliminary targets to the departments in order to start the plan for next year's operating and maintenance budget which members will get to review in the next calendar year.

Part of that is recognizing the shortfall in the Department of Health and Social Services. We have increased their preliminary base by the 20 million 750 thousand dollars at this time. So that will be reflected certainly in next year's business planning cycle.

But having said that we've also said that there may be changes depending on what happens as the result of the program review exercise that is going to be completed late this year or early next year as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This is not really a question, it is more of a comment. There was a problem with the sewage lagoon and he was able to help us in Pond Inlet with the sewage lagoon. So I would like to express my gratitude to the minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. This is not a question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It relates to the base budget of the Department of Health and Social Services and to fully understand what the minister is saying. When they are looking at the increase, if you look at how much the department went over last year, and it has gone over more this year. When they are looking at their base are they looking at what they are projected to be over. Or are they looking at the 20 million that they are at right now. Is it expected to be more next year and is that what the base is being set on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now we are based on current year. Knowing that no other department has had the actual opportunity to defend any of their forced growth at this current time in the preliminary targets, we recognize that the Department of Health and Social Services is an exception to that, given their past track record of the past two and half years.

As I said this is a preliminary target and will be adjusted up or down depending on the outcome of the report on the review and the outcome of Financial Management Board decisions based on the program review exercise.

All Members of the Legislative Assembly will have a chance to participate in this review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated they reviewed and audited the Department of Health and Social Services. I am wondering why that took so long. How many times was the Department of Health and Social Services looked at or audited as far as coming up with these numbers. I understand he said as well they had to wait for the audits from the Health boards.

Will those audits be made available, the Health Board ones, to the House and how many times did the department itself go in and scrutinize I guess and go over and audit what the

Department of Health was doing before it came up with this number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman certainly if the audits are available and members want to see that that is no problem. They are audited financial statements. The Department of Finance actually didn't audit per se the Department of Health and Social Services. We undertook an extensive review certainly of their operations.

It was the first time actually and it was directed by the Financial Management Board after, as members know, after Minister Picco continued to articulate the issues about the adequacy of the funding levels for the Department of Health and Social Services. It was thought in the best interests to either substantiate that or.

So that is what it came down to really in trying to address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. If you would like to, feel welcome please press your button so we will know that you are going to speak. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Health Minister is showing how articulate he is as far as issues related to his department. I can't wait to see him later this afternoon. He is all pumped up.

The process that the minister outlined looking at basing it on this year's actual. There is a potential for forced growth and everything in the program through the program review process. If it stays the same for the Department of Health and Social Services we could be looking at a substantial sup for that department again next year. I would like to find out if we are going to give it to him.

They have articulated that they need this much this year and articulated that they are going to need this much next year. We are going to give them this year's. Do we anticipate that we are going to be looking at a substantial amount in the sups again next year with the possibilities from the program review and everything else and the structure and the services run by the department remains consistent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I am flattering the Minister of Health in his articulation. Mr. Chairman, in all honestly he has spoken to us all on many occasions about the Department of Health and Social Service's needs.

I think Mr. Tootoo is probably correct in that. We don't know for sure, like I indicated earlier, right now of how we are going to reform the programs and services that health

has or any other department for that matter. What we would support as an Executive Council or a Legislature when it comes down to it right now, I think it is safe to say that we recognize that there is a shortfall and we don't know the full magnitude of it right now.

And we may, I shouldn't say never know, I mean but as time progresses as we have more data, more of a track record, a history of expenditures I mean that makes it a lot easier to make decisions once you have that information. We haven't had a lot of information having only been operating for two and a half years.

I know one thing that the review of the Health and Social Services expenditures did take into account was historical GNWT spending through the health boards, through the courts. That is historic as well so that was a component certainly to use as a base in trying to check whether or not current levels were adequate. So right now it's a bit premature.

I would expect and I would say to you that if you ask me if there was going to be a supplementary appropriation in the next year and in future years in respect to Health and Social Services I would say yes. I would almost expect that every year. Like I said earlier it's no different than any other jurisdiction.

I think what we will want to try to do though is to make sure that the supplementary appropriation requests are fully legitimate with respect to increases for the programs and services that are outside of the control of the department. Not just arbitrarily submitted because of the unwillingness to try to efficiently run some of the programs and services that they deliver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm sure I probably won't be the first one to point this out, anyone might see that it could be a big mistake to base our costs on historical data from the NWT as we all know that those numbers were cut in the last, I think those budgets were severely, severely slashed prior to division. So that would be a mistake I think to look at those numbers.

Just to switch to something else. The minister indicated that this amount here was new money being added on top of the existing amounts that were approved in the main estimates. When I'm reading through some of this stuff he talks about monies that are being internally transferred from one area to another.

Then what proportion, as much as the minister is aware, what proportion of funds are being transferred from one division to another out of the whole thing. Can they provide us with the information as to where it's being transferred to exactly and where it's being transferred from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we can get into the neighbourhood of about three to three and a half million dollars of internal transfers within the supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know we probably won't get there today but I'd like to ask the minister next week if he could provide us with detail as to where those funds have been transferred from within the existing budgets by the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes that'd be no problem, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have more questions but I'd like to recognize the clock and maybe ask that we report progress for the day and then resume discussions on this on Monday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. This motion is not debatable. All in favour of the motion to report progress. Opposed. Carried. We will report progress and we would request that the Speaker return to the Chamber. Thank you.

Also Mr. Ng, do you have any more comments. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'd like to thank Mr. Dingle and also to recognize and thank the interpreters who have put in a very long week and we have a lot to name. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Can we ascertain if the Speaker is ready to return to the chamber. We will see each other on Monday and we will continue with the supplementary appropriations then. Thank you.

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): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 13 and would like to report that Bill 13 is still under consideration and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move the report the committee of the whole be concurred with.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Is there a seconder. Ms. Williams. Motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. Motion carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for Monday December the 3rd, 2001;

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - 017 - 1(5)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled Document 41-1(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 House stands adjourned. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 2:09 p.m.*

