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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Nattilik)
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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
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*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday February 21, 2002

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 143 - 1(5): GN Staffing Capacity & Inuit Employment

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly with the latest staffing and Inuit Employment statistics within the Government of Nunavut for 2001.

As of September 30, 2001, seventy eight percent of the 2,836 positions within departments and boards of the Government of Nunavut were filled. Of the 2,212 filled, beneficiaries occupied 924 positions. Our beneficiaries' employment increased from 848 in October 1999, to 924 in September 2001, an increase of 8.3%.

Mr. Speaker, the government's successful decentralization program has been the major initiative to increase Inuit representation in the public service and bring government jobs to the communities. Mr. Speaker, in addition to our decentralization program, there are other measures underway currently to increase beneficiary employment in the government.

We are raising the awareness of Inuit about available job opportunities within the government. We have extended the priority hiring policy for another five years. We are also developing a comprehensive Inuit Employment and Implementation Plan. We will be working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to achieve the goals of Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement on Inuit employment within the government.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut continues towards creating and maintaining a representative public service. There are many challenges ahead of us. I am confident that if we continue working together, we can have a government that is representative of the people it serves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 144 - 1(5): Workers' Compensation Legislative Review Panel

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update Members of the Assembly on the Report of the Workers' Compensation Legislative Review Panel.

Mr. Speaker, as this Assembly is aware, last year the Honourable Joe Handley from the Government of the Northwest Territories and I appointed a joint panel to study the Workers' Compensation Act, the Safety Act and general safety regulations of both the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Chaired by Louise Vertes, the membership of this panel had equal representation from both jurisdictions. Nunavut representatives included Shona Barkley from Iqaluit as the labour representative. Also Alex Stuit of Kugluktuk and David Simailak of Baker Lake who represented employer interests.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the work of the panel. Their report entitled, "Act Now" contains several recommendations that they believe will improve upon the current Workers' Compensation regimes in both jurisdictions. The panel was very active and aggressive in pursuing comments from key stakeholders.

This report has been referred to the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut for their input and was released to the public on January 31st, 2002. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time today I will be tabling this report in the Assembly. I welcome the input from the public and from this Assembly as we work towards changes to existing legislation and a new Act in the longer term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 145 - 1(5): Nuvisavik: An Exhibition of the Pangnirtung Tapestries at the Canadian Museum of Civilization

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ulluukkut. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this House a very significant event in the development of our cultural industries in Nunavut.

Tonight a major art exhibition will be opening at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. This will be an important event in the Ottawa cultural calendar and it is a major cultural event for Nunavummiut as well. That is because this exhibition will feature 50 woven tapestries and 10 drawings produced by the artists of Pangnirtung who work at the Pangnirtung tapestry studio at Uqqummiut Centre for Arts and Crafts.

Mr. Speaker, this exhibition entitled “Nuvisavik, The Place Where We Weave”, has been in preparation for two years and it will be open to the public for the next six months. It will be the subject of a major book that is being published this year.

The exhibition celebrates over 30 years of tapestry weaving in Pangnirtung and recognizes the Pangnirtung tapestry studio as one of the most important institutions of its kind in the world. The Pangnirtung tapestry studio also functions as a business in a growing arts economy. The studio shows its tapestries and woven blankets and fashions to customers all over the world. It serves as an important tourist attraction in the South Baffin region.

Because of the important role it plays in the local economy Mr. Speaker, the Department of Sustainable Development provides financial support to the Pangnirtung tapestry studio through the Nunavut Development Corporation. The people of Pangnirtung have taken full advantage of this program Mr. Speaker, to create a unique weaving enterprise which has built an international reputation for the quality and design of its tapestries and woven products.

I am pleased to report Mr. Speaker, that several of the artists in Pangnirtung will be attending tonight at the Canadian Museum of Civilization for the opening of the exhibition. They are the studio manager and the head weaver, Geetee Maniapik, tapestry weaver Olassie Akulukjuk, Kawtysie Kakee and artists Elisapee Ishulutak and Joel Maniapik.

Mr. Speaker, all Nunavummiut should be proud of the work of these artists and weavers from Pangnirtung. I urge members who may have an opportunity to be in Ottawa this summer to attend this important exhibition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 403 - 1(5): Group Home at Chesterfield Inlet for All Nunavut Residents

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was trying to make myself clear when I was talking about the Chesterfield Inlet group home, the St. Theresa's hospital. I want to make myself clear today that group home in Chesterfield Inlet has about 10 patients and they are from all over Nunavut.

Many of them have been raised in the hospital in Chesterfield. We have people there from places like Igloolik and many other Nunavut communities. Mr. Speaker, I've mentioned often that the facility is in Chesterfield Inlet but the patients that are there are from all over Nunavut. The reason I say this is that the people of Chesterfield have been caring for these patients for about 40 years.

These disabled people living in the home are comfortable, they are well taken care of and have made it their home. What I am trying to say is that people working in the home do a good job and the patients have made the home their home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 404 - 1(5): Potential in Gold & Diamond; Training Opportunities

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, I rise today to talk about prosperity and jobs in our community and constituents. Uqaqti, there is no secret that the extraction of natural resources in the north is fast becoming an engine for growth that is without parallel.

Yesterday afternoon we learned from the budget speech in the NWT, that our neighbours to the west experienced an astounding 30 percent increase in economic growth last year.

Uqaqti let me repeat that figure, 30 percent. That figure represents jobs and economic opportunities for northern businesses. It represents the path away from dependence and handouts and the route towards self-reliance that is envisioned in the Bathurst Mandate. Uqaqti, there is exciting potential in the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq and the Baffin.

We have potential in the gold and diamond sectors. Uqaqti, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development that I chair has stressed over the last three years the need for the government to have a vision in this area. Uqaqti, I look around my community and I can't see the training programs that we are going to need if our residents are going to have the job opportunities over the next 5 years.

Uqaqti, there was a major announcement that Cumberland Resources wants to get into production of a gold mine by the year 2005 and to date zip has been said on training.

Uqaqti, we have made some progress in areas such as the Bathurst road and port development and I know that our Premier is pushing the message that Nunavut is open for investment. But we need to think big. We need a Manitoba-Kivalliq road link and we need a major investment in training.

Uqaqti, when our Finance Minister gives his budget speech in a couple of months, these are the kinds of commitments and vision that I'll be looking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 405 - 1(5): Frobisher Bay Kayaking Club Events

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm delighted to rise today in order to inform the members about a very successful event that took place in Iqaluit last weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the Frobisher Bay Kayaking Club conducted a kayaking camp from February 15th to the 18th. The club was very fortunate to have the presence of a world class kayaker, Mr. Tim Stumple on hand to share his skills with the participants.

As some of the members may know Tim is a former resident of Iqaluit and a former constituent of mine who learned to kayak in the pool here in the Brown Building. He has competed internationally at the international level and he was on the Canadian National Kayaking Team. It is great to see Tim in town again and also his mother was here Lea and it was really good to see the both of them here again.

Mr. Speaker, the Frobisher Bay Kayaking Club does great work in the community especially for our youth. As we all know, mastering the kayak is something that Inuit taught the rest of the world. The Frobisher Bay Club introduces young people to the world renowned activities that also connect Inuit youth with their traditional heritage.

During the summer, the club teaches water safety skills and helps kids to appreciate the natural environment. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the over 20 participants on the weekend, some of whom earned medals. I would like to thank the organizers for their hard work including the club president Suzanne Laliberte and Mr. Speaker the club is working hard to train a team of youth to represent Nunavut in the upcoming 2005 Canada Summer Games.

I would like to ask all members to join me in wishing them the best of luck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 406 - 1(5): Gift from Pond Inlet Anglican Women's Group

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On December 31, I attended the New Year's Eve service at the Anglican Church in my community. During the service there were presentations made for volunteers from Pond Inlet. I also received this jacket I am wearing which I am thankful for. I'd like to thank Ms. Pitseolak, Ms. Kumangapik, Rhoda Sangoya, Mary Arnatsiaq and the women from the Anglican Church.

I'd like to thank them for this gift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 407 - 1(5): Grizzly Bear Hides Confiscated

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about grizzly bears in Nunavut and the problems that we are having in my constituency. The problem that we have is we're not getting any assistance from Renewable Resource Officers that are called when problems with bears arise.

The population of grizzly bears is increasing in our area and I think if we were able to harvest brown bears it would be most appropriate rather than defence kills that are then confiscated. I will be raising questions when we go on to question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 408 - 1(5): Sylvia Grinnell River & Fish Net Needs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the Bathurst Mandate. I have expressed support for the people in Sanikiluaq and Chesterfield Inlet here in the House before, according to requests given to me. Today I would like speak in support of the people of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the fishery at the Sylvia Grinnell River and the proposal to stop putting nets in that river so the fish stocks can replenish. I heard of it over CBC radio and I will be in support of doing that.

Mr. Speaker, the fish thrive in the water and they can only live in the water. Fish are very sensitive to what goes on in their environment. All the activity that is done in that river will have to stop if they are no longer to set nets over there.

Any other activity will have to stop if the wildlife officials really want to protect the fish stock in the Sylvia Grinnell River. They should have a public meeting with the people of Iqaluit and to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in setting rules to follow in that river.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a child we were told not to wash in the river where fish reside because the fish might get scared of pollution and move on to another area. Those are the things that Inuit know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 409 - 1(5): Public Service Act Amendment

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the minister for the statement he made regarding beneficiaries getting more jobs within the government. This is encouraging.

However, it is clear that the government has to make some changes. We had a meeting of our committee last month to deal with decentralization and other activities the government is undertaking at this time.

I realize some of the legislation needs to be updated because some of the people in communities cannot get employment because they don't have diplomas or certificates. I feel the government has to do their part to give more employment to the beneficiaries in Nunavut. If there is a policy within government, their policy has to be followed. I believed when we got our Nunavut government that we were allowed to change some of the policies and work to make sure that the Inuit people gain employment in this government.

I would like to encourage the government that the Public Service Act be amended to include more Inuit beneficiaries within government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 410 - 1(5): Training Program Graduates - Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my congratulations to 17 successful graduates of the Pre-Trades program in Kugluktuk. These graduates have not only received basic academic education but have also received

training in basic heavy equipment operations, construction and basic cooking and housekeeping skills.

The Hamlet of Kugluktuk deserves the credit for handling all of the logistics to run this program. Members are probably aware from my previous statements in this House that Kugluktuk doesn't have a dedicated facility to run Adult Education programs such as this.

A Member: Shame, Shame

Mr. Havioyak: We have been fortunate in that until now, the Hamlet has been able to provide facilities for this purpose. The parties that contributed to the pre-employment program have included the Department of Education, Department of Sustainable Development, and Public Works & Services. Non-governmental partners include BHP, and the IBA Heritage Fund and Diavik Diamonds.

It is very good to see such support and involvement from the private sector. I would like to thank Herb Blaimie, Brian Harbin, Glenn Klassen and Ted Dupont for providing instruction in the heavy equipment operations course, Patrick MacBride for academic instruction, and Cathy Maria Gendron for basic cooking and housekeeping instruction.

Mr. Speaker, the following pre-trades class members held their graduation ceremonies in Kugluktuk last Friday, the following are Harold Himiak, David Nivingalok, Ronald Angohiatok, Margaret Hanak, Colleen Nivingalok, Jean Akana, David John Novoligak, Roy Havioyak, George Haniliak, Quenton Panigyuk, Minnie Hatogina, Ann Angnahiak, Darren Ihumatak, Wesley Kamakyok, Tony Akoluk, Mary Ann Angnahiak and Alice Kokak.

I would like to ask the House to join me in congratulating these Nunavut residents for their graduation and wish them continuing success in the future. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Some Members: Hear, Hear

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 411 - 1(5): Minister's Visit to Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Uqsuqtuq Development Corporation would like to thank the leaders of the government and to invite them to come to Uqsuqtuq. I have given the members a copy of the letter.

On February 13 of 2002, the Minister of Finance and the Housing Corporation, Mr. Ng, came into our community with the Public Works & Services representative from our region and another individual from the other department. I would like to thank the

Department of Sustainable Development as well. Joseph and Wally Porter would also like to thank them.

And Helen Tungilik, Ben Hiqiniq, he was involved with us during the meeting in Uqsuqtuq. The Uqsuqtuq Development Corporation would like to work with the government on contracting services or through building facilities in the communities. They would also like to be able to employ more people in the community. The Corporation is owned by the people of Gjoa Haven.

They would like to be able to work with the Government of Nunavut, so the Government as well as the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation can gain from each other. Mr.

Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): On February the 15th, Taloyoak was visited by the Department of Education's Mr. Kilabuk. I would also like to thank him, Mr. Kilabuk and his deputy on behalf of the community of Taloyoak.

The people of Taloyoak would also like to be able to have more government departments or the ministers visit their community and I would also invite Mr. Kilabuk as well to go to my community again later on. There were a lot of concerns and questions from the people raised in regards to education, as well as other things, and I will talk about those later on.

When we finished in Taloyoak, we went to Gjoa Haven and Mr. Kilabuk went on the charter and came to Taloyoak. When we got to Gjoa Haven, we had a meeting at the school with the Gjoa Haven Education Authority. As soon they knew about Mr. Kilabuk's attendance in Gjoa Haven they made giant an igloo for him that was connected together.

The minister and his deputy were given some food to welcome them. Also, as soon as the igloo was done a lot of people would say "that's Minister Kilabuk's igloo". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 412 - 1(5): Sanikiluaq Concerns Regarding Potential Environmental Mishaps

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to represent my community of Sanikiluaq and to talk about the environment.

We have been very concerned about the environment in the Sanikiluaq area for a number of years now. As the members know, there was an agreement between the Quebec Government and the First Nations of that area and that agreement is a concern to the people of Sanikiluaq.

In the few months and in the coming years there have been a lot of concerns raised from the people of Sanikiluaq in this regard. When we talked about the environment following Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Sanikiluaq we talked about the areas that might be polluted because of the proposed work the Quebec Government wants to do.

We believe that there are going to be some environmental mishaps happening in the area and if pollution is going to be introduced anywhere in the Hudson Bay or James Bay area, where we are in the island of Sanikiluaq, wildlife will inevitably suffer. Because of the studies I am able to say these things.

We have also said that the language of the Inuit must be preserved and utilized every day because if we lose our wildlife through pollution, then we will also lose a part of our language. I mention this because the James Bay agreement is a major concern to the people of Sanikiluaq. Many coastal areas and the trees can also be affected and add pollution through the greenhouse effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 413 - 1(5): Young Ambassadors - Tootoo Brothers

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about young ambassadors for Nunavut, right now I can think of two people from Rankin Inlet who are promoting Nunavut around North America and Internationally.

They are of course the Tootoo brothers, Terrence and Jordan. Terrance is playing in the States with Renokie Express in Virginia of the East Coast Hockey League. Currently he has 5 goals and 11 assists in 51 games and leads the team in penalty minutes with 136.

Jordan, who everyone knows was drafted first in the fourth round of the NHL this past summer by the Nashville Predators, has been nominated for the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in March. He played for the Brandon Wheat kings in Manitoba and led his team in all fields with 27 goals, 29 assists, 56 points and 234 penalty minutes.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, although both boys have been very successful I would like to use them as examples of what youth in Nunavut can achieve. Neither Terrance nor Jordan played organized hockey until their teens. But they are both on a successful road and reaching

for their dreams. They have made sacrifices and have put in many hours to get where they are today. I wish them all success in getting there.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker they have not forgotten their roots however. If you follow their careers and interviews, they are always talking about Nunavut. They promote their traditional lifestyle and when they are home they work with the youth and give back some of their time.

Just this week Terrance sent me an e-mail asking me if I could send some stuff from Nunavut such as flags or pins. He says that people down there do not know where he is from and he wants to help educate them. I commend him for that and we will be putting together a package to send to him. And if a member would like to send something to him please give me a call and I will ensure that he gets it.

Mr. Speaker, it makes me proud to see our youth working hard to reach their dreams and I commend all the youth of Nunavut who are making that happen. I would like to ask my fellow colleagues to join with me in encouraging our youth to push for and strive to reach their dreams. Anything is possible. And I know they can do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 414 - 1(5): Pagnirtung Weavers & Printers - Uqqummiut Centre

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for recognizing the people from Pagnirtung that work in the weave shop. The Uqqummiut working group and the place where they weave have the same name. To supplement to what was already said, Geetee Maniapik has been working there for quite a long time as the clerk at the centre, I am very proud of that person also.

I extend my congratulations to the printers and the weavers in that shop. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Moving on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Kattuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 384 - 1(5): Temperature Compensation Meters

Return to Question 387 - 1(5): Impact of Compensation Meter Installation

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to provide a response to questions posed to my predecessor, the Honourable Manik Thompson by Mr. Hunter Tootoo on April 3rd, 2001.

The member asked when the Temperature Compensation Meters were installed on the Sales Dispensing Units and the Fuel Dispensing Trucks. The second question asked by Mr. Tootoo was on the impact on fuel prices on the Government of Nunavut and to the municipalities by installing these meters.

Mr. Speaker, the installation of the Temperature Compensating Meters is required for each of the Sales Dispensing Units and Fuel Delivery Trucks across Canada. The installation of these units began in 1999 and they are to be completed by the end of March 2002.

These new units have the potential to significantly reduce fuel loss through evaporation and temperature change of volume. Total savings will not be known until next fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that there will not be an increase in fuel prices to the Government of Nunavut or to the municipalities as a result of these measures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not very often that I stand to recognize a visitor but today I would like to recognize a visitor from Baker Lake. But also I would like to take a little time to explain something.

Behind me, the beautiful tapestries of Baker Lake are displayed on the walls and I have heard numerous comments from people saying how bright and nice they are. I would like to thank those people that said that to me. But there is a little known fact about those tapestries on the wall, two of them were produced by Irene Tiktaalaaq who recently received her doctorate because of her artwork.

I would like to recognize her son today, Basil Tiktaalaaq from Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Are there any oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 412 - 1(5): Delay of Winnipeg Medical Boarding Home Contract

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to direct my question today to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco. I quote from the Hansard on November 22nd, 2001 “ Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the RFP for the facility in Winnipeg, the RFP is closed and we’re reviewing the proposal. We are hoping to make an announcement in the next two weeks”.

Mr. Speaker, it is approximately three months later. Can the minister explain before this House the reason for the delay in the awarding of the contract for the Winnipeg boarding home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I appreciate the question from the member and the member is correct in November and indeed, I received a letter from him on January 30th asking the same question.

As I said in the House in November, the RFP for the Winnipeg boarding home was complete and the evaluation was done in Rankin. There were three proponents, I believe, looked at, at that time. A successful proponent has been chosen. We had hoped to make an announcement. There was however at least one appeal to the RFP that was provided therefore and thus an announcement wasn't forthcoming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the wheels of justice grind slowly but I didn't expect the wheels of health to fall off the wagon. Can the minister let me know when the contract for the Winnipeg boarding home will be announced? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement and I understand again as the member knows, when the appeal process is put in there is a time limit. There was a review I believe just completed by the Department of Justice and I would hope Mr. Speaker, we will be able to make an announcement and notify the proponent of the successful award publicly and imminently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe for this House the scope of the contract for the Winnipeg boarding home?

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on what contract Mr. McLean is talking about. As he knows there is a contract in place for the current Winnipeg boarding home and there is also a proposed contract requested under an RFP that we have put out and I believe his main question was in regards to it. If the member could clarify if he is talking about the current contract for the Winnipeg boarding home or is he talking about the new RFP on the Winnipeg boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The current RFP that his department is taking their time waiting for an appeal to happen on the contract that he is going to announce publicly, announce when it is going to be awarded, the current contract that is out for proposal. I hope that is clear for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that things don't move that fast. Apex wasn't built in a day. As I say that Mr. Speaker, the current successful RFP that was brought forward, that the department has accepted, is for a new facility to be built because the old facility, as Mr. McLean has articulated many times, seems to not be up to snuff. It hasn't served the patients well over the past several months and there have been several issues with it.

The proposal that we put out and was accepted by the department was the building of a new facility. At the same time Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to continue using the old facility while the new facility is under development. So that is part of the delay of the process that is taking place.

Also Mr. Speaker, because of the length of time of the lease being proposed by the proponent under the contract, we have to make sure that we are able to do a long-term lease. I believe they are asking for a 20-year lease on the new facility they intend to build. So that is part of the delay. It is not a stalling tactic or anything like that Mr. Speaker. It is the logistic as well as administrative as well as the financial aspect of the proposal that we are evaluating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 413 - 1(5): Negotiations on Chesterfield Group Home & Development Corporation

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Yesterday, I asked some questions to the minister on the status of the new group home in Chesterfield Inlet. Today I would like to get some clarification on these answers because it's not yet clear to me how close we are to the ground breaking ceremonies in Chesterfield Inlet for the new group home.

According to my Hansard, reading from the Hansard the minister indicated that the proposal has been received from the Chesterfield Development Corporation and that discussions and negotiations are still ongoing. But the minister also indicated that his department has limited allocated dollars available.

If the budget is fixed then what are these negotiations about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. I will concur with Mr. McLean, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question.

The negotiations that are underway Mr. Speaker, the scope of the RFP that was submitted by the Chesterfield Development Corporation was for a larger building and a larger program than was envisioned and currently being used by the St. Theresa's Home.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, there are more dollars involved. Because of the allocated dollars we have within the budget framework today, I don't have the extra dollars in the budget for what is being proposed in the new project that has been brought forward by the Chesterfield Development Corporation.

That's why the negotiations are ongoing. As the member knows, the budget will be brought down some time in the next several weeks in this House and at that time we will get a better indication of the dollar values that will be available.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, I need to be able to bring the costs on the proposal that they have asked me for down to meet the budget framework that I have available at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just simply asked what were the negotiations about, the only part that he has not yet answered, Mr. Speaker.

He answered everything else that I did not ask, Mr. Speaker, the idea for the new facility in Chesterfield Inlet is a brand new initiative. Does the minister expect these new projects to get underway with the same level of funding that was provided to the operational facility that was already in existence that is the hospital, the old one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to the member if that wasn't distinct enough. I will try once more.

Mr. Speaker, the proponents put a proposal together for a large building, larger than 15 patients, 7 patients, 8 patients the number of patients that we had budgeted for, was available in the St. Theresa's Home. This means Mr. Speaker, that the project proposal was above the scope of the work that was proposed. So that's the negotiations that are occurring Mr. Speaker, with the Chesterfield Development Corporation.

It gets the size of the building down and the number of patients that would be handled in the facility at the present time. I've said that in the House in previous questionings and I repeat that same answer today. That's the negotiations that are occurring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary Question. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for reminding me that there is an upcoming budget session where we'll be dealing with that issue, I hope.

Can the minister tell us whether there is any possibility of increasing or supplementing the budget for the new group home in Chesterfield Inlet so that we can definitely push for it this coming summer? Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is the ongoing discussions that we are having right now with the Chesterfield Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if this is a supplementary or not, but I did not ask him if there were still ongoing discussions or negotiations with the groups in the Kivalliq to build this place. I simply asked whether there is any possibility of increasing or supplementing the budget for the new group home in Chesterfield so that this project can go ahead this summer.

That's what I asked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's what I said to the member and to the House, that's why the discussions were going on. As I have said now several times, the proposal called for a larger building and for handling of more patients.

The budget that we had in place would not facilitate that larger building or that many patients. That's why number one, we need to be able to bring the cost of the building down, the new building that will be put up over a long term lease. Number two, to look at how many patients would be handled within the facility and the scope of the work that they had put forward.

The proposal by the Chesterfield Development Corporation is an excellent proposal. We need to be able to work within the budget framework that I have available now, and if extra dollars are needed that's where I would have to come back through the government and to this Assembly for that approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 414 - 1(5): Addressing High Cost of Agency Workers

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is again for the popular Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, as all members know, during the last sitting that we had I raised some concerns regarding the Department of Health's practice of using agency nurses to address the extreme shortage of nursing services in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the minister's response, I understand that this costs the government a considerable amount of money. To my understanding Mr. Speaker, it was just over two million dollars in this fiscal year up to the end of November, that it has cost the department for agency nurses.

I understand, if my memory serves me correctly Mr. Speaker, that the minister had indicated that there were thirteen or fourteen agency nurses at the time when I asked the question. I would like to ask the Minister of Health, what steps has he taken to address the high cost of agency nurses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have taken several steps to try and eliminate the usage of agency nurses. The member is correct that it is very expensive. But at the same time, you need to be able to provide coverage at the community level and you need to be able to provide that coverage with a nurse.

What we have tried to do Mr. Speaker, with the supplement that we brought in, is to hire more indeterminate staff and term staff. Mr. Speaker, we have been quite successful with the usage of the bursary to date. That's probably the major initiative that we have brought forward to cut down the usage of agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to ask the minister if he could provide this House with a brief overview of the current status of numbers of nurses in indeterminate positions and term positions compared to the number of agency nurses working in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe we have 148 nursing positions in Nunavut in total. Almost 70% of those positions are either term or indeterminate. At the present time Mr. Speaker, the number of locum or casual nurses is quite low. I don't have the actual percentage with me at this time but I can get that information and provide it to the member.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister again indicated and I'm pretty sure he did before, that there were 148 nursing positions in Nunavut and approximately 70% of those positions were filled with indeterminate or term positions.

Could the minister provide us with kind of a breakdown of that 70% and let us know how many of those positions are term and how many are indeterminate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Mr. Tootoo was asking the question I have found some of that information so if I may, Mr. Speaker. In the Baffin as an example, there are 63 indeterminate, which means fulltime nursing positions.

Of that, there are six term positions. So, that means you have 69 positions filled out of a total of 85 positions in the Baffin region. You have out of that number, Mr. Speaker, a total of seven casual nurses, that's nurses that you would bring in on a temporary basis and probably based, for an example, in the community itself.

We have five agency nurses and four vacancies for a total of 85. In the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot the numbers are similar. For example Mr. Speaker, in the Kivalliq we have 14 indeterminate and 8 term positions, which is 22.

We have a total of six agency nurses and in the Kitikmeot we have nine. So, for the total Mr. Speaker, the agency nurses working at the present time in Nunavut, we have 20 positions Mr. Speaker, out of 148.

Now I would like to be able to get that number down to none, but being realistic Mr. Speaker, we need at the same time to be able to fill positions in communities and we have had some good success by using the bonus that we put in place a little over a year ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated there are 20 agency nurses working in Nunavut right now and the last time, I believe he had indicated there were around 14.

So if you divide that into just over 2 million dollars Mr. Speaker, that's a pretty hefty salary for a nurse and I'd just like to ask the minister, you know, what are you doing. To me, what is that costing us per nurse, you know, would that be an accurate description of what one of these agency nurses make is the 2 million, just over 2 million dollars divided by the number of nurses, the 20 nurses that he had indicated.

Would that be an accurate reflection of the compensation and benefits that these nurses receive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I first became the Minister of Health I had some similar questions as Mr. Tootoo had. I was told that agency nurses are like hired guns. You are short of positions, you got to bring them in. So how you get an agency nurse is you go to a Nightingale is a popular agency, Nightingale Nursing and they might charge 48 dollars an hour for a nurse.

You then fly that nurse into a community, you pay for their expenses or so on. It's very expensive to use agency nurses and that's why we have brought in the recruitment and retention bonus to be able to try and eliminate and bring down those costs.

At the same time, I would rather pay that money to an agency nurse to have someone in the community who's qualified than to have no one there. At the same time Mr. Speaker, the agency nurses themselves are paid through the company through that contract to hire the agency nurses and that's why it's so expensive.

It's no different than if you were a construction company and you need an electrician, you have to find them, you have to go down south and bring them in, you are going to pay a premium for that person if you haven't got that qualified person.

So that's what happens with the agency nurses. I believe Mr. Speaker, at the present time, as we speak, we are at one of the best levels we have been in three years with our nursing complement and staffing. So we are quite pleased with that. Having that number of indeterminate staff, and the member is correct we need to be able to bring down the number of locum or agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 415 - 1(5): Arctic College Facilities - Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get back to what I spoke about earlier in regards to education. As the minister knows, when the students at Arctic College finish their courses it is good, but we don't have a permanent facility.

As we know, in the future these students will be beneficial to our territory. I want to ask the Minister of Education have you had any meetings with the Arctic College and other agencies as to when the facilities in Kugluktuk will be improved so that our students will be able to learn more as they work on their studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize but when I was switching over to the English translation, I wasn't able to get his question. So if he could re-phrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the young people will not have a good place to learn, if they don't have housing. As I asked earlier, have you met with the Arctic College officials to discuss the need for additional classrooms for this type of training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify that I haven't spoken to the Arctic College officials regarding housing. But the Arctic College officials are working on the capital plans with the Department of Education. But we haven't identified any money available for this particular project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage you to meet with the Arctic College Board to ensure that things get done because I have asked this question before in the last session and I still haven't received a response.

When will you meet with the Arctic College officials so that this concern can be addressed for the housing needs of Arctic College students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic College Board of Governors will be meeting in March, I hope to discuss this with them, and I will raise his concerns to the Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I encourage you to meet more often with the board. He has stated the concerns of Kugluktuk will be addressed. As well, I would encourage a visit to my constituency of Kugluktuk so that you may be able to see first hand what the concern is. The young people need a place to learn or train. Once you've done that you will be able to address this at the Arctic College Board level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could say to the member that I have been in his constituency before. When I traveled over to Kugluktuk I was able to tour and visit the college. The Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors is looking at the capital estimates. We will be able to see if we are able to put some money into this. But I will be able to communicate with the member and keep him updated, as well I look forward to his invitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 416 - 1(5): Percentage of Inuit Staff Expected in April 1999

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regarding the government positions that are being filled. I have a question regarding vacant positions being filled, 78% of the vacant positions have been filled. I have a question for the Minister of Human Resources. With the new government what was the percentage of Inuit that were expected to be working in the government by this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am kind of embarrassed because I wasn't able to catch his question when I was switching over to Inuktitut. Could he raise his question again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope this is not a supplementary. My question Mr. Speaker, was at the beginning of the Government of Nunavut there was already a percentage planned for exactly how many beneficiaries in Nunavut would be hired. From that figure at the beginning of the Nunavut Government, what percent were supposed to be hired by this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure what percentage of beneficiaries or people were to be hired by the Government of Nunavut but we would like to see 85% of beneficiaries hired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When is the 85% target supposed to be reached? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Human Resources. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier on in my Minister's Statement, I quoted the number of beneficiaries that are employed in the government, the Nunavut Government. There are 924 positions filled by beneficiaries out of 2000, if I'm not mistaken.

That's about 47% so we still have to reach the 85% figure. While we are doing that, we would like to be able to make it easier for the Inuit to be employed with the Nunavut Government and to be able to recognize their ability to work with the Nunavut Government.

What we planned at the beginning was priority hiring for those beneficiaries. So, that's what we are gearing towards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the responses that the minister just made, because Inuit people have to be trained, perhaps if we can change the hiring policies it would make it easier for the beneficiaries to be hired by the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, and I'm sorry I did not clearly respond to the member, as of September 30, there was 42%.

We have to start realizing that we have to keep hiring the beneficiaries of Nunavut. There's also employment that can be gained by the beneficiaries outside of the Nunavut Government and there is probably a higher percentage that are working out there for private industry.

What we want to do is to try to advertise to the beneficiaries and train them to make sure that they gain employment with the Nunavut Government, that's what we are trying to do. What we have is a priority hiring policy for the beneficiaries.

As I said before Mr. Speaker, we are working with Nunavut Tunngavik to be able to implement Article 23 to hire more beneficiaries for Government of Nunavut employment. So, that's what we are trying to do in the meantime while we are trying to reach that 85% figure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has not answered my question. My suggestion was that perhaps the policies dealing with the public service would have to be amended first before more Inuit can be hired. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of policies in place within this government.

I'm not going to ask him which policy he's talking about but there are policies, legislation, and other things that we have to follow. We have to try to make our legislation clear and that's what we're working towards.

In January of 2000, there was a plan put in place and this plan has the strategy for employment, employing Inuit has been done by the government as much as we can and we have a policy in regards to interviewing and the priority hiring policy as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: We have a request to go back to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? Mr. Anawak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to be able to welcome to the gallery the people from NTI. These are the executive members on my right.

Starting from the left, James Etuluk is the First Vice-president of NTI. Raymond Ningeochiak, Second Vice-President of NTI and at the very end is Paul Kaludjak who

has recently been elected at the same time as we elected the President of NTI, Cathy Towtongie.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: James, Raymond, Cathy and Paul welcome to the gallery. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Return to Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 417 – 1(5): Passports Update for AWG Athletes

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

My question is, it's going to be Arctic Winter Games time here in Iqaluit and in Greenland and a lot of people have been concerned about passports. Perhaps the minister can give us a little bit of information about how to acquire passports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson: That's my first question since I got this portfolio and my thanks to my two colleagues who have taken over my other portfolios. I am sure they will do a better job than me.

In regards to the passports, Mr. Speaker...(interpretation)...perhaps Mr. Speaker if I can say it in Inuktitut. The passports that are required to go into another county, we have an individual that works in Ottawa that deals with passports. What we're trying to do is to get that individual to process the passports as fast as they can so if there are any problems for any individuals that are traveling to Greenland they could phone Sport Nunavut staff to find out what the problem is.

It takes a while to do the application and to try and get the passport ready on time. So what we have done is we have a contact person to deal strictly with the passport processing in Ottawa. So whoever has any problems with acquiring their passport to go to Greenland can talk with our Arctic Winter Games officials and we can try to help them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just yesterday I received a telephone call from one of my constituents and they have informed me that they have not heard anything about the passport. Perhaps it has nothing to do with the Ottawa officials. I don't think they have their passport. So is there any way to get the passport before the Arctic Winter Games to travel to Greenland or is it too late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we talking about individuals that are going to be participating in the Arctic Winter Games or for a spectator? Maybe if I can ask for clarification on that question first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the Arctic Winter Games athletes that are going to Greenland. My question is if this person didn't have a passport already, is it too late for this person to get it now because the games are starting soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have all the list of students or all the athletes that are going to Nuuk. I know my staff have been processing their documents through the Ottawa person dealing with this specific issue. I am not sure who that person is. So I would like to know very much who that person is so I can help them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this individual is getting very nervous since he would really like to go to Greenland and he was supposed to go. I would be happy to provide the name to the minister. Maybe today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 418 - 1(5): Women's Shelters & Spouse Communication

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't think I was going to be seen by you Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I asked about safe shelters for women and I really didn't get the answer that I needed regarding the people that go to these shelters.

They cannot speak to their husbands when they go to the shelter. Perhaps the police don't want them to or perhaps the shelter staff don't want them to. It seems like they are put in a position where they are not allowed to have contact with the spouse.

Are they just going to be dealing with the women or both the husband and the woman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question on a very serious issue, the issue of family violence and spousal assault.

Mr. Speaker, in some cases the RCMP may have in place a court order, as the member has indicated, barring a spouse from contacting another spouse because of physical or other types of abuse that had occurred. Mr. Speaker, each case as I said yesterday, is different. In some cases I know where women have chosen themselves not to communicate with their husband or their spouse. Or they may have been advised by their counsellor not to speak to the husband or the other spouse.

So each case is different Mr. Speaker. What has happened in the past, and continues to happen right now Mr. Speaker, is that the counsellor when a woman is taken from her home, when a woman is advised by a social worker, a nurse, a practitioner in the community, to leave the community and go to a safe house, usually it is because of a very traumatic experience at home where abuse might have been involved. So in those cases, they may be advised by the counsellors in the shelter, may advise that person not to contact home.

But if the woman so chooses to contact her spouse, she has that option, unless there is a concern with a court order that has been put in place, which states specifically no contact between the individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. I was looking at it as a left hand and a right hand. Are you going to be taking a holistic approach or just dealing with one side of it?

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time when a couple are having problems in their relationship there are different opportunities for counselling available in a community. For example, as we said earlier it could be a social worker, a family member, some people use church services and so on.

When that relationship turns violent, when there is physical or emotional abuse involved Mr. Speaker, the government with its workers in the community, like a social worker or a nurse, they make a decision that the woman should leave the community to go to a home, a safe home. That's why it is called a safe home, so that the person when they go there they can reflect on the situation that they were in and if they so choose, in most cases Mr. Speaker, when you look at the cycle of abuse, 80% of the women return back home to their partner.

So counselling is available at the community level and in some cases, as the member has pointed out, no contact is allowed, but that could be by court order or it could be because after the counselling services, the information provided by the counsellor or the

recommendation of not allowing the person, the victim to contact the abuser. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the social workers at the community level, are the counsellors fully trained and are they trained to deal with spousal assault as well as other social issues.

Using as an example, if I didn't know about good family life I wouldn't be able to counsel the people who are in a crisis. That's why I asked if the counsellors or the social workers are trained to deal with those types of crises. Thank you.

Speaker: Just a reminder to members to keep your preamble short and also ministers of your answers to questions short. I still see members wanting to ask questions and there are only 10 and a half minutes left. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all this government has zero tolerance in place for family violence, spousal assault and so on. I want to reiterate that the first point of contact of a person in a community is with a social worker or nurse, community worker and so on.

They evaluate the situation, and the member is correct, they are trained in the proper counselling in those types of skills to be able to help the client. The last resort is when someone is taken or chooses to leave their community and go to a safe house outside that community.

So, the short answer Mr. Speaker, for the member's question is yes, they are qualified and trained in the area to be able to deal with those types of issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services worked on the cessation of the cigarette smoking and there's more and more very specific pictures on the cigarette tops of the covers of the cigarettes and we hope to see the same thing done on family violence.

The reason why I'm asking this question is because I want to see your department take a holistic approach in stopping or preventing family violence. I want to see both the man and the woman counselled.

And further if the social workers or the counsellors have never been in a conjugal relationship I'm sure they would not be able to deal with those types of crisis situations compared to those that have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. A comment. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 419 - 1(5): Grizzly Bear Compensation Studies

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's Statement, I am going to be asking this question about the grizzly bears that are increasing in population in our area.

To the Minister of Sustainable Development, do you have any plans for the re-sale or usage of the hides of grizzly bears? Do you have anything planned for the future other than confiscating the hides? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's been almost 2 hours before I had an opportunity to respond to a question. In regards to the increasing number of grizzly bears in Nunavut and more nuisance bears, we as a department are starting to work on the issue.

This was a question that was brought up at our last session by one of the members in regards to what kind of plans we will have for grizzly bears. We are currently working on the issue and we are in the first stage of planning in the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot region. We are starting to work on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When can we anticipate seeing the results of these studies that you have initiated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have just started the studies, I will keep the member updated on what is happening, and I will give him results as they come along. At this stage I see this as a priority before anything happens in the future with regards to grizzly bears. I will talk with the member on what is happening with the studies that are being done on grizzly bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last question. In regards to problem bears and their ransacking the caches, sheds and so on. What kind of compensation will we see for damages done by bears? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at all species of bears be it polar bears or brown bears or black bears. We will have to do a thorough study first of all. I think there is a blanket policy to cover damage to property.

This would be same thing that would apply to brown bears as it does to polar bears.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 420 - 1(5): Training for Social Workers in Holistic Treatment

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for the opportunity at the end of question period. The government members are making responses without any regard to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. It is something that I do not tolerate. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

The minister stated earlier that the social workers and counsellors are fully trained but they just follow their rulebook. They are not properly trained or they are not fully experienced. The only thing that they rely on is the policies and the regulations of the department. My colleague Mr. Nutarak was asking if there could be some policies or training provided for those people. For example, Mr. Nutarak used an example of using both the right and the left hand, which is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I hope that is clear. I hope you take your holistic approach.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. First of all Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, there are statutory obligations when you are investigating situations regarding spousal assault. That is a crime. So of course any social worker, case worker, family violence counsellor has to follow those types of regulations. At the same time Mr. Speaker, in many cases common sense prevails. Common sense being Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or any other traditional practice that you put in place.

Mr. Speaker, the member is aware and I am sure the members in this House are aware of different cases of counselling or family violence situations where a social worker or it could be a community counsellor in the member's community of Clyde River for example. I know at the family resource centre they told us of some of the work that they have been doing proactively incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on where their concerns are.

But there are other regulations and rules the members have to follow. And I agree with what the Member from Pond Inlet said earlier. You need to be able to use the right hand as well as left hand and common sense when you are dealing with issues like that but you also have to do the regulatory and the statutory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is your department making plans to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into these regulations and statutory requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. We are doing that. We're in the process Mr. Speaker, of bringing together a comprehensive mental health strategy that includes issues around family violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't seen anything and I didn't see any of the comprehensive things you are putting together. I don't believe you. Are you putting anything forward on this soon? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the comprehensive mental health strategy has been discussed in the past at the Standing Committee of Health and Mr. Speaker, it's one of the new initiatives that we're trying to bring forward in this new budget year.

The budget has not been presented, it was one of the new proposals that we have, that we would like bring forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report that is being put together, is there somebody that will be working on incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier the strategies they're working on are comprehensive and include input from different groups, organizations. Indeed some people in the member's community and other members' communities in this House.

So Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a major part of this. At the same time as the other member from Pond said in his statements, common sense prevails when you're dealing with issues like this and at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, that's what we want to make sure of. That we have in place the best counselling as we are able to fix family violence for the victim as well as for the person who is the abuser.

You want to be accountable to the man and the woman and that's part of the strategy that we're bringing forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. A reminder to the members and a caution that the question period time is now up. We still have members who haven't asked the first question yet and that's primarily due to preambles upon preambles, upon a preamble, upon a preamble. So that members keep to their questions, the preamble short on the first question, more direct and ask ministers to try and be more precise in the answers.

Furthermore, I see some members looking up and shaking their fist that they didn't get the first question or the sixth or the seventh. Just to let the members know that there can only be one person at a time and not everybody can be the first or second to ask a question but hopefully you'll all get a question in.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Ng.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 076 - 1(5): Workers' Compensation Legislative Review Panel Report

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the Workers' Compensation Legislative Review Panel Report titled "Act Now". Thank you.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 077 - 1(5): Letter from Minister Picco to Mr. Tootoo Regarding Agency Nurses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as members know, during the last sitting the Minister of Health and Social Services committed to providing me with some information based on my questions that I had asked.

I'd like to thank him for the letter I received with that information and in order for it to be referenced in the House and for all members to be able to have that information as well I'd like to table the document regarding the salaries and breakdown of costs for agency nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Ms. Williams.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 019 - 1(5): Changes to the Membership of the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act - Notice

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 25, 2002 I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Honourable Jack Anawak be appointed as a member on the Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act and the appointment of the Honourable Peter Kattuk be revoked. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Havioyak.

Motion 020 - 1(5): Changes to Terms of Reference to the Standing Committees - Notice

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 25, 2002 I will move the following motion;

Whereas the terms of reference for the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit and Government Operations and Services were approved by Motion 014-1(1);

Whereas there was the requirement to add to the terms of reference the review of the annual report of the Languages Commissioner and the annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioners to the standing committee;

Therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that the annual report for the Languages Commissioner be referred to Ajauqtiit and the Information and Privacy Commissioner be referred to Government Operations and Services. Koanaqtit Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 19 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001/2002 - Notice

Bill 20 - Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 – June 30, 2002 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 25, 2002 I shall move that Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001/2002 and Bill 20 Interim Appropriation Act 2002/2003 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: 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.

Before I proceed with further, I note that we have an item in the Committee of the Whole, I'd like to ask Mr. Tootoo if he would prefer to proceed with this today. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Notwithstanding Rule 27 (2), do members now agree to proceed to Item 20? Are there any nays? There are no nays.

Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Ms. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Aglukkaq): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Friday February 22, 2002 at 10 o'clock.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 67-1(5)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Before we adjourn, just to remind the members that cell phones, radios, TVs, fax machines are not permitted in the Chamber.

This House will adjourn until February 22, 2002 at 10:00. And we'd like to invite the NTI delegation into the lounge for coffee.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15.26 p.m.*

