



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

5th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 47

Friday February 22, 2002

2505 – 2534

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth*

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

*Minister of Health and Social
Services; Minister Responsible for
the Nunavut Power Corporation*

Hon. Manitok Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

*Minister of Community
Government & Transportation*

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Executive
and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance and Administration;
Minister Responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation;
Government House Leader*

Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

*Minister of Public Works and
Services*

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Education; Minister
of Human Resources*

Rebekah Williams
(Quttiktuq)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Leona Aglukkaq

Clerk of Committees
Nancy Tupik

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms
Simanuk Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	2505
Ministers' Statements.....	2505
Members' Statements	2508
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	2514
Oral Questions	2515
Orders of the Day	2533

A.

Daily References

Friday February 22, 2002..... 2505

B.

Ministers' Statements

146 - 1(5): Decentralized Communities Tour (Kattuk) 2505
147 - 1(5): Establishment of Nunavut Arctic College Headquarters – Arviat
(Kilabuk) 2506
148 - 1(5): Child and Family Services Statutory Workshop (Picco) 2506
149 - 1(5): Solar Wall Project (Akesuk) 2507

C.

Members' Statements

415 - 1(5): Social Issues and Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Iqaqrialu) 2508
416 - 1(5): Suicide and Effects on Parents (Irqittuq) 2509
417 - 1(5): Need for Increase in Youth Programs Funding (Puqiqnak) 2509
418 - 1(5): Personal Accident While Working (Alakannuark) 2510
419 - 1(5): Recognition of Ancestors Life Style Changes; Religion (Anawak) 2511
420 - 1(5): Infrastructure Needs for Non-Decentralized Communities (Williams) 2511
421 – 1(5): NTI President’s Dinner (Thompson) 2512
422 – 1(5): Niqinik Nuatsivik Benefit Dinner (Tootoo) 2512
423 – 1(5): Sanikiluaq Feast (Kattuk) 2513
424 – 1(5): Bingo at Elks – Speaker (Picco) 2513

D.

Oral Questions

421 – 1(5): Responses to After Hours Calls (Irqittuq) 2515
422 – 1(5): Training Opportunities for Youth in the Mining Sector (Havioyak) 2515
423 – 1(5): Traditional Knowledge & Studies of Fish Stocks (Iqaqrialu) 2517
424 – 1(5): Capital Planning – Airport Terminal Buildings (Puqiqnak) 2519

425 – 1(5): Economic Development Plan Update (Williams)	2520
426 – 1(5): Cost Factor of RFP for Kivalliq Boarding Home (McLean)	2522
427 – 1(5): Contract Employees in Health and Social Services (Tootoo).....	2524
428 – 1(5): Plans for Repulse Bay Health Centre Update (Alakannuark).....	2526
429 – 1(5): Programs/Plans to Reduce Need for Shelters (Nutarak)	2527
430 – 1(5): Plans – Arctic College Building in Baker Lake (McLean)	2530
431 – 1(5): Reason for Not Meeting Iqaluit DEA and Iqaluit MLAs (Tootoo)	2531

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday February 22, 2002**

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, 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 ask Mr. Iqaqrialu to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 146 - 1(5): Decentralized Communities Tour

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, since becoming Minister of Public Works & Services in December I have had the opportunity to visit five decentralized communities, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake and Pond Inlet.

I met with Public Works & Services' staff in the regional offices in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Pond Inlet to familiarize myself with the department's operations and to establish strong communications between myself and the department staff.

(interpretation ends) I was also glad to meet with local contractors on tender processes under the NNI Policy.

Decentralization and community empowerment have worked very well for these communities in creating jobs at the community level.

It is a very exciting time to be the Minister of Public Works & Services, and I look forward to working closely with departmental staff to ensure all communities include high levels of public services and the same high level of comfort and communication with Public Works & Services staff.

I would like to thank the MLAs for welcoming me to the communities and I hope that discussions will continue on the interests of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 147 - 1(5): Establishment of Nunavut Arctic College
Headquarters - Arviat**

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to report to my colleagues on the progress of the establishment of the head office of Nunavut Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, it is the policy of the Government of Nunavut to ensure that as many Nunavummiut as possible share the benefits of our new territory. As a result, the government decided to decentralize certain operations to communities outside of Iqaluit. One such action was the move of the head office operations of Nunavut Arctic College to the community of Arviat.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that, as of February 10, the move of the College head office is complete. All College staff, which were housed in temporary accommodations in Arviat, have moved into the new facility. All remaining materials from the Iqaluit office have also been transported to the new location. Staffing is now under way to fill the remaining five positions. It is hoped that this will be completed in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that, in addition to relocating its head office operations, college staff have taken the opportunity to examine College systems and processes in order that they might provide more efficient and better quality service to Nunavummiut.

Changes have been integrated into the new operation and I anticipate that I will be before you shortly with additional announcements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 148 - 1(5): Child and Family Services Statutory Workshop

Hon. Ed Picco: Good morning, Uqaqti. Ullaakkut. Uqaqti, we have no greater asset than our children. Unfortunately in some situations we have to engage the services of Child Protection workers, a dedicated group of professionals who devote their careers to ensure the well-being and safety of our children who are at risk of harm or neglect.

Mr. Speaker, that is why the department has made it a priority to fill numerous positions for community Social Workers throughout Nunavut. Also Mr. Speaker, eleven of these

workers, nine of them recently hired, attended a statutory training workshop in Pangnirtung earlier this month. Community Social Workers from Hall Beach, Clyde River, Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Igloolik, Qikiqtarjuaq, Cambridge Bay and Kugaaruk completed the training.

The ten day workshop, held from February 5 until the 14th in Pangnirtung, was the first of a series of Child and Family Services statutory workshops to be held in various regions of Nunavut throughout the upcoming year.

Mr. Speaker, my department is committed to ensuring that all newly hired community Social Workers have the necessary training to enable them to carry out their mandated responsibilities under the Nunavut Child and Family Services Act. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 149 - 1(5): Solar Wall Project

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, fossil fuels like gas, diesel and aviation fuel provide Nunavummiut with electricity, warm houses and transportation and all are imported from the south.

We all share a common concern about the increasing costs of these products as they put financial strain on people, businesses, community governments and the Government of Nunavut. More money spent on different types of fuel means less money for everyone. But at a time when we face many other priorities like improving health care, education and employment, our dependence on fossil fuels are also effecting our environment by contributing to air pollution and some of these air pollutants are contributing to global climate change. Nunavummiut are already observing and experiencing climate change and its impacts.

In an effort to reduce the amount of imported fossil fuels we are using, Nunavut will require improved energy management and start pursuing additional energy alternative supply systems such as using the wind, sun or water. Many renewable technologies are available and have been used globally to supply energy and heat. Most of these are however, unproven in Arctic conditions.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about a renewable energy project that is currently being installed in Rankin Inlet. A solar wall is currently being installed that will preheat fresh air before it is drawn into the building's heating system. This means that less energy will be needed to heat the incoming air, fresh air and the building.

The Department of Sustainable Development in partnership with Public Works and Services and Education and Natural Resources Canada is sponsoring this demonstration

project. The installation is at the Alaituq School and I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff and students and the community of Rankin Inlet for supporting this important project.

This project will be tested for about three years to determine whether this type of renewable energy system is suitable for use in Nunavut. It is estimated that this installation will collect a significant amount of solar energy and will reduce the amount of fuel needed to heat the school. It is projected that this installation may reduce fuel consumption by as much as 12 thousand litres per year, which will result in an annual savings of about 10 thousand dollars. Environmentally, using less fuel in the school means less emission of air pollutants, particularly those attributed to causing climate change.

It is appropriate that this technology be installed at the school since our children and youth represent the future and an application of technology such as this will contribute to their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 415 - 1(5): Social Issues and Incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the state of the Government of Nunavut. Today the government is not changing. I believed the Acts that we have passed in this Assembly are different from the Acts from the previous government. We still haven't implemented many of the principles of the Bathurst Mandate, Mr. Speaker. If we pay close attention to all these principles we can make them relevant to Nunavut.

If we don't resolve some of our social problems, it is not going to get better. Mr. Speaker, employment rules and policies should change. Mr. Speaker I am glad we are now making changes to some of the Acts that we do have but Mr. Speaker the social issues at hand are still not improving. Perhaps the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services is not paying enough attention to social issues.

We have to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the social policies. Our employees cannot make policies on their own. They have to abide by the policies that they are provided with. The ways of life or social issues have to be improved so they can be effective and utilized for the North.

When we don't change the policies for employment, it's evident that the employees who deal with social issues and health issues will always face challenges. We have to incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatunangit and the Department of Health and Social Services must work with the people who have traditional knowledge on social issues. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 416 - 1(5): Suicide and Effects on Parents

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Friday and although we are usually more light-hearted on this day there are many serious issues at the community level that need attention.

There was a concern that was given to me and a suggestion was made to me by one of my constituents Mr. Speaker. I would like to give this idea to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and also for these groups that work on social issues and have been working with the social problems. As you know, I have been making numerous statements on the issue of suicide.

There are many parents that have lost children to suicide, there are many of them. They have experiences that may help the rest of the population prevent further suicides. They have never been gathered in one place to discuss this. Perhaps it is time for such a gathering. I don't know where we can find new dollars for such a meeting but I would like to suggest we try this and also I will be writing a letter in regards to this.

Perhaps the Nunavut Government and NTI could partner on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 417 - 1(5): Need for Increase in Youth Programs Funding

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about last fall's session, where we kept talking about our youth, as to how we can improve the services for the youth and to improve the funding that is allocated for youth issues.

During the fall session, we brought this up a number of times. As my colleague just stated, he was given advice by his constituents, likewise with me and also to the Minister responsible for Education when we did the community tours to high schools in Taloyoak.

One young lady told us how the government could improve their services to the youth. They don't have enough youth programs and they don't have any places to go. We should give further support for this young lady in Taloyoak as she represents the whole youth population of the community.

Although I am concerned about the community of Taloyoak, I'm thinking overall of the communities in Nunavut. I think our youth should be provided with more funding and increase the funding for youth programs and services so that they can start having programs and services at the community level.

One of my constituents has talked about this and I know I won't forget about it, I know that we won't forget about the requests from the young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 418 - 1(5): Personal Accident While Working

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all work hard each and every day of our lives, I know that we are also working very hard today in this House, I would like to speak on something humorous today, even though we do have serious issues to deal with.

I was working for the Co-op delivering fuel when I was younger. I never wanted to be late for work and I also maintained the vehicles that the Co-op owned whenever they broke down and delivered the fuel as well. I was delivering fuel during that day, I think around 1995, when I was doing this.

As I was delivering the fuel I felt like I needed to use the washroom, even though I was pouring fuel. I was trying very hard not to go and I was on top of the stairs distributing the fuel. I almost started going in my pants. I wanted to finish fuelling up the tank, I finished going in my pants, the tank filled at the same time, and I had to put the hose back in the truck. Then I went inside the truck and I was literally standing up inside the fuel truck, I didn't even sit down.

We had a two-story house and as I walked into the house the washroom was on the second floor, I didn't even tell my wife, I just ran straight to the washroom. As I walked into the washroom I took off my pants, which were full of waste, and it stank, but I took them off anyways. I never took a shower or bath during working hours but that happened to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark I think that was on a need to know basis. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Member's Statement 419 - 1(5): Recognition of Ancestors Life Style Changes;
Religion**

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Inuit we often say that we greatly value our elders and our ancestors. I think often we don't take the time to remember what they have done for us. We live in a harsh climate and our ancestors survived with very few necessities.

When people from the south started moving up north, the missionaries and the RCMP came up and religion was brought into our communities.

We started being taught about the Bible, which I am not talking against, and shamanism was taken from the people. I have constituents that know a lot about shamanism. They have a lot of knowledge in this area but it seemed that there wasn't a lot of respect for Inuit when they first arrived.

I would like to ask unanimous consent to complete my statement Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. We need to encourage and incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. People from the south that moved to Nunavut need to respect it. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we need to respect the knowledge of our elders. So I would just like to encourage our people to respect Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and the values of our elders.

In the past there were a lot of very respectable people and if we want our children to have a good future we need to set an example and respect our elders and their values, including shamanism and other areas. We need to respect the activities that our elders used to participate in like drum dancing because our young people are starting to get confused as to where they are really from. So let's respect our elders so that our children will know what we should be moving towards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's Statements. Ms. Williams.

**Member's Statement 420 - 1(5): Infrastructure Needs for Non-Decentralized
Communities**

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the smaller communities that are non-decentralized. We as Members of the Legislative Assembly often hear about the work that is being done in decentralized communities, they are building offices and jobs are opening up in those communities.

I feel that other communities that are smaller need to be visited to see what services are available and the status of the buildings.

Mr. Speaker, presently in my constituency they are putting together a video of what kind of buildings are in the community and I feel that we need to treat the communities fairly in putting in infrastructure. So, once that video is available I will make it available to the members just so that the members will know what infrastructure is in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 421 – 1(5): NTI President's Dinner

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to show my appreciation to the members and to the elders and colleagues that attended the feast held on behalf of the new President of NTI. I appreciate your appearance at the feast Mr. Speaker. My parents and my family have not spoken up to show our appreciation to the people of Nunavut when my younger sister Cathy Towtongie was elected. When she ran for her position, it is something that she worked hard toward and she has been elected.

She spoke last night about working towards this goal and when she spoke, I was thinking that her time has finally come where she is able to speak out on what she has been working towards. She has done well in her schooling. I really appreciate the support that she has received and I believe that she has worked very hard to get where she is today. I am very proud of her. I thank the members for attending as she spoke last night. I was very proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 422 – 1(5): Niqinik Nuatsivik Benefit Dinner

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House another successful event that took place in our capital city last night. Mr. Speaker, last night the Niqinik Nuatsivik food bank had its very first, and hopefully it will be an on-going event, benefit dinner last night at Wizards Café.

I'd like to acknowledge a number of local people that have been working very hard for the last few years to establish a food bank here in Iqaluit. I am sure the people that rely on that service are very appreciative to those individuals. Mr. Speaker, I know during these tough financial times that we find ourselves in, a service like this is an unfortunate necessity.

Mr. Speaker, apparently there were around 40 participants that were there last night and they had a very good arctic char dinner, which everyone enjoyed. There were also numerous cash donations that were made by people that participated in the event.

I don't know the extent of the funds that were raised last night but I understand that those numbers will be finalized by tomorrow. They also had Mr. Speaker, a karaoke machine there last night and I understand that went over quite well as being very entertaining.

Mr. Speaker, I plan on making a cash donation to the food bank for support in lieu of being able to attend last night due to prior commitments. I would like to inform any other members that if they too would like to make a donation they can contact me and make sure it gets forwarded on to the food bank. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 423 – 1(5): Sanikiluaq Feast

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to talk about an event last January in my constituency when government officials came and met in Sanikiluaq. The people of Sanikiluaq warmly welcomed the officials and they were able to get together in the community hall where a feast was held. It was standing room only. I appreciate the welcome my community gave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 424 – 1(5): Bingo at Elks - Speaker

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to pass on my congratulations to Cathy also. I was not able to attend last night as I was in a wastewater recycling program meeting in Apex last night.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to continue our assembly's Friday Members' Statement tradition.

Mr. Speaker, over the years many Nunavut residents have and continue to be involved with a participatory event here in Iqaluit through the medium of TV and also in public forums, Iqaluit residents can be found enjoying this practice.

Mr. Speaker, this past week as many members know, my mother has been visiting Iqaluit. She joined with my wife and our neighbour to attend the gathering. To her surprise Mr. Speaker, a very distinguished gentleman was also present at this gathering. He was very

aggressive Mr. Speaker, he did everything possible, and I mean everything possible to win.

Mr. Speaker, at one point he even suggested that he would chair or even call the meeting. Mr. Speaker, in the end common sense prevailed and he was not Mr. Speaker, he was not allowed to do this. Mr. Speaker, this distinguished gentleman, Mr. Speaker, who tried so hard to win, who participated with my wife and my mother and other Iqaluit residents was no other than you Mr. Speaker, it was you.

Mr. Speaker, it was you who tried to win bingo at the Elks and Mr. Speaker you surprised everyone in attendance at the bingo by your offer to even call the bingo and play at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say Mr. Speaker that my mother didn't win and my wife did not win but Mr. Speaker neither did you. So in Inuktitut I would say anniqpanna to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Moving on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me very great pleasure to welcome to the gallery a very good friend of mine and a constituent. A man with whom I have had several discussions in the past week and several weeks on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the involvement of culture into the Department of Health and Social Services. He actually stopped me a few days ago and talked to me for some time about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the Department of Health and Social Services.

I appreciate his advice and his wisdom and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery Mr. Andrew Tagak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to welcome my wife who is here for the first time, Rosie. If somebody does not know the individual that is sitting beside her, Mr. Tagak, I would also like to recognize him as well.

My late father in the 1920's was one of the whalers with his father. My father also has a brother who lives in Resolute Bay so Andrew Tagak is my cousin and I would like to welcome both my wife and Andrew. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 421 – 1(5): Responses to After Hours Calls

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think today is my day, I've been first on several things. I already asked this question of the Minister of Justice. I just wondered whether the communities outside of Iqaluit have to call the 1-800 number for the RCMP before they can get any help or services in the communities.

That was my question and he told me that he would give me an answer today. Is he ready to give me an answer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in communities where we have two RCMP Officers they are on call as the member knows, 24 hours a day. At times Mr. Speaker, after hours calls are automatically transferred to, it is my understanding that calls are automatically transferred to in this case, the Iqaluit detachment for services after hours.

Mr. Speaker, the actual information for the member's question, I took the question as notice the other day and I want to get the complete answer to the question including other communities in Nunavut. I don't have that information with me yet and I will provide that information as I said earlier to the member.

I don't have the information for today, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member that I haven't received the information yet from the Department of Justice but I will provide it under the time frame as acknowledged by this House and its Rules and the question is taken as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. As the question was taken as notice, the minister has 21 days to respond so we will move on. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 422 – 1(5): Training Opportunities for Youth in the Mining Sector

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of the Department of Sustainable Development. I will be speaking in Innuinaqtut a little. We all

know that the mining companies are increasing in the Kugluktuk area and the employment is improving in our region. As we all know some of the people are not qualified for a number of positions unless they take some kind of a course.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development if there would be any training for young people who are interested in working for the mining industry. I want to know if there is any training available to get a job in the mining industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that mining is developing near some of the communities in Nunavut and there are also some mines that are closing down.

What we have been trying to do is get some training for people that would like to work in the mines, with the mining companies. I will be working with the Department of Education to try to get some training for those people who would like to be employed with the mining companies. This is an on-going thing that we are doing and it will not be done right away. We will do our best to make sure there is training given to those people who would like to work in the mines in the Nunavut area.

Yes, Mr. Speaker we feel that it is very important that we train those people to work in the mines and perhaps not just in the Kitikmeot region but also in the Kivalliq and the Baffin regions. We all realize that the mines will be here, they will be more visible in the near future, and we would like to have a plan whereby we could train the people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer minister. I would like to ask a supplementary. Are you going to be meeting with some of these mining industry officials in the near future and if they are going to be hiring are they going to make some training available for the people who want to work in that industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. We will consult with the different mining companies and talk to the various companies and we would like to work alongside them as the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Education to try to do some planning for training people that would like to work in the mines.

Especially for the youth out there, because of the fact that more mines are starting up in the future in the Nunavut area. We don't know exactly when this training will take place but we will keep the members informed. There will be a major meeting of mining

companies in Toronto in the near future and I will talk with them as well at the conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you minister for your answers. I would like to know, let's use BHP and Diavik Mines for example. When will you be meeting with BHP and Diavik? When are you going to be meeting with them?

If we don't have the proper information how are we going to know what kinds of jobs or positions are available in these mining industries. What jobs are available? We have to get that information from those mining industries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be meeting with them at the beginning of April. There is going to be a mining symposium in Cambridge Bay so just before that, I will get my officials to try to meet those companies that you mentioned so we can plan for the training of people to be employed and what types of jobs are needed. So during the Nunavut mining symposium in Cambridge Bay in April I will get my officials to meet with those mining companies at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 423 – 1(5): Traditional Knowledge & Studies of Fish Stocks

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I made a statement about the Sylvia Grinnell River and the ban on net fishing in that river.

I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development about their traditional knowledge in regards to hunting and fishing or whether those types of traditional knowledge have been utilized to manage the fish in that area. Exactly what kinds of input have they been receiving? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member is talking about the banning of fishing in the Sylvia Grinnell River. It was closed in the past for some time, a little while back if I can remember correctly and it has since been opened.

Perhaps the people in Iqaluit know the area and the fish stocks and I know that my colleague knows the area as well. So I know there is Inuit traditional knowledge that is being used along with the wildlife, fisheries and oceans people studying that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the minister's response but I would also like to ask another question.

From the time that we can remember, we lived from the wildlife in Nunavut. We know there are a lot of people that are polluting areas where we continue to fish. I just want to tell the minister that the hunters should be given the priority over these resources. I just wondered if the minister knows about people that pollute or over-hunt, and those people should not be allowed to hunt or fish.

I just wondered if those people who damage the environment are the ones that are being banned from doing these things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is legislation to protect the environment and if there is damage then there are consequences for those that are polluting the environment so the wildlife and fish are not harmed.

We have to realize that pollution to the environment has to be monitored very carefully because we don't want our fish stocks and other marine mammals harmed. We have to make sure those people are watched by Fisheries and Oceans or by our department so pollution is not spread around our environment.

For example, mines are one of the main things that pollute the environment so we are looking into these types of things as well. These are the people that we have banned from fishing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I liked his response. But for the people who contaminate the environment, I know we have not stopped the industries even though we have rules and regulations about that. But then we ban the hunters and we don't stop the companies who contaminate or pollute the environment.

So therefore I would like a better understanding. According to our rules, when have we applied the rules against these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information with me right now. I will provide the information to the member here with a list of what has been stopped due to contaminants.

I will get the information and get it back to the member. Also, we do have the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board. I will look into this further and find out from these federal officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 424 – 1(5): Capital Planning – Airport Terminal Buildings

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, in one of my communities I know there are plans in the future for the airport terminals. They are getting too small. It is okay when small airplanes come into our community.

But the other community that I have in my constituency is a decentralized community. These terminals were built in the 1970s when the population was still quite small but today our population is over one thousand people.

We have a decentralized community and the airport terminal is getting too small and inadequate. So I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation what capital plans they have in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut's airport terminal infrastructure is old and we are aware of that in the Department of Community Government & Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, our plan for all of Nunavut is to look at the infrastructure at the airports and terminals. We will start that and also I will start talking with the federal government because our capital funding is insufficient to build the terminals that are required. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you minister for responding that you have plans to look at the communities in Nunavut and their terminals. I understand that.

But in your planning process, we've got another season before summer comes and I know that it is very cold at this time of year in our communities. When Minister Ng came to visit our community it was below minus 70 in our community. At times when the planes come in late, especially the flights that come from Yellowknife to Gjoa Haven and it is the final stop before going to Yellowknife.

When that flight arrives the terminal is too small and the clients even have to wait outside. Can't we build an extension to the terminal or put in an army tent there outside of the terminal so that these people would be inside to wait for the airline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the very first time that I've heard about it and I will look into it to see how we can give more assistance to the community. But in regards to the capital estimates, even though they are insufficient, I will pay particular attention to that issue and look into the Gjoa Haven airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you. Since today is Friday, I thank you for your response. I would like to work with you but in the Kitikmeot region we have a head office over there and in the Nattilik area our airports and our recreational facilities are too small, built for tiny people. Perhaps some of your officials are Inugaruliit, gnomes, in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our officials here are of normal size but I don't know about the ones in your region. Perhaps they are still growing over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 425 – 1(5): Economic Development Plan Update

Ms. Williams (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Sustainable Development. I would like to ask, for the smaller communities...

>> *Laughter*

...I apologize. For the smaller communities could he update us on economic development incentives and the progress to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't understand the member's question. Could she re-phrase her question please so I can understand what she is asking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams repeat your question please.

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. My question is, he had a plan for small communities' economic development as he was instructed by the Premier or the government. Can he update us on that plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, now I understand the question. For the non-decentralized communities we are working on that issue right now and we have to use the funding wisely, as there are quite a few non-decentralized communities.

In the year 2002, we will be giving more assistance to non-decentralized communities to come up with more employment perhaps through tourism and also through private businesses. Perhaps the communities that we are working with the most will go first and the other non-decentralized communities afterwards.

Due to a lack of resources, we can't work with all the communities but we have worked with Arctic Bay, Coral Harbour, Hall Beach, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, and Taloyoak. These are the communities that we are working with on economic development plans for non-decentralized communities. We have been working very closely with these communities on economic development plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question. In those non-decentralized communities what new things have you established to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities, I don't have a list of what has been put into the communities, so I can't respond to that question. But once I have completed a list I will make it available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his response and I will be expecting the list so that I can inform my communities. My other question is, the communities that I was concerned about, because of the closing of the mine it will affect

tourism. So what has been done for that community in regards to tourism? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to tourism, I will be working closely with the community that is dealing with the closing of the mine. I will work hard with the committee to get their suggestions as to what can be done and what improvements can be made with tourism for non-decentralized communities.

I believe that those communities will have their tourism affected and I will work closely with those communities to improve it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 426 – 1(5): Cost Factor of RFP for Kivalliq Boarding Home

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Honourable Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, I don't want the Minister of Health to think that I am unfairly picking on him or badgering him on the question of the Kivalliq Boarding Home.

It's a great thing. It's a great thing that we are finally replacing that aged facility that was infested with all types of vermin and other animals and stuff like that. It's a great day when he gets around to signing the contract for the Kivalliq Boarding Home so the people in the Kivalliq don't have to suffer through that old facility any more. They will have a nice, modern, clean facility so when they are down there having operations or cancer treatments, it will be, finally, for them.

Because like I say, we have all been discussing it in the Kivalliq how decrepit that old home is. Mr. Speaker, my first question today is, on the RFP for the Kivalliq Boarding Home, how much of a factor was the cost in that RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the cost was one of the factors that were taken into account on the awarding of the contract or the tender for the new boarding home facility in Winnipeg.

It was one of the components that were looked at in regards to the proposals that we received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard the minister talk yesterday about another facility that is being built in that cost was a factor in deciding what type and how large that facility would be.

I am asking the minister again, how much of a factor was the cost in awarding that RFP on the Kivalliq boarding home. Is it 10%, 20%, 30% on the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't feel badgered, battered, abused, mistreated, misinformed or maladjusted by the member's question. I want to make it perfectly clear that I will try to give him the answers that are permissible in the confines of the Legislative Assembly.

So with that Mr. Speaker I will say, in evaluating the proposals that we received the successful proponent had the highest score for Inuit employment. It had the highest score as a Nunavut firm and using Nunavut firms as its major supplier of goods and services. And Mr. Speaker the successful proponent also had the lowest cost of the proposals. I hope that puts the member at ease with the information that he requested from me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I felt sorry for the Honourable Member yesterday in my office when after Question Period he was complaining to me of how hard a day he had. But he finally got around to answering my question. Am I correct in assuming that the cost factor was a major reason why this RFP will be awarded? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes even I need the advice, solace, compassion, and understanding of the members. That is why I was in his office. Although I went there for help in my situation, he had to tell me about his situation. So I was actually working as a counsellor.

The answer to the member's question is that cost did provide or was a factor in the decision to award the contract. It wasn't a sole decision. It was a decision in one of the contract proposals according to the tendering guidelines of the Government of Nunavut. It was one of the factors. It was not the major factor.

There are other mitigating circumstances and as I said earlier Mr. Speaker, what is important to note was that the successful proponent had the highest Inuit employment

plan and also had the highest usage of Nunavut services and Nunavut firms for services and goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the minister is in my office giving counselling, he does all the talking. I do all the listening.

But the question is, how much of a difference was there in cost, in hundreds of thousands of dollars is there a difference in those RFP's between the successful proponent and the unsuccessful proponents. Can the minister advise this House how much of a price difference per year there was on that contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Well Mr. Speaker, I don't want to give him the amount. I don't think that would be correct. Mr. Speaker, I can say that I did a lot of talking in his office but at the same time it was hard to get a word in edgewise.

Mr. Speaker, I can say on the proposed costs and the actual costs that we were spending as a government Mr. Speaker, it is fair to say Mr. Speaker in the proposed cost that has been put forward by the development corporation that their proposed costs are less Mr. Speaker, than we are spending today.

Mr. Speaker, on the contract the difference according to the information provided to me is less than 50 thousand dollars than we are spending right now and Mr. Speaker that gives the Government of Nunavut good value for the dollar. As Mr. McLean said very well that will bring a new facility forward in Winnipeg for the Keewatin patients, which is the number one priority of the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 427 – 1(5): Contract Employees in Health and Social Services

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question too is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and I'm very appreciative that he didn't come and counsel me in my office yesterday.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister some questions relating to contract employees and nurses that the Department of Health and Social Services has. What I'd like to ask the minister today is, does his department have any other contract employees working for it or any contract employees working in positions that are on their

organizational chart that are meant to be filled by indeterminate employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, within the organizational chart I was in the course of talking with the Department of Health and Social Services. We have numerous employees, I think we have over 600 employees in the government.

So there are contracts in place with certain employees and I don't have that information with me Mr. Speaker, but there are employment contracts within the Department of Health like there are within other departments in the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it looks like the Minister of Health is getting some counselling over there right now, which is good to see.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Speaker as the minister has indicated there are certainly contract employees working within his department and that he didn't have that information, would the minister be willing to provide a list of the contract employees working his department. Also what positions or if any indeterminate positions that are contractors filling jobs that are slated for indeterminate positions. What positions they're for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the difference Mr. Speaker, with Mr. McLean and Mr. Ng on counselling is that Mr. McLean takes the advice and Mr. Ng usually doesn't so we're working on that.

I would be willing Mr. Speaker to get that information for the member and wherever I'm allowed within the scope of regulations and legislation on confidentiality measures and so on as an issue.

I will make that information available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish the minister luck in continuing to work with his colleague on taking advice. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if in looking up that information if he could provide the cost difference if any savings or more that it's costing the department as a result of having a contract employee

in place as opposed to someone filling that position in an indeterminate role. Also when does he plan on providing that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will try to endeavour making that information available as soon as possible. Again Mr. Speaker, I can't say how long it will take. I would hope that we could do it in the next week, week and a half during this session and make it available to the members and I'll try all ways possible to be as expeditious about it as possible.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, I will also get the other information and try to provide a cost benefit analysis on the contract employees as opposed to indeterminate staff employment. I think that was what the question was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A cost benefit analysis, it would be nice to see that done in a lot of areas Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if, aside from the other information that he's doing if he would be willing to provide us those details of the cost benefit analysis and the information that they use in looking at it and the results from it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a lot of information to be gathered and Mr. Speaker, again I will try to expedite that process. We will have to wait until the Hansard to see the exact details that the member wants, but we will try to make that available to the member before the end of the session if at all possible. Certainly within the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 428 – 1(5): Plans for Repulse Bay Health Centre Update

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

The health centre in Repulse Bay needs to be expanded. Is there a plan for extending the health centre in Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have a project that is in place right now for the Repulse Bay health centre. That is the design of the health centre and the replacement of the current residence within the centre itself.

As the member knows, I was in Repulse Bay this past fall, there has been some more work done on the centre itself and we are in the process of doing the replacement of the residence. That design is in progress right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, is the design completed as to what the facility will look like when completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my information tells me that the design is still in progress. What I can do for the member Mr. Speaker, is get a current update and provide that to the member on exactly what work has taken place to date, what work needs to be done and the time frame for that.

But according to the information provided to me Mr. Speaker, the design work is still in place, and in progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question for the minister is, when will they start work on the foundation of the new health centre. Will it be done after the barge has come into the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the first thing that needs to be done is have the design for the new facility completed. Once that is completed then the work of having the facility itself within the capital plan of the government included. I can't say when the actual construction is Mr. Speaker, at the present time.

But again, I will make that information available to the member as well in writing from my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 429 – 1(5): Programs/Plans to Reduce Need for Shelters

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I have asked this question for two days now about the women that have to leave the community to go to a safe shelter. I just want to find out from the minister whether there has been some work done towards trying to reduce the numbers of people that are sent to shelters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in most cases it is a last resort for a woman to have to leave her family, to leave her community to go to a safe home or a safe shelter Mr. Speaker. It is only done on the recommendation of the caseworker, a social worker, a community health nurse or another individual.

In some cases Mr. Speaker, the woman may choose to refer herself to a shelter. Mr. Speaker, there are plans in place through a strategy that we are bringing forward in the new fiscal year to look at issues surrounding family violence and enhancing some of the social services areas that are on the ground at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, in no way are we trying to limit a woman's access to a family violence shelter, I want to make that perfectly clear. At the same time Mr. Speaker, it is the decision of the client who chooses, with counselling and with support from Social Services, indeed from health centre staff and so on, to make that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during my questioning on this issue, I spoke about the right hand and the left hand and whether the two partners could be dealt with together.

I just wondered if the men, I think some of the men go to shelters as well, or go to other families to shelter from their wives. Is there a plan in place to provide shelter for the men as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the event of a family breakdown or when there are marital problems in the family, when it reaches the point there may be violence involved, the first thing the system does and social workers, in many cases who are Inuit. Counsellors on the ground and indeed last week Mr. Speaker, here in Iqaluit where we have over 44 community wellness counsellors who were provided this type of training from all over Nunavut, to almost every community in Nunavut.

Their main concern was to make sure that help is provided to also the men as well as the women who in most cases, 80% of the time are the victims of abuse. At the present time

Mr. Speaker, we don't have a plan as the Department of Health and Social Services to have safe homes or shelters in place for men. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I were a woman and the social worker advised me to go to a shelter, for example to Iqaluit or Ottawa or Yellowknife, the social workers in Nunavut deal with the abused woman if she has to go to a shelter.

I think there are also others outside of Nunavut that do marriage counselling. There are marriage counsellors outside of Nunavut I am sure. I wonder if there could be marriage counsellors brought into the communities to counsel married people when they are having problems. Perhaps you could provide a marriage counsellor as well as the social worker to come to the community to counsel the married people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the issue of marriage counselling, and I understand where the member is going with the question. At the community level there are several different people who are trained and available to help families.

There are two instances here, one is working with the families before a violent incident occurs Mr. Speaker, where a couple may be having marital problems. There are community wellness counsellors Mr. Speaker, religious organizations on the ground Mr. Speaker, churches, and social workers.

There are several different people that are available to help families that are having marital difficulties within a relationship. At the same time Mr. Speaker, sometimes these relationships break down to a point where there is violence, where women are abused. Where there is physical abuse and the safety of the woman and the children indeed are at risk, at that time Mr. Speaker the decision is made to take that woman with her consent of course, and maybe the best opportunity is to leave this community for a couple of weeks.

And that is only taken as I said after very serious consideration. At the same time Mr. Speaker, enhancing some of the opportunities for counselling of families I think that is important. That was some of the discussions that were held here in Iqaluit with the community wellness counsellors. To make sure that the families have an opportunity for counselling at the community level before a point comes where a woman has to leave her family. So that is what we are trying to do within the department as well as other inter-agency groups at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. A caution to members to stay within the confines of the original question. Try not to go on to a totally different question. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 430 – 1(5): Plans – Arctic College Building in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is directed to Minister of Education. Back in December of last year there was a fire at the old decrepit ageing Arctic College building in Baker Lake. It just happened that the Fire Marshal and the Electrical Inspector were there at the same time and they promptly closed the building down halfway through the beginning of the new season for the Arctic College students.

So they have been relocated in government staff housing. Can the minister tell me what his plans are to deal with this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have previously discussed the Arctic College situation in Baker Lake after the fire. We will not leave the students out on the streets. We had put in a request for funding to build a new Arctic College facility and that project is going ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm to me that there is going to be a new facility built this year? Like I say, the students are almost out in the cold, in the snow bank, with no place to go. So is the building going to be built this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The planning has been completed to build the Arctic College facility and it will be built this year 2002-2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is great news for the community of Baker Lake as they have wanted to replace this facility for the last 10-15 years. And like I say it was falling down. That is great news for the community and I am sure that they will be glad to hear this and I would like to thank the minister for a quick response to a need in my community.

And I wish other ministers were as easy to deal with in their responses to Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 431 – 1(5): Reason for Not Meeting Iqaluit DEA and Iqaluit MLAs

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education as well. Mr. Speaker, last year I know myself and the Member for Iqaluit East requested to have a meeting with the minister and the DEA together.

Mr. Speaker, I was very disappointed that the minister's response is that he wouldn't meet with the DEA and us together. I'd like to ask the minister if could he explain here in the House why he didn't accommodate our request to meet with him as Minister of Education and be together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is right. At the beginning when I was first asked to meet with the DEA and the member and the other member from Iqaluit East, I stated at that time that we would work with the DEA in Iqaluit. We wanted to be able to deal with the problem that DEA was having at the beginning before meeting with the members so that was my reasoning behind that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is fully aware and as all members are, I know that the DEA's are elected representatives from the community as us MLA's are. Is the minister saying that in any requests that come from any DEA for a member to meet with them and their DEA that the minister won't meet jointly with those groups? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No. I meet with the DEA members from time to time. But what we had to deal with was a little bit different than usual. So what we wanted to do was to meet with or to work with the DEA in Iqaluit.

If there were a request from any of the members, I would meet with them as well as their DEA's. But according to our responsibility as the Department of Education, I had to work with the DEA of Iqaluit. That's why we did not meet with the member and DEA at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated there is something specific or different in the circumstances. My recollection after discussing the meeting with the members of the District Education Authority was that it indicated that they didn't see any reason why the MLAs for Iqaluit were not able to attend that meeting.

So I would like to ask the minister if he could one, elaborate on exactly what it was that we weren't allowed to be privy to as far as the meeting and also, he stated that he works with the DEA's so is he stating then that he won't work with the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not say that I will not work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, if that were my position then I would not be fulfilling my responsibility.

I want my colleagues to understand that sometimes, or many times, when we have to work with the District Education Authorities, the Members of the Legislative Assembly don't attend all our meetings. I just want that to be understood.

During the time when I worked with the three MLAs for Iqaluit I informed them that I would like to work with the DEAs first before I work with the MLAs. So therefore, I wanted to work with DEA by them without any interference from the outside. So that's why I had asked to meet with them separately. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm kind of distracted here by the fact that me doing my job as a MLA requesting information is considered as interference.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the things that we are discussing are issues that were raised by the District Education Authority to me as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to ask the minister again why, if there were specific issues that I publicly raised in this House on numerous occasions, he felt it wasn't appropriate for the members to be there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I responded previously I can only say again what I said before. When I met with the District Education Authority of Iqaluit, I wanted to deal with the issues according to the department's responsibility. And I had asked the Members of the Legislature if I could work with them according to our plans and working with the District Education Authority.

I just didn't want any other groups other than the DEA in there. But I can tell my colleagues that I would like to work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit in regards to education issues. I will keep you informed as to when we can meet individually or meet together. I am always open to the members but I also want to work well with the District Education Authority myself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 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. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Before I proceed, I note that we have one item in the Committee of the Whole. I would like to ask Mr. Tootoo if he would like to proceed with this today. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not today.

Speaker: Notwithstanding Rule 27(2) do members unanimously 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. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (Ms. Aglukkaq): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of announcements before I start with the Orders of the Day. MSB meeting at 12.30 in the Speaker's Office. One o'clock this afternoon the Standing Committee on Health and Education will be meeting in the Nanuq Room. As well for Monday morning at 9 o'clock Standing Committee CESD will be meeting in the Tuktu Room. Regular Caucus at 11 o'clock in the Natsiq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Monday February 25, 2002 at 1.30 p.m.

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
 - Motion 19

- Motion 20

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 19
- Bill 20

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, Ms. Clerk. Before we adjourn, I would like to meet with all members immediately after the session in the Tuktu Room. This House will adjourn until February 25, 2002 at 1.30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 11.51 a.m.*

