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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

*Minister of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth*

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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

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

*Minister of Community
Government & Transportation*

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)

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

Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

*Minister of Public Works and
Services*

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Education; Minister
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Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday February 28, 2002

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 159 - 1(5): Minister's Absence From House (Anawak)

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the members that the Honourable Jack Anawak will be absent from the House today, February 28, 2002 due to weather conditions in Cambridge Bay.

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

Minister's Statement 160 - 1(5): Moving Towards Midwifery Training in Nunavut

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon and congratulations to our new Deputy House Leader, Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history midwifery has played an important role in the birthing process in many cultures including that of Inuit. Midwives often held a special place in society based on their skill in providing care, support and education to women and their families and most importantly throughout the pregnancy as well until after the birth.

Mr. Speaker, the expansion of the midwifery services in Nunavut is one of my long-term goals as your minister.

>>*Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Speaker, as you know we have been striving to expand and enhance the midwifery services at the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre to a regional level with a long term goal Mr. Speaker, a long term goal of launching midwifery in other Nunavut regions. Mr. Speaker, we have made progress although we have been challenged by a lack of certified midwives.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing this shortage of staff and the importance of midwifery to Nunavummiut, my department has been working to develop educational curriculum for Certified Maternity workers and ultimately, for the first time in Nunavut registered midwives through a registered program here.

Indeed, the staff of the Rankin Inlet birthing centre are consulting directly with two Mr. Speaker, two representatives from the Nunavik Midwifery Program, which is in Northern Quebec, the Nunavik midwifery program to learn from Nunavik's experience in setting up its own training programs.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank this opportunity to Ms. Tulugak and Ms. Crosbie for travelling to Rankin Inlet to share their knowledge with the dedicated staff of our birthing centre. The issues facing our neighbours in Nunavik are so similar to our own that I know this meeting will be very productive in laying the foundation for Nunavut to develop its own training programs.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to bringing back to this House more information about the exciting possibilities for Nunavut based midwifery training as we get closer to that goal. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 161 - 1(5): Computers for Schools Program

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to describe a program called Computers for Schools. This is a federal government program operating in co-operation with all provinces and territories, private and volunteer sectors. Computers for Schools repairs and refurbishes donated surplus computers, distributing them to schools and libraries.

The Department of Education has placed over 500 multimedia and network capable computers in Nunavut schools. These computers were obtained from Computers for Schools refurbishing centre in Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that the Government of Nunavut is donating surplus computers for the Nunavut Computers for Schools program, which this year will be operating a refurbishing centre at Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit.

Students will be learning computer repair skills and then recycling computers back into the school system. This is also an excellent opportunity for involvement by corporate partners that include local businesses who supply learning materials, tool kits, freight and

labour. Government partners include the Department of Public Works and Services for hardware and storage and the RCMP for airlifting to communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Computers for Schools program thus provides computers to schools at a reduced cost, training opportunities for youth and reduces toxic equipment from entering landfill sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 450 - 1(5): Baker Lake Art Exhibition

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Mr. Speaker. It is with a tremendous sense of honour that I rise today to speak about a landmark exhibition of Baker Lake Arts that will be on display in the Legislation Assembly next week. The exhibition is entitled "An Inuit Perspective: Baker Lake Sculpture". This exhibition opened in Baker Lake on July 1, 2001 and is now on a national tour.

It's no secret that I have great pride of my home community of Baker Lake. In addition to the wonderful people and spectacular beauty of this place, Qamanittuaq is renowned for its artistic and cultural heritage. It seems like only yesterday that the Members of the Legislative Assembly joined me on a warm summer's day at a barbecue at the Inuit Heritage Centre.

This centre has been in many ways the guardian of our community's rich legacy. The centre in partnership with the world famous Art Gallery of Ontario is responsible for this landmark expedition. Over 34 sculptures from dozens of artists will be on display in the Great Hall of the Assembly next week. It will include works from such people as Lucassie Saiyak, John Kavik, Joshua Nungialuk and Marium O'Neil.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth for his department's support of this exhibition as well as Heritage Canada and also Canadian North's generous help in making sure the exhibits made it here on time. We often honour artists' work but we have not always followed through with the support they need.

Over the past year, Inuit power has exploded on to the world stage and my colleagues from Hall Beach and Pangnirtung have spoken eloquently in this House about the rich themes of talent in their constituency. Exhibitions such as this year's Baker Lake display are very valuable means of showcasing our communities and I look forward to many more in this Assembly during the years to come.

The exhibition opens on Monday with the ceremony at 7 p.m. I warmly invite all Members of the Assembly and the public to join me on that evening and I want to extend a special invitation to anybody from Qamanittuaq who is now living and working in Iqaluit to attend and share in your community's pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 451 - 1(5): Taloyoak Women's Sewing Centre

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me know when I'm running out of time. My colleague and I weren't going to be talking about the same issue but I will be talking again about art.

My colleague just made a statement about the Baker Lake Art Exhibition and I rise today to talk about my constituency of Taloyoak. The sewing centre has been open since 1992 and women have been working there since. In 1995 they named it Taluq.

The women who work at the Arts Centre produce materials that are different and they are sent down to other provinces to showcase their art work. I am very proud of the people who produce these materials. Some of the women work in their home, they don't make a lot of money, but it's excellent for the women to have this art centre.

Since 1995, Mona Igutak has been the Director of that centre. We also have Mary Iqaliyuk, Joanne Manilak and Mary Kingatuk who work at the arts centre and I would like to thank those women for their contribution.

The Minister of Education and I went to that community and to the arts centre. They produce beautiful materials and while we were there I saw some hats and I was going to try one because it was so beautiful, but the women over there told me it was a tea cosy and I mistook it for a hat.

I'm very proud of those women who work out of that art centre and I would like to urge everybody over there, all the members and everybody else to go there and buy pieces of art. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Members' Statement 452 - 1(5): Implementation & Integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about, when our government was fairly new and how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit was to be implemented into the government system. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is something of high importance to the people of Nunavut but some people don't seem to think too much of it.

But Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that there are a lot of things that we can integrate into the government system that are from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we have to look at our programs and our systems to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

For example, my colleague from Iqaluit mentioned midwifery in his Minister's Statement. Someone from my community wanted to use midwifery and that is something that the young people would like to learn.

People a long time ago were born with only two midwives. The traditional way of midwifery is something that the medical profession has not even considered or looked at. If it is to be like this in the future then this will be unacceptable.

People in my community would like to use traditional midwifery and the young people would like to learn it as well. This is something that we should all be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 453 - 1(5): Documentation & Letters on Grave Relocation

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to go on with the statement that I made yesterday and make reference to the responses to my question. I would like to make some clarification.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was talking about the relocation of the gravesites in our community. Letters were written in the 1960s and I have quite a number of letters that I can refer to and we're not sure exactly where to send them because we're not sure who is responsible.

During the Government of the Northwest Territories legacy there, they had to build houses and in order to do that they had to relocate the graves. That was lot number 66 up to lot 71 where they had to exhume the graves and move them to another location in order to build the houses in that particular area.

Some of the documentation makes reference to the Department of National Defence and through my personal knowledge the Department of National Defence was not involved. I do know that the DEW line facilities were going to be moved there but the Federal Government owned these houses.

Then they were transferred over to Government of the Northwest Territories to be used as public housing. That's what I know and yesterday during Question Period the responses I got from the Minister of Health and Social Services more than once responded to my

questions regarding the graves. Mr. Speaker, I would like to get unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you colleagues for giving me this opportunity to conclude my statement. Yesterday during Question Period, not only yesterday, I've referred to this particular issue and directed my questions in the past to the Premier and more than once the response has been from the Government of Nunavut.

In order to clarify it further, from 1998 I have been putting these documents together and Mr. Evaluardjuk during the GNWT Legislative Assembly referred to this same issue. The reason I am working on this doggedly is because the people of Hall Beach are getting older and I do know that there are some mistakes in these papers. It is something that I will keep working on as I have from day one.

The response I've received from the Government of Nunavut has been as follows.

If the government pays those people that were involved they would like to get a matching contribution from the federal government so that they could get a larger settlement. Since I have become a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have yet to hear of these people getting paid because it will set a precedent. From 1998 on we have been trying to resolve this issue.

Those are the points that I wanted to make so that it can be clear. I will be asking questions about this issue at the appropriate time and I am sure it won't be the last one. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 454 - 1(5): Setting Foundation for Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about a happy event today. Our future leadership is our youth. They are youth today but they will be our leaders tomorrow and they must be provided with a safe, happy and healthy environment. It is their god given right. Mr. Speaker, we the leaders of today must show an example no less than we expect our leaders of tomorrow to.

We owe it to the people of Nunavut. We all remember the hard work that paved the way for the creation of Nunavut. We have seen and heard the dreams and aspirations of the people of Nunavut during the creation of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker we are entrusted with laying the foundation. We have yet to complete that foundation. Let us make the foundation strong but manageable.

What I mean is that we have yet to fill positions in government and build houses to meet the demand of Nunavummiut. After all Mr. Speaker, our youth of today go through a great deal of effort to learn to ready themselves for tomorrow. Let us begin by making our youth proud of us today for a better tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 455 - 1(5): AWG Host Society Donation of Tickets to Elders

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I myself would like to give you some happy information from my constituents. We all know the Arctic Winter Games are coming to Iqaluit soon and they will also be held in Greenland.

There has been some planning by the Arctic Winter Games Host Society and there are many people that are getting ready for the Arctic Winter Games. The Host Society visited the elders in Iqaluit and gave them information and 105 free tickets so the elders could attend the opening ceremonies, the Games and the closing ceremonies. I would like to thank the Arctic Winter Games Host Society for giving the elders the free tickets. I would also like to recognize the NTI President Cathy Towtongie for attending the ceremonies that were held yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 456 - 1(5): Tom David Kunilusie

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the other members of the Legislature for helping me welcome the people of Pangnirtung yesterday. I would like the other members to support me in welcoming the newborn, Tom David Kunilusie, who was born yesterday at the hospital here. The father is David Sowdluapik, who is my wife's brother, and Lucie Ann Kunilusie of Pangnirtung. The mother and the baby are just fine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 457 - 1(5): Non-Support of Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of representation. Earlier this week, I announced the new way by which my constituents in Iqaluit Centre could contact me with their views on issues that we deal with in the House.

Constituents can visit my website at Nunanet.com or they can email me directly at htootoo@gov.nu.ca. They can call or fax my constituency office, the number is right in the phone book. Or they can use the traditional method, Mr. Speaker, of cornering me on the street or anywhere in town and talking to me in person. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit Centre residents have been telling me that they want action in this House on such priorities as education, housing, healthcare, and infrastructure.

I believe that my statements and questions over the past two and a half years have reflected their priorities and I have pushed for solutions to deal with the real problems facing all our communities. Mr. Speaker, I continue to encourage all of my constituents to follow the proceedings here in their Legislative Assembly to let me know, as their representative, what issues they want to see dealt with.

Mr. Speaker, as my esteemed colleague from Qamanittuaq would say, it's no secret and that's where it would end, Mr. Speaker, that I don't support Bill 21, the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act. Our vote yesterday in this House makes it very clear to my constituents where I stand on this issue and what I believe should and should not be priorities for us. I strongly encourage my constituents to contact me with their views on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 458 - 1(5): Sanikiluaq Canadian Rangers

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to represent my constituents and congratulate them on the work that they have accomplished. National Defence usually encourages or directs the Canadian Rangers to travel in certain areas outside the community, and they recently did that.

I would like to congratulate the people of Sanikiluaq. My nephew, Charlie Takaktak was there with the leaders along with Joanasie Inutaluk, Lucassie Ipaq and Simeonie Qaviq. There were four of them who went to Inukjuaq which is in Nunavik, and my nephew said they were treated very well by the people of Inukjuaq.

They went by skidoo which was rarely done before and they went to Kuujuarapik, but not too much through Inukjuaq. I would like to congratulate them for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 459 - 1(5): Commissioner's Awards Youth Achievement - Kingdon & Kilabuk

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Tootoo for setting up his web page. As you know Mr. Speaker, I set up mine in 1997. I have had success with it although it is difficult at times to keep information very current on it. So I do want to congratulate Mr. Tootoo on that new tool.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning I and some of the members present had the opportunity and the pleasure to attend the award presentations of the Commissioner, the Honourable Peter Irniq. These awards Mr. Speaker were for two of Iqaluit East's residents for the Commissioner's Youth Award. Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner set up the awards almost two years ago and this was the first actual presentation of the Youth Achievement Awards here in Iqaluit since those awards were set up.

Mr. Speaker, Fauna Kingdon and Becky Kilabuk are two excellent representatives of Iqaluit and Nunavut youth and again Mr. Speaker I would like to congratulate both of them for achieving the awards. Mr. Speaker, I would also encourage members and people across Nunavut to also contact the Honourable Peter Irniq, our Commissioner about nominating and celebrating our youth for the Commissioner's Awards. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Moving on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize in the Gallery some representatives of Canadian North. Carmen Loberg, President of Canadian North and Norterra. Christie Brewster is the Northern Community Relations Advisor. Pat Lyall, is the Chairperson of Norterra. We had a very good meeting with this group yesterday and a very good lunch with them. I'd like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person in the Gallery. This individual lived in Kugaaruk and worked for the Co-op. Mary Nirlungayuk.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is nice to stand up to recognize individuals in the Gallery. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a person in the Gallery. I think it was in 1995 when this individual from Taloyoak was the Chairperson of the Kitikmeot Regional Council.

We use to have meetings for hours. I would also like to recognize a Taloyoak resident, Pat Lyall.

Mr. Speaker, beside Pat Lyall, everyone knows him in the Kitikmeot, perhaps all over the world, when we were at the Regional Council in 1991, he worked very hard for the development of the Co-op and ACL and he's still a member of ACL today. He worked very hard for the co-operative movement in the north. I would like to recognize Bill Lyall, who is the older brother to Pat. Welcome.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't get many opportunities to recognize people in the gallery, so I would perhaps say at the beginning that when we were growing up this individual grew up with me. We first started going to school in 1960s. I went to school with this individual.

We were very happy to get our education so we used to get up very early in the morning so we could go and visit the teacher. Every morning I would wake the individual up so we could go and see our teacher but I didn't think he was going to become my brother-in-law. He is my brother-in-law. I would like to recognize Lucassie Arangutainnak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to give you a little bit of information before I recognize these individuals. I would like to recognize the Norterra Group because I have worked with them for quite some time.

If I may, I will tell you a little story. Pat Lyall and I were in Edmonton, I think it was in 1988, we went from the airport to the hotel, I'm not exactly sure what the name of the hotel was, I think it was called Four Seasons in Edmonton. I thought the only place that vehicles break down was up north but I didn't know that other vehicles in southern Canada could break down.

There was a power outage in the hotel where we were staying, there was no water and electricity so we had to temporarily relocate to another hotel. It was on the news the next

day. I would like to recognize Pat Lyall and the group he's here with today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize visitors in the gallery, the members of the Arctic Co-operatives Limited. I used to work for the co-op in Cape Dorset for six years.

Their Chairperson and the President, Bill Lyall, Lucassie Aragutainnak, Qabaroak Qatsiya, Koonoo Tattuinee, Gina Dolphin, Larry Aris, sorry I can't pronounce the last name, Solomon Mickie. They work very hard to keep ACL together and they also brought their interpreter translator, who is from my home community, she is also part of the crew that works on our Hansard, I would like to recognize Nina Toonoo Manning. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an individual that I would like to name in the Gallery. This person is from my constituency, he is here to visit. I have a short story to tell. When we happened to be in the same community at the same time, in those days we were not supposed to shoot a whale when it was very close. His name is Solomon Mickie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize an individual that has already been recognized several times. I thought the only ones I could recognize were constituents, Mr. Bill Lyall. I also would like to recognize two former residents of Cambridge Bay. Behind me is Mr. Nick Carter and from way back in the late 70's, she is with Canadian North now that is Christie Brewster.

Finally Mr. Speaker, a couple more. I would like to recognize Pat Lyall. As you know although he doesn't reside in Cambridge Bay, I think he wants to move back there at some point.

We have also with us a lady who used to be the mayor of Deline I believe. I served with her in various capacities when I was involved with the NWT Association of Municipalities, and that is Gina Dolphin and she works for the Co-op. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I too would like to take the opportunity to recognize a number of people that have been recognized already. Representatives from the Arctic Co-ops Limited. Mr. Speaker some members would know that I had the honour the serving as Director with some of these individuals and it is nice to see some familiar faces.

Mr. Speaker, I won't say old faces but familiar faces. It would be safer. Mr. Speaker they are in no particular order. I hope no one gets offended. Lucassie Aragutainnak, he is representing the community of Sanikiluaq. Mary representing the community of Fort Good Hope in the Northwest Territories, Gina Dolphin who is representing Deline from the Northwest Territories. Mr. Bill Lyall who is from Cambridge Bay who's the President of Arctic Co-operatives and the Co-operative fund.

Solomon Mickie is here from Igloolik. Qabaroak Qatsiya from Cape Dorset. A good friend of mine Mr. Speaker and constituent of yours Koonoo Tattuinee from Arviat. These are the Directors that are here and I also would like to recognize some of the staff. Mr. Andy Morrison is the Chief Executive Officer for Arctic Co-operatives and Mary Nirlungayuk from here is with them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure today to welcome to the Gallery a long time resident of the north and well known as a great dart player and now working with ACL. He is a former neighbour of Mr. Ng I believe, Mr. Nick Carter.

Also Mr. Speaker, I want to make a special note. I know my mom is watching TV today. Last night we were talking about an incident that happened this summer, when we went to an abandoned community near our hometown where my mom grew up and it was abandoned since 1942. A few weeks ago, I received a call from Mr. Bill Lyall and Bill and I had a nice chat. Bill was down in Newfoundland and lo and behold he asked me about this small out of the way community on the road to Cape McFrancis where there's an old lighthouse.

Mr. Lyall went to this abandoned community where my mom grew up and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Lyall to the House and hopefully welcome him back to a little community called Piston Cove. The next time he comes to Newfoundland maybe I'll have an opportunity to tour him around down there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize all the individuals from the Co-operative as well here in the gallery and I would like to thank

them for being here. I would like to thank them for providing a Co-op store in the communities that I am representing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I'd like to welcome everybody in the Gallery here to the Assembly especially Mr. Tattuinee from my riding. Welcome. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 459 - 1(5): Plans/Update on Women's Safe Shelter - Local Programs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just on the same issue that was brought up yesterday with Health and Social Services. One of my fellow members had a concern about the shelter. This has been one of the topics all week and it is becoming clear as to how they are making preparations.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services in regards what they will be doing to promote or to deal with the concerns we had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's two different types of shelters in Nunavut. One type is the emergency shelter and that's where victims of physical abuse as well as in some cases Mr. Speaker, mental abuse and emotional abuse go for rest and care in an emergency situation.

The second type of facility we have Mr. Speaker, is I believe what the member is talking about and that's the transitional home. It serves, and we only have one in Nunavut and that's here in Iqaluit called the Qimaaviik, and that home provides counselling services and a safe place for victims of physical and emotional abuse in those types of relationships.

They will continue Mr. Speaker, to deliver counselling services to the victim. At the same time Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier over the last couple of days services are available for the abuser at the community level either through social services, through the Department of Health, through the community nurse, through the Community Wellness Worker and in some cases Mr. Speaker, I know of cases where victims have also used and abusers have used the services provided by local church agencies.

So there are several different avenues they are able to access. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the resources that are available like the churches and they are not his responsibility. These churches are not

part of the government as they are run independently, but I feel that there are 26 communities in Nunavut and that each community should develop a plan as to how the elders could support individuals with problems. People such as those that have to go to shelters. My question is what are they going to be doing to develop this in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in many cases in many of our communities that is happening right now where we have elders' counselling groups. For example, Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to note that if someone is physically abused that is a criminal act and they are charged under the justice system in many cases.

In cases where it has not come to the attention of the authorities, counselling is available Mr. Speaker, through the social workers, through the network of people that we just spoke about. They access at the community level, elders' counselling groups, and advice from elders. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I know in some cases justices of the peace have indeed asked elders' groups to sit in and to help with sentencing circles. That is occurring right now, Mr. Speaker.

At the same time, through the Department of Health & Social Services, under the statutory regulations and everything that is in place, there are processes that have to be followed. We also do that as due course within the job descriptions of the social workers. In respect to family counselling, marriage counselling, where there are problems in the relationships, Mr. Speaker, that's where both the man and the woman have to agree to sit down and seek that type of counselling. Mr. Speaker, those services are also available through the social worker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see that the communities are working towards this. I think that in the communities there are women's committees. Is there a committee formed by Health & Social Services where women are represented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the community level we have, as the member knows, community health committees. Committees of Council that work on different issues, whether it be family violence issues, whether it be sexually transmitted diseases, teenage pregnancies, and so on. That type of awareness is taught on a regular basis.

At the same time, the member's specific question is, has the Department of Health & Social Services set up committees specifically at the community level for counselling services? Mr. Speaker, some communities working together in co-operation with the

health committees have done that. Mr. Speaker, we do have the people at the community level to help facilitate those types of organizations when the need arises. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked are there some women that have their own organizations in Nunavut, not in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of different groups that work in this area. For example, I know that in some communities there are the Anglican Church Women's Groups have been available to people who needed counselling and so on. I also know, Mr. Speaker, that Pauktuutit has done considerable work over the past several years on family violence issues and helping to train members of their group for counselling.

I also should point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Baffin Region Agvik Society, who run the Qimaavik Shelter here, have been developing and delivering programs for women outside of the community of Iqaluit. For example, they were in Pond Inlet before Christmas delivering programs and training and helping with requests that have come forward.

Mr. Speaker, what we would like to do is to bring forward a program for these types of violence and pre-intervention programs to be put in place on an equal footing with some of the other programs that we are delivering within the Department of Health & Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 460 - 1(5): Police Officers in Grise Fiord

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question today to the Minister of Justice.

Last year he informed us that the Nunavut Government has increased the funding and that there are going to be 14 new members of the RCMP. That was good to hear, this has been an issue for many years. I understand that Nunavut has the smallest percentage of RCMP members in each community, looking at say for example the Yukon, the NWT and Nunavut.

My question is, from my constituency of Grise Fiord, they have been informed that there will now be two police officers going to our community. When are they going to go there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we had talked about this last April and this is going to be happening this coming year in April. We have already set aside the funding and we are making preparations. We have no definite time but we're preparing for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the Premier stated that they were in the process of bringing in or hiring new RCMP Officers. I'd like to know when they will put an RCMP Officer in Grise Fiord.

What's the problem? Is there no housing available or what's the reason why they're not bringing them in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that this year will be the year when you'll see an RCMP officer being put into that community. I can't say exactly what date but we are making preparations and we've set aside the funding for April 1st of this year to proceed. That is what we have approved so far. However some communities don't have housing available, but, I can look into this further as to when they might put an RCMP Officer in Grise Fiord. We are prepared and in full support of having a police officer up in Grise Fiord. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So is there housing available in Grise Fiord for an RCMP Officer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not able to respond to that question now, but they're in the process of building a detachment and I'll be able to give the member a response once I've determined the answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Is the minister taking the question as notice. Mr. Premier, are you taking the question as notice?

Hon. Paul Okalik: On the issue of housing, yes I am.

Speaker: The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 461 - 1(5): Grave Relocation Workers

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my Members' Statement, I talked about the issue of graves being moved and the response I received from the Social Service's Minister. The thing I have been pushing for is for these individuals to be compensated. My question Mr. Minister is, are there other individuals who are trying to be compensated for other issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on this specific issue of the grave relocations in Hall Beach, to the best of my knowledge, the only people I know of have been identified by the Hamlet Council in a letter addressed to me by the member.

I had a private conversation with the people identified in his letter and correspondence to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand clearly that his response is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the member's question was correctly understood the first time by me, it was are there any other people seeking compensation for moving the Hall Beach graves other than the ones that he has identified. And the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understand that there are no other individuals seeking compensation other than what we have identified. Is that the case, if that is what his response is, there are no other individuals seeking compensation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq, I believe the minister answered your question. Mr. Minister do you wish to repeat it? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at any given time with the government there could be people seeking compensation. In this particular incident on this particular case the only people that I am aware that have come forward seeking compensation and I have a letter with me Mr. Speaker from the Honourable Robert Nault speaking to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs' responsibility for this issue.

There are only the four people that the member has identified in correspondence to me. There could be other people seeking compensation for any range of issues with the government. On the particular Hall Beach compensation issue, they are the only people that I am aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. His response was that there are no other individuals seeking compensation and he states that there might be other people seeking compensation for other things other than what we are dealing with now.

So if there are no other individuals seeking compensation for this issue, how will other people be seeking compensation when he states that there are no other individuals?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at any given time there is litigation going on with government, there are people seeking compensation. For example Mr. Speaker, victims of residential schools, the Ed Horn case that we heard about and so on.

Particularly Mr. Speaker, in this case the only individuals that have come forward looking for compensation are the ones identified by the member. I want to point something out Mr. Speaker, very carefully, about the letter dated October 19, 2001 to the member, copied to the member directed to me from the Minister of DIAND.

The Minister of DIAND says that he will be instructing his officials and I will read Mr. Speaker, that they will continue to research the event and will contact you soon as they have substantial evidence for payment.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the avenue and the process we have been following is that the responsibility for compensation and payment is from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 462 - 1(5): Leadership Training for Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address my question to the Minister of Education in regards to my statement earlier regarding our youth. What kind of training is being made available for youth in regards to leadership? Because they are going to be our future. What's being done to train them for the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I'd like to welcome the youth into the Gallery. To respond to the member's question, his question was how are we planning to train our youth for the future.

While they are in school, when opportunities come up such as travelling to other communities or other cities in Canada, once they are finished we also try to assist them, I'm just using these as examples and these opportunities are taken full advantage of, things such as Nunavut Sivuniksavut. That's just an example of how we are working towards training our youth to become leaders. So there are different opportunities for youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response, as it was very clear. Today is there training available for our young people and is there curriculum available for leadership training for youth at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Presently our teachers in the communities have curriculum that they need to follow to teach certain subjects. When we were dealing with the Bathurst Mandate we were instructed to put together programs that were more Nunavut oriented.

So we have instructed our teachers to put that together, to make programs available for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister is, since our young people are working towards becoming leaders, when would these programs be made available in the schools in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his question. Today is the last day of February and we were expecting them to be completed by today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 463 - 1(5): Plans for Dam Project in Nunavik

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Premier.

This is not exactly under his portfolio but I would like to ask the Premier if there is the possibility of a dam being built in the Nunavik area that would also affect the territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not heard anything about what's going to be happening in the Nunavik area but they are negotiating currently in Quebec in the Indian territory.

I don't know, I haven't heard about any dams being built in the Nunavik area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is the responsibility of the Federal Government to protect our environment. Because of course, the islands are Crown Lands but if there is a dam going to be built down there it can affect the Territory of Nunavut. Have you thought about the issue? Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have to look at what kind of impact it would have on the environment. If there are going to be any projects underway, an environmental impact assessment will have to be done before the project gets started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that there are negotiations in the province of Quebec. So only after the dam has been built and after it has affected Nunavut's wildlife and environment, say for example, if the pollution reaches Arviat through the water in the Hudson Bay area, will you at that time decide to do an environmental study, after the land has been flooded and so on.

Then will you decide to do an assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Cree concluded negotiations with the Quebec Government. They haven't said exactly when they're going

to start building this dam but of course, we'll keep a close eye on it, if it's going to effect our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 464 - 1(5): Financial Assistance for Soapstone Quarrying

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. For those communities who have no quarry sites near their community and for those who don't have soapstone deposits, is it possible for them to get funding from the Department of Sustainable Development so they could quarry soapstone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the same problem in Cape Dorset and the quarry sites are quite far from the community. We are currently reviewing the whole process and we have set up prospectors' programs where they can find deposits of soapstone. It is very likely that through the prospectors' program they might find deposits closer to their community. We can contribute five thousand dollars through this program to find deposits of soapstone or other minerals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This prospectors' program has been used in Coral Harbour but they have not yet found a deposit on the island that would be good for carving. My question was if they could not find a deposit near their community can the Department of Sustainable Development give them help or support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into it further and see what else we can do. This has been an on-going concern of the Nunavut communities. We will see what we can do about it. We have a harvesters' support program and we could possibly look at that and see how else we can help those communities.

We have the same problem in Cape Dorset and we have to have soapstone available for the carvers. So the Department of Sustainable Development will look into this further and see what kind of support they can give to these communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. We as a government have a goal to have the people of Nunavut become self-sufficient and get an income and so on. I believe we will also have to review the social assistance money and see if we can possibly combine these two programs.

What I am trying to say is, is it possible, the majority of the people out there do not like to get Income Support because of course they want to be independent. When can the minister tell us if he will be reviewing and looking for more money to help those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will work on this as fast as we can. But I can't tell you exactly when they will do that. We would like to review it and get something done for the communities of Nunavut. We are working on how we could do more so that the communities can become more self-sufficient. I'm sure that it will be in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will this also be included in the Main Estimates to ensure that it proceeds as planned? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will have to include it and see how we can best use our dollars. And of course we will have to include it in the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 465 - 1(5): Plans to Correct Overcrowding of Iqaluit Classrooms - New Education Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister responsible for Education.

As the minister is fully aware, both he and myself have been cc'd on letters from educators in Iqaluit. They have raised concern regarding the severe overcrowding in the classrooms in the schools in Iqaluit and I'm sure those are problems that are faced in all our communities and schools in Nunavut.

I'd like to ask the minister if there are any plans that the department has undertaken to address this issue of overcrowding in the classrooms, either right now or being worked

into the new Education Act that the minister is bringing forward in the next session.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently with the large population of students and the student teacher ratio not being the way it should be, for the last three years there has been a large influx of new students going into the school system.

In our plans, what we are currently considering is how we can adjust the student teacher ratio and we are looking at the funds that are allocated for the education committees. We haven't completed these plans but once all this is done I'll make it available to the member.

We are currently looking at the Education Act and through discussion, there have been some suggested amendments but I can't respond to it now.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I'm fully aware that the minister indicated that a lot of it has to do with the funds that are allocated to the District Education Authorities.

The funding is based on student population and based on that student population the formula says they are going to have x amount of teachers according to the population that they have.

Mr. Speaker, the minister himself indicated that this formula isn't working and that there is severe overcrowding in classrooms. Is the department looking at making substantial changes to that formula to take these factors into consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was, there's been a concern about the influx of students per teacher and we have looked at this before. What I said earlier Mr. Speaker, is that the money given to the District Education Authorities has stayed the same for a number of years.

But I would agree with the member that there is a problem with student teacher ratio.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know with our legislature some of the things we have done indicate that we're following along with our sister territory and our closest neighbour to the west, the Northwest Territories.

It has a very similar government to ours and some of the things they do would seem to be relevant to us. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the GNWT legislated class sizes and I'm wondering if the minister would commit to looking at including in legislation what the student teacher ratio should be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the student teacher ratio, it has been a concern in Nunavut. What we are doing is we are doing a study or a review of exactly what we can do to resolve this problem.

What we are doing is looking at ways to try to resolve this problem of overcrowding in the schools and to look at the money that is allocated to the DEAs. Once a study has been done and we identify that areas that we need to improve I will inform the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the study, but I asked the minister if he would consider legislating class sizes into the new Education Act as opposed to just doing a study to try and find ways how we can do it and if he would or wouldn't, why. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is reviewing the Education Act. I have said numerous times in this House that we are reviewing the Education Act.

But I'm sorry I don't have the amendments or the Education Act with me and I will provide the member with the amendments we have done so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 466 - 1(5): Update on Filled Positions in Decentralized Communities

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to that long travelled Premier of ours.

It's almost three years to the day that I stood up and asked my first question in this Assembly, which was on decentralization. I might add he's one of the ministers that really responds to questions and gives me answers when I need them. Unlike some people on the end of this table.

Mr. Speaker, my question today to the minister, can he give me an update on how many positions have been filled in decentralized communities in Nunavut and Mr. Speaker, I must emphasize that I don't want the Honourable Premier to give me my break down to one or two. Can he tell me if it's 50%, 60%, or 70%. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I could provide specific examples right now of how far we're at but I can report that we're doing very well in the member's riding. I think we're almost practically full in the member's riding but other than that right now I can't report. But I will undertake to respond in more detail perhaps later on during this session. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Is the premier taking the question as notice.

Hon. Paul Okalik: I want to live up to my reputation but it's difficult for me to provide that detailed information right now. So I will take it as notice and undertake to respond before the session is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The minister has taken the question as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 467 - 1(5): Markets for Carvings

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member from Nanulik had a very good question and I would like to get more information on the question he directed to the Sustainable Development Minister.

In Nunavut, many people make their living off carvings but there aren't many places to sell these carvings to any more as the market is getting smaller perhaps it's because there are so many carvings now. I was just wondering, the people that make their living off carvings, if they cannot sell their carvings, what is the plan that Sustainable Development has for those artists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. There are many people that make their living off carvings and they don't have very many places they can sell their carvings any more.

As well, they don't have many soap stone quarries, but we've been keeping an eye on how we would be able to help them. Say for instance, selling to the European countries such as Russia and other places.

We also developed a display or trade show and we talked with them about being able to sell carvings to European countries. There is another group called the Nunavut

Development Corporation that is helping to promote the sale of carvings from Nunavut to other countries and they're looking at that right now.

I know the communities can make a good living selling their products such as carvings and other materials. Yes, the Department of Sustainable Development is trying to find out where we can sell these products. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the minister's response. Some communities have very good products and are known world-wide. But others are not recognized world-wide and have a difficult time trying to sell their carvings. What plans do you have in place for those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those communities that need that kind of assistance, we would like to help them out. There is the Nunavut Development Corporation and they are trying to do a review of the best ways those people can sell their products not just in Nunavut but to other countries and areas.

They are trying to find out where the people could sell their carvings. The Nunavut Development Corporation is doing a study right now in respect to which communities are having a difficult time selling their carvings and where they can sell their carvings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the minister's response. In the communities that I represent, the unemployment rate is high, in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River. There are not many places they can sell their carvings. I'd like to ask the minister to make sure the study includes those two communities to make sure that those people sell their carvings elsewhere if they can't sell them in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will work with all the communities to try to find out where they can sell their carvings. We will do our best to try to assist those communities because we have to help the people sell their carvings wherever the communities might be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 468 - 1(5): Docking Facility - Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Transportation. We don't have a docking facility in Pond Inlet and there are boats lost each year. I think a letter was written regarding this to the minister.

I'd just like to get an update as to what the minister has done to date to deal with the concern. I believe the minister has a letter regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his question. The docking facilities are well used in the Nunavut communities, especially in the summer. I realize that in Pond Inlet a docking facility is a concern and the funds from the federal government to upgrade these docks or access roads is from the Federal Government. I'll be able to let the member know when money is found for this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember comments that were made about it being done in 2002. Will this project be done this year, in the year 2002? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money that is approved for 2002/2003 does not include docking facilities for Pond Inlet. The funding that is approved does not have docks included for that community but we are aware that communities would like such facilities, and as that is the case we are seeking funds from the federal government to deal with this.

So I cannot say whether it would be done this spring but we're seeking funds for such projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 2003 is the election year, so I would appreciate a response to this before then. In the year 2004, it's hard to say what the future holds but I will continue to bring this up. Will she be able to respond this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Thank you.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For that facility in Pond Inlet, if there was funding it would need at least 1.5 million dollars. That money is not in the budget Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the member before this year is over.

But we are working on upgrading access roads and dock facilities for communities in Nunavut and we have prioritized the health issues that need to be dealt with in regards to access roads. For Pond Inlet the dock facility would probably be estimated at 1.5 million dollars and we will seek the funds, as we are aware these are urgent matters. I'll get back to the member once I have that information from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 469 - 1(5): Appeals - RFP for Kivalliq Boarding Home

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Honourable Minister of Health regarding the Kivalliq Boarding Home.

Mr. Speaker, like I said earlier in the week, it's a great thing that they are finally replacing that decrepit old building there as the people of Kivalliq have been suffering many years using that facility.

Can the minister let this House know how many appeals there were to the decision to award that home or how many appeals there have been? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that we have received at least one appeal to the original RFP. That is to the best of my knowledge at the present time. I'll be able to confirm that for the member over there in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Honourable Minister is as affable as usual to get along within the House.

Can the minister tell me if he's going to wait for the decision on the appeal before he considers awarding the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member knows there is some concern with the appeal board, under the process that has been set up and indeed, I don't believe that board is constituted.

Therefore and thus Mr. Speaker, the award of the contract after the other initial logistic as well as financial and administration work on the leasing side of the contract is completed then we would hope to be able sign the RFPs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's no secret that we've been bombarded with letters from the company that made one of these appeals and they've made it very clear, one of the companies made it very clear, that they're not happy with the way that the contract was handled or that the RFP was handled.

I wonder if the minister would consider having an independent analysis done of the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in government processes when you're tendering contracts, some into the hundreds of thousands of dollars, inevitably you will have appeals to those processes.

In this case Mr. Speaker, I can say with confidence that at the end of the day, the due process, due diligence on the contracts has been done and in that case Mr. Speaker, I wouldn't look at the suggestion made by the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Members will note the time is now up for Question Period.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. McLean.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 06 - 1(5): Baker Lake Group Home Re: Open as Elders' Chronic Care Facility

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table a petition today from the citizens of Baker Lake. It was just started late last week and now has 260 names. There are more names to follow regarding the group home in Baker Lake that's been empty for two or three years now.

The citizens of Baker Lake who signed this petition want the minister to move on training for an elders' care facility. It's no secret, Mr. Speaker, that Baker Lake has one of the highest numbers of elders in Nunavut, they're getting older, and they need almost 24 hour care, a certain group of them.

So I'm tabling a petition today hoping the minister will speed up the process on that home that's been closed for a few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. 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. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 084 - 1(5): Hamlet of Repulse Bay Motion Re: CIP Application

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document. It is a copy of a motion on a joint application between the Hamlet of Repulse Bay and the District Education Authority to purchase a school bus with CIP funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 085 - 1(5): Letter from Canadian North Re: NNI Status

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document from Canadian North regarding the NNI policy. Mr. Speaker I am starting to get letters from companies that have done business in Nunavut for a long time and employ a lot of northern people.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to take too long but the NNI policy with which we were all involved. When we were doing it up, I think we forgot the long-term companies like the Northwest Company, Canadian North and NTCL. Today I have another large corporation that is owned by Inuit asking for an extension to the sunset clause. So I table this document today hoping that the government will extend the sunset clauses for those that operate in the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Ng.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Notice of Motion 22 – 1(5) Bill 21, Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act to Committee of the Whole

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Monday March 4th, 2002 I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 21 - Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be ordered to the Committee of the Whole after Second Reading for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 67-1(5), Iqaluit District Education Authority on rules and responsibilities. Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Act. Before I proceed I'd like to ask the Member for Iqaluit Mr. Tootoo if he is ready to proceed with Tabled Document 67-1(5).

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not at this time.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. As Mr. Tootoo is not ready to proceed it is my duty to inform the members that no consideration of Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act can occur in the Committee of the Whole until Bill 21, Supplementary Retirement Allowances Act is dealt with. Notwithstanding Rule 27(2) do the members agreed to proceed to Item 21. Are there any nays?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Agreed. Thank you. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 22 - Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that Bill 22, Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 22 has had third reading. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Orders of the Day for Friday March 1, 2002.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 21-1(5)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 21
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 67-1(5)
 - Bill 23
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Members before we adjourn I'd like to acknowledge some of the people that we missed yesterday. Very capable people and individuals that assisted in the drafting of the new Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Peter Allison from the Department of Justice and our own Blandina Tulugarjuk and Mary Nashook from our staff. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: This House will adjourn until March 1st, 2002 at 10.00 a.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 3.26 pm.*

