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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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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday February 26, 2002**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I call on Mr. Iqaqrialu to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon Mr. Premier, members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 156 - 1(5): Opening of New Arena in Kimmirut

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I was going to make this statement but my microphone batteries ran out. So I will just continue on from there Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, on January 24, Members of the Legislative Assembly joined South Baffin MLA Olayuk Akesuk and I in Kimmirut for the official opening of the new Tasilik Arena. The arena was built between June and December 2001, and 18 Inuit worked on the project, which was funded by the Department of Community Government & Transportation.

The Tasilik Arena will provide Kimmirut's youth with the opportunity to become involved in healthy sporting activities. I would like to report that Team Kimmirut won its home opener by defeating Team Government of Nunavut quite easily. We were very proud of Team Kimmirut. It is our hope that this new facility will help develop world-class athletes from Kimmirut who will compete for Nunavut at the Arctic Winter Games and even for Canada at the Olympic Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 435 - 1(5): Training Opportunities in Mining/Solutions to Inequalities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to see our Clerk back at the Officers' table. I rise today to raise an issue of concern for the residents of eastern Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Kugluktuk and Baker Lake have spoken eloquently on several occasions during the session on the issue of the mining sector and the job opportunities that it brings for our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the people of my region, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, are also eager to participate in this sector. However, we face a problem with those communities that are not located near to the mining sites or are not considered by the mining companies to be points of hire.

Although there are people who have worked hard to get jobs in the mines, they find themselves in a situation where they have to pay for their own airfare from their home community to a regional centre like Cambridge Bay where the company transports them the remainder of the way to the job site.

Mr. Speaker, everyone in this House knows that airfares between our communities are not cheap. With a high unemployment rate, job seekers don't need yet another barrier when they are seeking work. Mr. Speaker, I urge our government to work with the companies, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the communities in the region to seek creative solutions for this issue of equality.

Mr. Speaker, a dollar invested in helping our constituents get to work is worth twice as much as a dollar keeping them stuck at home, dependent and without hope. Mr. Speaker, in the coming days I will be asking questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak and thank you for confining yourself to the time limit. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 436 - 1(5): Dog Illnesses in Amittuq

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been working on how to promote people taking pride in their lives. Usually I speak about suicide prevention but this time I am going to speak about something different.

For many years now we have had problems with dogs in my communities of Igloolik, Hall Beach and perhaps Arctic Bay. I remember growing up when we had dog teams, and often the dogs would die off because of rabies. Sometimes they would die off from other forms of illness. This was back in the 1950's and 60's.

Often we thought that rabies was the only illness that the dogs had, but beginning perhaps four or five years ago, the dogs have now begun having different forms of illness, such as distemper and this illness continues in my constituency. Although there is no testing done on these dogs, some Inuit feel that the dogs are getting these diseases and illnesses because of the overpopulation of the ravens, because the ravens always hang out where the dogs are tied up.

So we Inuit are becoming concerned about the droppings having an effect on the dog teams. At the appropriate time I will be directing questions to the Minister of Sustainable Development on this subject. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 437 - 1(5): Assistance for Disabled Persons

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the disabled people in communities. There are the blind, there are people who are unable to speak and there are also people who are physically unable to get around in the communities.

We have to discuss how can we better assist these individuals with these disabilities in the communities. Some parents who have to care for their children with disabilities in the home find it overwhelming. There are people living in group homes receiving care and I truly appreciate the care that they are receiving.

Mr. Speaker, lastly I would like to say that we need to do more for these individuals in the communities that need assistance and give them resources so that they are more comfortable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 438 - 1(5): Caribou Harvesters in Coral Harbour

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it has been almost two years since the Premier visited Coral Harbour. He talked about the communities that are not receiving decentralization and stated that the government would give more support to these communities.

The Premier stated that they would give support to these communities to the best of their abilities, especially economic development and job creation projects for the community.

For a long time Coral Harbour residents have been working actively on economic development for themselves even though the government is not giving them adequate financial assistance. They're now planning for the upcoming years.

One of the projects that we would like to inform you of is the commercial caribou project. I was informed last night that about 1,800 caribou have been harvested and that's almost halfway to their commercial quota. However, I'm sure that they will not deplete their quota because they don't have a market for this caribou meat. There is hardly any market for the caribou meat.

I'm very glad that the Premier recently went overseas and has done some work in this area. I will be asking questions about this at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 439 - 1(5): Waste Water Recycling Project

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I attended a very important meeting in Apex sponsored by the City Council of Iqaluit.

The City of Iqaluit has received a grant and a loan for a demonstration project proposed for Apex called the Healthy House Project.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the proposed project is to demonstrate an alternative method for water and sewer systems to be serviced in the homes in Apex. Mr. Speaker, there are several reasons why the city is looking at this idea. First, Mr. Speaker, the cost of delivering water and sewer services to residents in the Arctic is approximately 125 times more expensive than southern Canada.

Piped services are very difficult and expensive to build and operate in the Arctic, especially Mr. Speaker where it is hilly and rocky. Also Mr. Speaker, truck water systems are cheap to build but they certainly cost more when it comes to operate them. Mr. Speaker, the proposed project in Apex will differ from standard truck services in several important ways.

First fresh water Mr. Speaker, will be automatically delivered to a home's existing water tank from a communal tank that is refilled by a truck. Sewage, Mr. Speaker, sewage will be pumped automatically to a local treatment station where it is treated so that it could be recycled, Mr. Speaker it's important to note, to be recycled for flushing toilets.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that the residents can use recycled treated water to flush toilets or to wash their cloths. Mr. Speaker, also by participating in recycling it will reduce homeowner water bills by over 60%. Most importantly Mr. Speaker, excess reclaimed water goes to disposal in an environmentally sound way. Mr. Speaker I endorse the Healthy House Project in Apex and commend our City Council for their proactive work in this area.

I would also, Mr. Speaker, encourage Apex residents to contact our City office for more information on this worthwhile project. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Are there any further Member's Statements? Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 440 - 1(5): Commissioner's Awards – Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to take the time to talk about a happy event that happened in my community of Baker Lake on January 29th this year. Martha Talerook, one of the oldest ladies in Baker Lake celebrated her 100th birthday. Simon Tookoome, a well-known author and artist, received the Commissioner's award for cultural achievement. Jacob Kingilik another well-known elder received a Commissioner's award for the cultural project, Takuukti.

Bill Kaslak received an award for bravery for saving someone's life in 1985. Elizabeth Tunnuq received the Commissioner's cultural award and also Irene Tiktaalak, whose art graces our walls in the Legislative Assembly and who also received her Doctorate from Guelph University, received a cultural award from the Commissioner.

I would like to take this time to say how proud I am of those people from Baker Lake and I would like to thank the Commissioner Peter Irniq for attending the awards and also Cathy Towtongie for showing up and extending a heart-felt speech on the Martha's 100th birthday. I would like to apologize to anybody I forgot to invite to the ceremonies because it was very hectic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Minister Akesuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, Mr. Premier. I would like to recognize an individual from my constituency.

He is the Chairperson for the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, Joannie Ikkidluak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not given any recognition in the House for quite some time and I'm happy to recognize an individual from my constituency of Taloyoak, who is my constituency assistant. I would like to recognize May Porter who is also a returning officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person from my community who is also my constituency assistant. When the Arctic Rangers went out to shooting competitions, this individual was the very first person to receive an award for sharp shooting. I think the score he attained was 200, and he also won a 300 metre shooting competition where he shot a quarter with a sniper rifle.

If ever the enemy decides to come, he will stop them and his name is Solomon Curley.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize a person I worked with during the Land Claims negotiations for quite some time. He's been a senior official before and he now works for IBC. I would like to welcome Paul Quassa.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery Paul. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to welcome Mr. Quassa to the Gallery. I've known Paul and his family for a long time and I would like to take this opportunity like the Premier, to thank Paul for all the work that he did on the Land Claim and actually to a point where we are here today in the Assembly here in Iqaluit and able to meet.

I don't think we should forget the work and dedication people like Paul put into the Land Claims negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery Mr. Solomon Curley. As the member for Amittuq just pointed out, Mr. Curley is quite a skilled marksman. I remember several times being with Solomon and Solomon being amazed with my marksmanship hunting seals and caribou.

It was indeed Mr. Speaker, after being with me I believe several times that Solomon decided to practice more with his marksmanship and is now able to say that he has won records and won competitions as a marksman with the rangers. So I'd like to thank him Mr. Speaker for being here and say hello to him and his good family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. With that statement you could be charged with misleading the House.

>> *Laughter*

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 441 - 1(5): Kugluktuk Docking Facility Complete This Summer

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last November money that we're going to use for the Capital Plan was approved which included docking facilities in Kugluktuk. Two million dollars was approved to construct that docking facility in Kugluktuk.

The people in Kugluktuk have been looking forward to the docking facilities since 1998. They've been working on this for a while and the reason is the docking facility right now is too close to where people keep their boats. I would also like to thank both Ministers Thompson and Anawak for helping us with this funding for this docking facility in Kugluktuk.

Right now I would like to ask the minister, is this docking facility going to be under construction this summer or is it going to be put up halfway. Is the docking facility going to be completed this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The docking facility that the Member for Kugluktuk is speaking about had a complication. The Mayor of

Kugluktuk, Stanley Anablak, has written a letter to DFO, which has some objections to the project.

The Nunavut Government is working towards the building of the docking facility in Kugluktuk this summer, but the DFO has slowed the project, as they are concerned about the fish in the river nearby.

Mr. Speaker, the mayor wrote to the DFO and I want to work with the mayor, perhaps the DFO officials and my senior officials to go to Kugluktuk to speak with the people. I could also speak to the Minister of DFO to attempt to have the docking facility built this summer. It is the DFO that is preventing it from being built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your answer minister. I am very glad that you are going to be working with the Mayor of Kugluktuk so that this docking facility can be built this summer.

Right now spring is approaching very fast and the snow is going to be melting, the ice is going to be getting weak. In Kugluktuk they have to haul gravel from an island and they have to make an ice road to haul this gravel. So I would like to ask the minister when she is going to be meeting with the DFO officials, as the ice road can start getting rotten pretty fast over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the docking facility in Kugluktuk, we would like this project to be completed soon. If the DFO federal inspector decided to go ahead and work on it as soon as possible that would be good. They are the ones that are delaying the project. I know I still have to meet with them to try and find out if there is any way they will begin work on it.

I am going to suggest that they go to Kugluktuk soon and meet with the people up there. I'll see if my officials can meet with the elders also to talk about it since spring is almost upon us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you minister. Maybe I didn't hear all of it earlier. They would like to know before the middle of March so the construction crew can go ahead and haul gravel. They want to start construction of the dock facility this summer. If we can meet before Friday, maybe meet with Fisheries and Oceans in Iqaluit, maybe this will speed up the process if we can meet on Friday because the DFO mentioned that they don't want the docking facilities built this summer as the fish migrate through there.

It is not going to make any difference there even if we build the docking facility. I would like to meet with the officials before Friday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was saying is that we want the project to go ahead. It is being delayed by DFO. We don't have any control over the federal regulations but we can certainly help out to try and make it proceed.

What I suggested to the member and to the town of Kugluktuk is that I can call the federal inspector to come up to Kugluktuk and see if he can meet with my staff, the elders and me. Then the elders would have a chance to say what they want to say to him. At the same time, I can also write a letter to the federal minister to keep an eye on this and to make sure it proceeds faster. I would like to see it fast tracked but I can't do anything on Friday.

That is just a couple of days from now, it is Tuesday, I can only promise the member that I'll do everything I can do to make the project go faster. But I don't have any control over the federal bureaucracy or the federal minister. That is where it stands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 442 - 1(5): Assistance for Spectators to Attend the Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sport. The Arctic Winter Games will be held on March 17, 2002. Youth across Nunavut have been chosen to participate in this event.

I have been approached by people in the communities of Nunavut who would like to participate by actually observing them.

Are there going to be chartered planes or discounted tickets between Iqaluit and other Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to transportation for the parents to come here and watch their children in the games, I have to point out to you that they have to make their own arrangements as we are only taking care of airfares for direct participants.

However, I have approached Canadian North and First Air and asked them about the possibilities for parents or other spectators getting discounts. They were open to the idea and are still working on the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is going to be a very special event and there are going to be lots of people coming in from out of town. There are also going to be parents that want to attend to see their children compete. They will also want to prepare soon for the trip.

Are you going to do something about this prior to the actual date of March 17? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not responsible for airline scheduling or for the charters. I don't own any airplanes, which is a shame. Those things will be advertised in the newspapers. My colleague's question is a very good one and I will check again with the airlines for an update.

We are in support of this, as it would be good for the Arctic Winter Games if more people came in and also for the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that you don't have your own airlines but I believe that you as the minister and as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are responsible for the athletes and you are responsible for recreation.

So what we would like is for you to talk to the airlines and let us know what they can offer. The communities of Nunavut are interested in whether there are going to be any special deals to go to the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that I have a lot of responsibilities and I am responsible for recreation. In carrying out my responsibilities and as the Minister responsible for Recreation, I met with the airlines and asked them if they could give us reduced fares.

But of course I don't have any authority over the airlines but I did ask them to inform the public out there by way of advertisements or something if they're going to be giving us special deals but I can't make them do that.

I'm sure that they will inform me of what they're going to be doing and if I do hear from these two airlines, I will inform the Members of the House. Right now, I don't know anything about their plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 443 - 1(5): Recognition of Teachers' Day

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. I would like to read an excerpt from one of his statements he made earlier.

It's in regards to the recognition of teachers and it states here that the minister urges the communities and their DEAs to recognize the teachers in their communities.

They have made a day to recognize the teachers. I would like to hear from the minister exactly what that means, in terms of what he is asking us to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a copy of the Inuktitut version in front me so I would like him to read it again please.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu, please read your statement again.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I will start from the top of the paragraph. The teachers of Nunavut do a lot of work, including Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in their teachings. We would like to ask the communities and the DEAs to show our appreciation for the teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was talking about things like plaques and other symbols to recognize the teachers.

We would like the communities to show their appreciation for the teachers and we're also giving them certificates to recognize them for their work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to recognizing the teachers, why does it say that communities should do that when the government should be the ones recognizing the teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did that because the Bathurst Mandate suggests that we should recognize and show appreciation for the people that we work with. With the help of my staff we set up a date, the last Monday of February, to recognize the teachers.

We would like them to be recognized and to involve the community more in education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand exactly what you are saying. But I am a bit concerned. I do like to show my appreciation to teachers. But if working conditions for teachers do not improve we seem to be paying lip service to this concept. If we do really appreciate them we should be improving the conditions and the regulations they work under. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The idea wasn't to change the regulations but to show our appreciation. We feel that we will be better prepared to work with parents in the communities as to how we will show our appreciation to our teachers. So this is something we could plan for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his response. Once the teachers have been recognized, will the communities have more authority over the education programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was developed to recognize the work of the teachers and their contribution to the community. It is to recognize the work that they have to do. It is teacher appreciation day. It is also to recognize elders and volunteers that work in the schools.

So the day is set to recognize the work that they do and not just the curriculum that are put together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 444 - 1(5): Update on Dog Illnesses Prevention and Treatment

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member's Statement I made was regarding rabid dogs. I would like to get some information from the minister as to what is being done in the communities to correct this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this question. This is the first time that this is brought up in the House. I am aware of this problem regarding rabies and/or distemper with dogs in the communities. I haven't received any correspondence regarding this concern. I will look into getting some information on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have concerns regarding the animals in the community not just dogs but also cats. Is there equipment available in the communities to correct this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services should have a response for this question so I would like to direct the question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk, I don't believe you can re-direct the question to another minister. Only the Premier can do that. In this case we will let that go as Mr. Picco seems very eager to stand and speak to this House. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to take this opportunity on this question to thank the Health Ministry staff in Cambridge Bay who, after my son and five other children were bitten by a rabid dog in Cambridge Bay, were well treated. Not only by the Health Ministry staff, but also the people of Cambridge Bay. We appreciate that. That regime of needles is ongoing right now.

On the specific question of rabies, Mr. Speaker, rabies as well as the other very prevalent disease with animals, especially dogs in Nunavut, is distemper. So there are both of those diseases. There is a lay vaccination program that is available in every community Mr. Speaker. Sustainable Development, as Minister Akesuk points out, as well as Health & Social Services, has the responsibility of dealing with the issue.

Once the rabid dog has bitten a person, of course at that time, the responsibility goes to the Department of Health & Social Services. The actual physical monitoring of rabies or distemper activity is done by Sustainable in conjunction with the Department of Health & Social Services and the vaccinations are made available.

The distemper program, Mr. Speaker, the lay vaccination program is in place in most of our communities, to the best of my knowledge. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that that is the situation at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that the Department of Sustainable Development is in charge of giving vaccinations to dogs. But today during my Members' Statement, I talked about rabid dogs in the communities. My question is whether there is testing available on dogs in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once an incursion, or if there is an idea that a rabid animal is in a community and after that rabid animal has been identified and in most cases shot, the first thing that has to be done Mr. Speaker is the head is severed from the body and the head is sent out for testing.

At that time Mr. Speaker, if the test comes back positive that indeed the animal had rabies, any people who may have come in contact with that animal, or might have been bitten by the animal, under Health and Social Services they are provided with a vaccination for rabies.

So the testing is done out of the Territory, out of Nunavut. In most cases it is either in Winnipeg or Edmonton to the best of my knowledge. In the Cambridge Bay instance for example they severed the head from the animal by the by-law officer who sent it out to Edmonton for testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 445 – 1(5): Support to Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the Minister for Sustainable Development because he said that he would go to Coral Harbour on March the 2nd, but because of the budget we will not be able to go to Coral Harbour and Coral Harbour people realize that.

I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development whether the non-decentralized communities will be assisted, especially the businesses in our communities to create employment for people in the non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, I will be working with the people of Coral Harbour and I have done that thus far. I will be trying to help them out with economic development. I have talked with them already to see what we can do to create economic development for that community.

We will be talking with them to try and find out what they can do in regards to economic development for that community. I am very sorry we won't be able to go to that

community on March 2nd. Perhaps after the budget session we will be able to visit that community and to work with them to create economic development.

I am sure the visit that we will be having with Coral Harbour residents will help those people from Coral Harbour, so we will be able work with them to create economic development for that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier was just overseas in Germany on the Trade Mission to help out the people of Nunavut. The Premier, along with the Prime Minister, was in Germany a while ago on a trade mission and I feel that the promotion of meat or the promotion of tourism is very good for Nunavut. Does he support that trade mission that the Premier went to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm in support of the trade mission that our Premier has just attended. I am happy to say that Sustainable Development is very appreciative of the trade mission that our Premier went on to Russia and Germany to promote the products that come from Nunavut.

The Premier worked with the Department of Sustainable Development to promote the products of Nunavummiut recently and we will be working with him again on those endeavours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I misunderstood. If we can't go to Coral Harbour on March 2 because of the budget session can he state in this House that at the beginning of the New Year, on April 1 that he would be able to go to Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to be able to talk with the Member from Nanulik to make arrangements as to when we would be able to go to Coral Harbour together after April the 1st.

Perhaps today or tomorrow I would like to be able to speak to him to make arrangements to see which dates would be the best to go to Coral Harbour with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 446 – 1(5): Update on Student Financial Assistance

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Education.

During his presentation at the Leadership Review last November, the minister indicated that he would be undertaking a review of the financial assistance for Nunavut Student Program.

He indicated that he would be revisiting the policies of this program to make it more reflective of Nunavut students and their needs. Can the minister tell us where he's at with that review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before during the leadership review, the people who are attending Arctic College and outside universities get Student Financial Assistance and I stated at the time that I would be looking at the Student Financial Assistance because of the fact that the students lack money.

So what we have been doing is looking at the Student Financial Assistance that is provided to the students and I will be bringing in some supplementary funding for more Student Financial Assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good news for all those students out there that are trying to live day to day but are having difficulty due to the lack of enough Student Financial Assistance.

Can the minister tell this House how many students have been funded for post-secondary studies through the financial assistance program this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could tell the member that in 2000 and 2001 there have been 401 students that have received assistance. In six months of 2001/2002, there are 319 students that have received student financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see that most of our students are going out and attempting to get their post-secondary education because we certainly need them in this government.

Can the minister provide us with some details on the types of qualifications that our students are working towards with assistance from the student financial assistance program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite understand his question. I got lost on his last remark about qualifications. So if he could re-phrase his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. McLean, can you re-phrase the question please.

Mr. McLean: I will try to re-phrase Mr. Speaker. Can the minister provide us with some details on the types of qualifications that our students are working towards with assistance from the financial assistance program? Can he give me a brief outline of what most of the students are taking in general? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to tell the Member from Baker Lake that I don't have that information, but I will provide him with that information later on about the people that are taking Arctic College or university studies and what they are taking.

The majority of what we do is train Arctic College students for job preparation, but I will endeavour to give the member a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say that I have been getting numerous phone calls about financial assistance for Nunavut students in my community. Is the minister working towards any other sponsorship programs for Arctic College students?

For example, I know there are grants from the government for students. Is there, like down south people going to university or programs can borrow from the bank and I don't think our students have a lot of that type of support here. Is there any kind of sponsorship outside of our grant programs only? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is we have tried to provide some grants for the students and we also have a loan program where a student can apply for a loan. As the member said, he has been getting numerous

telephone calls and some students that would like to go to school at the university or college level have had difficulty acquiring funding elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 447 – 1(5): Core Funding for Shelters Review

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services provides funding for safe shelters for abused women and their dependent children.

RCMP statistics shows the number of reported spousal assaults in Nunavut have nearly doubled from the year 2000 to the year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, if this was a disease these kinds of rates would justify us declaring a state of emergency. In fact yesterday Mr. Speaker, I heard through the media that the department has actually provided emergency funding to the Cambridge Bay shelter just to keep it open.

A Member: Shame, Shame

Mr. Speaker, despite steadily increasing demands for the services of the Qimarvik women's shelter to address the affect of violence against woman, the amount of the core funding has been stagnant for over a decade. I'd like to ask the minister if he could tell the House how often funding for safe shelters is reviewed and what kind of conclusions are drawn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, actually it's been since 1992 the last time the Qimarvik women's shelter received an increase in the funding. So it is actually 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member and the Members of the Health Committee will remember and the Members in this House, how I have asked several times for increases in my budget so that I could do all the things that have been asked for by the members and by the public at large.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the process right now of reviewing the operation of not only the Qimarvik women's shelter but also the shelter in Kugluktuk and the shelter in Cambridge Bay and the other emergency shelters that we have in place and the transitional homes in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary Question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell this House what the possible impacts are in these kinds of services if the funding is not adequate to meet their needs. 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 question and to have an opportunity in this House to talk about a very serious issue. I believe it is the first time in three years in this House we have discussed the issue of family violence and the funding for shelters.

I would suggest too Mr. Speaker, that the shelters are not funded properly, or adequately. People may not be serviced well. Indeed Mr. Speaker, I know in having met with the shelter staff in Kugluktuk recently as well I met with the regional Aggvik Board at least three times in the past three years, the most recent one being about six weeks ago, the concern of the centre with holding on to their staff. I know for example Mr. Speaker, they have some staff that have been there since 1991, 1992, 1993. People that started off with 11 dollars an hour Mr. Speaker and now they are probably making 11 dollars an hour.

So Mr. Speaker, those are all the impacts that Mr. Tootoo is talking about when he asked a question if the centres are not adequately funded. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, this minister, this government is aggressively moving forward on a review of all family violence programs within Nunavut and the amount and the funding dollars that are available to the shelters. Mr. Speaker, that is an on-going effort right now within the department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the minister is looking at my questions as well because his answer leads right into my next supplementary question. Can the minister update the House on what kinds of initiatives and the review he talks about that his department is considering to address the very serious impacts of spousal and family assaults in Nunavut? Can he update us on that review other than the fact that it is on going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said about a year and a half ago in this House and I believe Mr. Speaker, several times in the Health and Social Service committee, that the Department of Health and Social Services is undertaking a major mental health strategy, which included alcohol and drug programs as well as family violence programs and shelters and social services.

Mr. Speaker, we have just completed that thorough review and Mr. Speaker that review has been presented to me, the minister about a week ago and that review has provided several recommendations. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be sharing that

report with the Standing Committee on Health and Social Services. Hopefully, I will be in a position Mr. Speaker, where we will be able to implement some of the recommendations. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the minister's recommendations on the matter. I would like to ask the minister if he has approached his cabinet colleagues to plead for extra funding for this fiscal year so that the department can adequately address the very serious needs for services such as those provided by safe shelters across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as every member in this House knows, and the people in Nunavut, when Mr. Ng did the last supplementary appropriation, he said during that debate that the minister is always coming cap in hand asking for more money for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, I have been after more money for Health and Social Services for the past three years, like every other jurisdiction in this country, every other Health Minister. Mr. Speaker, this issue has not forced me, asked me, or made me go forward for extra funding for the department to the government, because I can say Mr. Speaker that I am always asking for more money.

The Auditor General Mr. Speaker, noted that I had an overage I believe of about 300 thousand dollars last year and it will be very interesting when the Auditor General has a look at this year's figures as the Supplementary Appropriation indicates publicly in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 448 – 1(5): Rent Scale Review

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and rush with my question. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

This is about the rental scale. There was to be a review done and I was wondering about progress on this review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are to the point now where there are actually some suggested proposed changes that are on the table with the local housing authorities. They have taken them back for consultations. As you know, I have offered and the Standing Committee has accepted a briefing on that as well, that we are trying to arrange for next week.

So all members that are interested will have an opportunity to see what is being proposed as it stands now prior to moving forward to the next step of consultation and before finalizing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have mortgages for private homes, some as long as fifteen years. These mortgage holders have jobs and they have to work to pay their debts. Does the review include mortgage payment rates for private homeowners, or are you looking at ways to help them if they need assistance with their mortgage.

Are you also reviewing that aspect as well? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we are but not as part of the rental scale review. There are also obviously concerns about other programs such as the Access Program and some of the payment criteria and the amortization, the mortgage amounts and those types of things.

They are under consideration as well and step by step as we go through it, we are trying to work through all the policies and see what we can revise in trying to make things better for the people that we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Homeowners have mortgage payments, insurance and they also have to pay for the land lease along with other expenses like groceries and they have to keep their homes heated along with very basic needs. If I was being paid 30 thousand dollars a year I wouldn't be able to afford my mortgage and my groceries.

If I wanted to get into the homeownership program I would have to make close to 50 thousand dollars. What about those employees who don't get any form of assistance, are you reviewing that aspect also? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker as the member indicated the whole issue about income, household income, cost of living in the communities, I indicated earlier that everything really is on the table for review right now and we are trying to bring some consistency overall between all the Housing Corporation programs, in trying to improve those programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 449 - 1(5): Plans to Ensure Essential Staff have Housing

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services since we have not asked him questions for a long time.

(interpretation ends) I had a Member's Statement last week in respect to the shortage and inadequate GN housing, GN staff housing in Arctic Bay. As I was told, one staff member had to move to Nanisivik and since Nanisivik is closing this summer there are about nine teachers sharing three units in this same community.

My question is, what plans are in place to make sure GN essential staff have houses to make sure they can continue to provide government services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Staff Housing. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker. Today as a government we are well aware of the staff housing shortage at the community level. We're focusing on those decentralized communities more today.

We know that the other communities need to have proper staff housing in order to provide the services. I concur that staff housing funding is insufficient. That's how I can respond to your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister can initiate a program at this time because we require staff housing in the smaller communities. Perhaps the minister can ask his fellow cabinet members to make staff housing a priority because in some of the communities we'll probably be losing some staff due to the lack of GN staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am well aware of the issues raised in my colleague's Member's Statement regarding staff housing. As you may recall we agreed it would be the responsibility of the portfolio of the Housing

Corporation's minister. The Housing Corporation is responsible for Government of Nunavut staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams. Supplementary.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is how much preparation the government has done on this issue. It was stated that the government is focussing more on the decentralized communities and this is not right. This is becoming urgent and it is the government's responsibility to provide houses for the staff. Will the minister be working with his cabinet colleagues on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Cabinet is making staff housing a priority, along with housing for the public. This is a common problem not only for a particular location but the problem is all over Nunavut. I agree with the member's comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Question. Ms. Williams. Final supplementary.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister just agreed with me so I want to ask when are you going to start looking into this matter, this month or next month, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give you an answer to your question right now but we are working on the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Moving on to 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. Ms. Williams.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 080 - 1(5): Letter from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board to the Honourable Peter Kattuk Regarding the Condition of Gasoline

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a signed letter from the Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board to Minister Kattuk about the state of gasoline in the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: 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. Minister Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 20 - Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 - First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 20, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried. The bill has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 20 - Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 - Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 19, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Interim Appropriation Act, April 1– June 30, 2002 is to allow the Government of Nunavut to make expenditures in the new fiscal year of 2002-2003. The Main Estimates will not be introduced until after the new fiscal year has begun. In total we will be requesting authority for 169 million, 331 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng, for the record, will you repeat the Second Reading of Bill and identify it as Bill 20.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. That was Bill 20, Interim Appropriation Act. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Are there any nays? The bill is referred to the Committee of the Whole. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 19 - Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001-2002 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Pangnirtung that Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001-2002 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001-2002 is to allow the Government of Nunavut to spend an additional 2 million, 642 thousand dollars in this fiscal year.

Of this amount 2 million, 442 thousand dollars is made up of Operations and Maintenance and 200 thousand dollars is made up of Capital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 19 has had second reading and accordingly the bill is referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 067-1, Bill 19 and Bill 20 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15 minute break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>House recessed at 3.04 p.m. and resumed at 3.28 p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): We can begin again. Welcome everyone, all my colleagues. I would now like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. We have Bill 19 and Bill 20 to deal with. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, I just gave you a promotion, Mr. Chairman. Members wish to deal with Bill 19 first and if time permits, we can proceed on to Bill 20. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do we agree that we'll deal with Bill 19 and then Bill 20? Minister responsible for this bill, Mr. Ng. You may do your opening comments now.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to appear before the committee today to discuss Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2001 - 2002.

Mr. Chairman, the Supplementary Appropriation Act is to allow the Government of Nunavut to spend an additional 2 million, 642 thousand dollars in this fiscal year. Of this amount, 2 million 442 thousand dollars is made up of Operations and Maintenance and 200 thousand dollars is made up of Capital.

Under Operations and Maintenance 1 million 152 thousand dollars is for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, 243 thousand dollars for the Department of Finance, 815 thousand dollars for the Department of Education and 232 thousand dollars

for the Department of Sustainable Development. And Mr. Chairman, under Capital is 200 thousand dollars for the Department of Finance.

I look forward to comments and questions from the committee members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Ng are you going to be bringing your officials down to the witness table.

Does that committee agree that the minister bring in his officials to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the officials into the chamber please.

Thank you, Minister Ng. Can you introduce your officials please? Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. To my left is Victor Tootoo, Assistant Deputy Minister, to my right is Mr. Roger Perchard, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. At this time we'll deal with Supplementary Appropriation Act. No. 3. If you have a copy we're on page 6, Bill 19. Before we start asking questions on Bill 19, I would like to ask members if they have general comments or questions. For your general comments you have a 10 minute time limit. Are there any general comments on page 6? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. On page 6 the first item there deals with additional funding for the Nunavut Household Survey of 360 thousand dollars.

I am just wondering if the minister can indicate if that is the total cost for that survey. I think Mr. Chairman, that the kind of information obtained in that survey is vital for us and I believe good ammunition for the ministers to take down to Ottawa to argue for additional funding. But I guess it's also important that we find out how much it cost us to obtain that information. I wonder if they have a total number for the Household Survey. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. At this time Mr. Tootoo I will allow your question to go ahead but we're on general comments at this time. If you understand his question, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I thought there were no general comments and we were onto the detail but anyway, Mr. Chairman, the total cost of the survey was 460 thousand dollars. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Tootoo do you have any further questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman on the next item there. I apologize I thought we were on page 6. I went into my questions. Sorry if I rushed ahead. The other item on that page deals with supplementary funding for additional resources related to program review. I just wondered if the minister could he indicate what those resources are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. You can ask questions. I just wanted to give opportunities to the members for general comments. Go ahead. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is 82 thousand dollars for compensation and benefits, 49 thousand for travel and transportation, 6 thousand for materials and supplies, 5 thousand dollars for purchased services and 74 thousand for contract services. Another 48 thousand for other expenses related to computers and office furniture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman you could correct me. I was wondering is this the first supplementary money or is this all that we are going to see expended on program review. Or does the minister have an idea of how much or an estimate on how much it is going to cost us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman there are already plans on the base adjustment for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in the upcoming budget of approximately 595 thousand dollars to support the on-going program review exercise that we are undergoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any further questions? Comments. Questions. If there are no questions. We are page 6. If there are no further questions on that page. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for O&M not previously authorized. Not previously authorized, total 360 thousand dollars. Are there any questions or comments? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. It is carried. Total Communications and Policy Planning, 244 thousand dollars. Any comments. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn the page to 7. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs not previously authorized. Total Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, 488 thousand dollars. Are there any comments? Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't quite understand. (interpretation ends) Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Minister and Executive Secretary, 548 thousand dollars. (interpretation) So if you can clarify that to me on what the contents of this are for. We already had a Deputy Minister so why do we need a Deputy Minister for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. We had a Deputy for that department and also what else are you going to be using the half a million dollars for.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman what happened was the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs had been funding the position from vacancies and funding under spent from other areas. But they ran out of that room to be able to deal with that matter on an on-going basis. That is the reason for the supplementary appropriation here. As well there will be base adjustments for the 2002-2003 and on-going years for their O&M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: For the amount of 548 thousand dollars from somewhere we don't know, has been funding Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Was this exactly the same amount of 548 thousand dollars that is going to appear in the Auditor General's Reports sometime in the future, from other departments under spent money and etc and etc. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it hasn't come from other departments. It is with their internal vacancy in the department up until this time. Now the Supplementary Appropriation, once it is approved, obviously it will be reflected in their Main Estimates and will allow them to not be overspent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So from Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs department or from other programs or from other vacancies etc., how are we going to know up to date, to this date, before we actually budgeted for it. How are we going to know what actually has been spent for the Deputy Minister and the Executive Secretary of that 548 thousand dollars when the audits have been done. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be the amount that we will be dealing with and it will be reflected in the public accounts when it is rolled up in the annual account the government does and it does get audited by the Auditor General. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Same page. Can I get some clarification or breakdown of this half a million dollars to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Deputy Minister and Executive Secretary. We know that they already have an office. Everything is set up in there as far as infrastructure. Could we have a breakdown to see what this money is going to be spent on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, compensation and benefits 469 thousand dollars, travel and transportation 40 thousand dollars, materials and supplies 4 thousand dollars. Other services 19 thousand dollars, contract services 10 thousand dollars, fees and payments 2 thousand dollars. Other expenses, hospitality and computers etc., 4 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated 468 thousand in compensation and benefits. How many PYs are you looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is the Deputy Minister's salary, actually times more than one because they had to carry a position for an individual as well, that was using up some severance payments and as well the Executive Secretary for that directorate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe the minister indicated earlier that all of this funding that has been asked for here was previously found within the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and found with its own budget. Is that what he is saying, all the money that was spent in this area before came only from that department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Yes, the member is correct it is all out of the EIAs unexpended funding through their budget. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any more. We'll go back to total Intergovernmental Affairs, 548 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Department 1 million 53 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn page to 8. Finance. Fiscal Operations and Maintenance for the year not previously authorized, 443 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): In here it says that it's for litigation 443 thousand. So I was wondering if you could explain that to me.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson this amount is to deal with the specific litigation that the Government of Nunavut is in partnership with the Government of the Northwest Territories in respect to the Ed Horn case.

What has been agreed upon is that in the Alternate Dispute Resolution there has been a million dollars agreed upon as advance payments for some of the victims. Our cost to the Government of Nunavut's portion of that liability is the 443 thousand dollars that is being set aside in the fund government wide held by finance right now until such a time as it is drawn down by victims once this Alternative Dispute Resolution moves to the next process. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are there any further questions? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. On that 443 thousand dollars litigation costs for Ed Horn case, that will amount to 1 million dollars.

Is the 1 million dollars, is there going to be more cost to, more than, will there be more over 443 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, this is as I indicated an advance payment in a gesture of good will and it's expected that there will be some

significantly additional liability as the result of future settlements. So this is really just a, I guess if you want to look at it as an advance down payment on potential future payments. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Does the government have an idea what it will amount to? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, Mr. Chairperson not at this time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are there any further questions? We'll go back to the same page. Total Fiscal Management 443 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Comptrollership and Regional Financial Services. Negative 200 thousand dollars. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Two hundred thousand dollars for Operations and Maintenance to Capital to complete renovations to the Parnaivik Office in Iqaluit Headquarters for the Department of Finance.

I know that, we know that we all know that Department of Finance is all over the City of Iqaluit and in November's Supplementary Appropriation we approved another 200 thousand dollars. Now there is another 200 thousand dollars this time.

Will there be more, will they be taking more funding after the 400 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I couldn't say whether we would or we wouldn't right now. But like all other departments once you identify what your office requirements are. For example, if there are leases that expire that cause you to move to other locations, part of the responsibilities for the tenant, in this case the Department of Finance, is to finance tenant improvements. That is what this is for. So if there were other moves that require tenant improvements then we may be back at other times for additional requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Parnaivik building was set up as an office building already. How many offices are you setting up in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as you know, where the former offices of NTI were quite spacious they didn't exactly conform to what we would need as a government. So we are getting quite a few additional offices as a result of the tenant improvements. I believe it is in the neighbourhood of 27 to 28 offices that will be accommodated in that building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: One last one, Mr. Chairman, thank you. So, by the time Parnaivik is done, would Finance be in one, two or three. How many offices will they have now in the City of Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe we will be at four different locations because of the different divisions of the department and the lack of consolidated office space. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any further questions? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Are we on page eight, it is okay.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 8. Total controllership and regional financial services. Negative 200 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total department 243 thousand dollars. Comments. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Thank you. Turn to page 9. Department of Education. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, this is our campus, why would you need to charge the government, adult education for secondary services, 815 thousand just for the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman because of the commitment that Nunavut Arctic College made to provide the residence to the Arctic Winter Games Host Society Athletes Village, it was an unexpected cost in respect of the relocation of students, catering contract changes, co-ordination, student effects moving and storage. Also increased facility costs that the government is providing as a result of that commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So this was decided very recently because we had that O&M budget last year. You did not foresee that the Arctic Winter Games coaches and athletes with the exclusive use of Nunatta Campus Student Residence at North 40. What were you going to use instead before you decided to put them there. What was the original plan to house them? Thank you

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was totally the responsibility of the Arctic Winter Games Host Society. Our responsibility here is because Nunavut Arctic College made the commitment for the residence.

Some of the costs associated with that commitment could not be funded by them. They went through the Department of Education and we felt that it was in the best interests to support that, in order not to jeopardize the possibilities of escalating the shortage of accommodation for participants and people involved in the Arctic Winter Games to be in the sports. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to be misunderstood, I completely support that, especially with accommodation of the participants and etc. If you had the commitment when the plan was being initiated four years ago, you must have an idea when you had to put the proper budget in for it accordingly.

This is what I want to know, why wasn't it put in the regular O&M, when small capital is required to house them. And why are we doing the Supplementary Appropriation now on this rather than three years ago or two years even or a year ago even. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that the Nunavut Arctic College officials thought there wouldn't be any significant costs. There was a

changeover in leadership of that organization and it wasn't until closer to the requirement of the facility that it became apparent that there were some significant costs associated for the turning over of the residence for Arctic Winter Games usage.

That was when the minister stepped in to recognize that concern and bring forward this matter to the FMB that is before you now in the legislature for approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Any more questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I just have something the minister mentioned in his response to Mr. Arvaluk that caught my attention and that was the catering contract changes. I was just wondering if he could elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr Chairman, from what I understand that is the result of having to cancel the catering contract services for that time period. Other than that I don't know the full details but I certainly could provide it if that's what the members would like. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder, if they cancelled the catering contract who is going to feed all the athletes. I wouldn't mind finding out that information. Are they going to have to cook for themselves or whatever? I can understand that the minister won't have that information with him right now but hopefully within the week or something or less than that as soon as possible if he could provide the members of this Assembly with that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, we will try to provide that information. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the other line on that page it deals with supplementary 585 thousand dollars for the increased costs of compensation and benefits and Northern Allowance to employees of Arctic College contained in the new Collective Agreement in the GN and NEU.

Mr. Chairman my recollection last November in the Supplementary Appropriation Bill all of those things came through and I was wondering how come this one wasn't put through at the same time as all the other ones and why it's late. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at the time when we compiled all the initial information it was an oversight that Nunavut Arctic College hadn't been identified and their employees who receive the same pay and benefits under the same Collective Agreement. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Referring to Mr. Tootoo's question about catering services in the old residence or Federal Building it has many names now.

I thought the catering service was okay with the students over there. Why are you changing the caterers other than what the caterers have been catering for the present students there? What is the requirement to change the caterers? Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated as members know, the Arctic Winter Games Society has responsibility for that residence for that time period just prior to and after the Arctic Winter Games. They are a separate society and they entered, from my understanding they entered into a proposal call or tenders for the catering services. So there was a different caterer that was awarded the contract for the time period while they had the responsibility for the building and for the athletes and participants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Wonderful. I mean, the Host Society tenders, somebody else gets it, the government pays for it.

Did you have any control at all as to what conditions that you would be paying them? For example, you keep things simple and less expensive, negotiate with the Host Society to urge them to keep the same caterers because the government is paying for it the taxpayers are paying for it. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as members know, we have made a significant contribution to the Arctic Winter Games Society but it isn't just the Government of Nunavut. There are a lot of corporate sponsors and other governments involved. So I mean, I don't think it's our mandate to be telling them what to do I mean we recognize that they have quite a bit of autonomy in trying to support them.

So having said that though, I said that I would get all the information in respect to the catering contract change, the 40 thousand dollars. I understand there was also some stoppage of work and that they lost some income as a result of some major renovations

that are going on at the residence prior to it being suitable or being ready for occupancy by the Arctic Winter Games Society and their participants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you want to continue Mr. Arvaluk? I think that's clearer. Let's go back to Education. Adult Education and Post-secondary Services. Not previously authorized, 850 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Department, 815 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn the page to 10. Department of Sustainable Development. O&M not previously authorized. Corporate Management 232 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Just a quick question Mr. Chairman. I totally support the mission if it is going to bear fruit in the future. My question is, are you going to get a rebate from the federal government on this 232 thousand since it was their Trade Mission. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. This is our specific cost as part of the Team Canada Trade Mission. Some of it was over and above what the federal government would have sponsored in respect of us bringing certain entertainers and our staff. Airfare, management and those types of things as part of the overall promotion that we did as a government specifically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we probably won't be going over to these missions in the future with the federal government and other provincial governments. But when you look at the federal government's total budget compared to what they expend on those tours, international tours.

Our budget of 600 million 233 thousand dollars compares in ratio. We are probably going to spend a lot more money in terms of the ratio of our total budget versus our expenses for that particular trip. So I would urge the minister to in the future to try and get the federal government to see what kind of ratio we do spend from our total budget every time when we go to these. We like to go. It is just that it affects us more financially at the outset. Hopefully it will bear fruitful results. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I don't think there was any question but I note the member's comments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you want to continue? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says here supplementary funding of 232 thousand dollars. Is that what the trip actually costs or were there hidden costs in regards to departmental travel and things like that. Was this the total cost of the trip? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would imagine that there would have been some obviously there were employees of the government there and they were being paid as part of their work and duties and responsibilities. There may have been some travel that would have been charged out of their appropriate travel budgets as well. But by and large, any additional costs over and above that are before you right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Don't get me wrong here. I fully support the Team Canada trip with our Premier going to Russia and Germany. I guess it is difficult for me to ask you this question because you weren't on the trip and neither was the Sustainable Development Minister. Were there any signed contracts on this trip for Keewatin Meat and Fish or stuff like that? I heard it was very popular but did we make any money on this trip.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I wasn't on the trip either so I couldn't tell you. I did note that I believe the Premier made a press release that indicated that there were a couple of agreements that were signed. It would be probably more appropriate if you ask him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the appropriate person the questions because like I say these trips are good but they got to go past goodwill in this territory where we are expending almost a quarter of a million dollars on a trip. And like I say I support these trips 100 percent but there has got to be something at the end of the trip. I don't want to put the Finance Minister on the spot. I'll ask the appropriate person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I didn't hear a question. But if Minister Ng would like to respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Corporate management, 232 thousand dollars. Any comments? Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Department, 232 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: On page 11. These monies will be spent...where are you.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are still on page 10. It hasn't been carried yet. Total department 232 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn the page to 11. Department of Finance. Capital. Not previously authorized. Controllership and regional finance services, 200 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is 200 thousand dollars for operations and maintenance to be transferred to capital so the Parnaivik offices could be renovated. We were told that is not a concern because it is just a move from O&M to capital.

This 548 thousand on page 7, like all of a sudden there is some money available on page 7 of 548 thousand dollars. On page 11 there is 200 thousand dollars. When the government finds out that they have to get additional amounts of money it would be best if they could notify us first before hand that they have to transfer things like that to be expended. This is just a comment.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng. Do you have any comments?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is probably why we are here today to deal with these requests for expenditures and transfers and etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Page 11, 200 thousand dollars. Not previously authorized. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total department, 200 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Going back to page 2. Item 1. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Appropriation authority required, 2 million 442 thousand dollars. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you don't mind, I would like to go back to page 8. I have a question on that page. If you don't mind, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you agreed. Thank you, we will go back to page 8. Ms. Williams has a question. Go ahead, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Litigation costs, 443 thousand dollars that this government will put in. This litigation started when the NWT government was in operation over here. Are they contributing anything to this one? They were the government of that day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our proportion is 44.43 percent so the GNWT portion is 55.66 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Going back to page 2. Operations and Maintenance. Supplementary Appropriations, 2 million 422 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning the page. Schedule. Capital. Appropriation authority required. Capital, 200 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total Appropriation, 2 million 642 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. At this time we will go clause by clause for Bill 19. Comments or questions. Are there any questions before we go to Bill 19? If

there are no questions we will go to Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3. Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. I am sorry, there are more pages. Turning the page to page 3. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance, 2 million 442 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Vote 2. Capital. Total Capital, 200 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Supplementary Appropriations in Parts 1 and 2, 2 million 642 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3 2001-2002. Is Bill 20 ready for third reading? Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will go to Bill 20. Do you have it with you? Bill 20. Thank you. Bill 20. At this time I will allow the minister to make his opening comments. Mr. Ng.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairperson, I am pleased to appear before your committee today to discuss the Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002.

Mr. Chairman, the Interim Appropriation is required as our Main Estimates for 2002-2003 will not be introduced until after the new fiscal year has begun. The total we will request is 169 million 331 thousand dollars. By passing this bill it will allow the Government of Nunavut to operate.

Members of the Committee may recall that we have used Interim Appropriations in the past, in the 1999-2000 budget, as well as the 2000-2001 budget. I look forward to answering your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are there any questions from the members? You have 10 minutes each. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just want to be understood as regular members that there is 169 million 331 thousand dollars beginning April 1st. What I understood from the minister is that if we are not finished the budget by April 1st, if we did not approve the budget because the government has to operate, they need 169 million 331 thousand dollars. That is what we are supposed to approve.

The problem that we have now is we do have questions about the O&M and capital for this coming fiscal year, because there is only three more months that we are going to be talking about. A lot of people might have a misunderstanding why we need that amount in three months. We want to be able to represent our constituents but during the upcoming budget session, we will be debating the budget for the fiscal year. At this time before April 1st, the government has to operate and they need that amount of money.

I just want it understood by the people of Nunavut. That is the way that we have to do it. At this time we are not arguing the amount of money that is to be expended in this Interim Appropriation. I just wanted to make it clear to the people of Nunavut that this is the amount of money we are approving. We will be debating the budget this upcoming budget session.

Chairperson (interpretation): I understand what the member is speaking about. We have to be able to have the money set aside so the Government of Nunavut can still operate in the meantime before the budget session. That is why we are dealing with this bill today.

To Bill 20, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002. Do you have it with you? We will go through clause by clause. Bill 20. Clause 1. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 2. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 3. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 4. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 6. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turning the pages to the schedule part one. Vote one, Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance 169 million 331 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Thank you. Total Interim Appropriations, 169 million 331 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 20 as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Interim Appropriation Act, April 1 to June 30, 2002. Is Bill 20 ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): The member is asking to report progress. Thank you to Minister Ng and his officials for being able to answer questions and comments from the members. Thank you Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to thank the officials as well and the committee members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. If we can ascertain if the Speaker is available to return to the House. Thank you to the minister, his officials and the members of the Committee of the Whole. Thank you. Thank you Sue for being able to attend here as well. Thank you.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to report that Bill 19 and 20 are ready for Third Reading. And Tabled Document 67 is still under consideration. And I move that the report that the report of the committee be concurred with.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Is there a seconder? Do we have a seconder? Ms. Williams. The Motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow morning, Wednesday at 9 o'clock meeting of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act at the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday February 27,

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 067-1(5)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 20
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House will adjourn until February 27, 2002 at 1.30 p.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4.32 pm.*

