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Official Report

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Wednesday March 6, 2002

2912 – 2993

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)

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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*

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(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

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(Nanulik)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday March 6, 2002****Members Present:**

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: We have a Point of Privilege. Mr. Ng.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise at the earliest opportunity to make some points of privilege regarding Tabled Document 87 – 1(5) entitled “Speaking Notes for Hunter Tootoo on the Motion to Refer to Committee of the Whole.”

My points of privilege Mr. Speaker, to the writer of the document are as follows. Firstly...

Speaker: Which members cannot hear? Try turning up the volume. Mr. Ireqittuq can you hear? Mr. Ireqittuq can you hear? Mr. Clerk can you assist Mr. Ireqittuq. All right we have a Point of Privilege. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my points of privilege to the writer of the document are as follows. Firstly, there are several references to the Government of Nunavut and the Bathurst Mandate. And I quote on page 1 in the opening comments. Quote. It is clear that this motion proposed by the government to refer the bill to committee of the whole. Unquote.

On page 2. Quote. The government recommends a process which keeps our constituents from directly participating. Unquote. My point of privilege Mr. Speaker, is that the writer has not been able to distinguish the difference between the Legislature and the government. It is clear to all members of this Assembly, that Bill 21 was not a government bill, but in fact a bill of the Legislature. I want to firstly clarify that for the record in my first point of privilege.

On the second one Mr. Speaker. The writer references on page 2, and I quote. It is not an unimportant bill, it is not a so-called housekeeping bill, it is not a bill that won't cost a lot of money to put in place and it is not a simple bill. Unquote.

In the next paragraph it says. Quote. So why are we bypassing this process, through public meetings and our standing committees that our public has come to expect when important pieces of legislation...Unquote. Mr. Speaker. Bill 22, The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act was introduced and referred directly into Committee of the Whole by unanimous consent, waiving of our House rules, including the consent of the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West.

Was that bill unimportant? Were there not significant financial factors within that bill? Members' pay and benefits, transitional allowance, committee pay, cabinet and speaker's payments etc. Bill 22 dealt with the entire structure and rules of how our legislature would operate.

The point of privilege here, Mr. Speaker, is that our rules allow for this Assembly to deal with all matters before it as we see fit. Our rules, which we regularly utilize, allow us to bypass our own rules. All members have a say into those decisions when that decision is made. So the point of privilege Mr. Speaker is, it is not out of the ordinary for us to waive our rules when dealing with matters before this House.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, on the third point of privilege. On page 5 of the tabled document. Quote. Then we talked about the bill secretly in Caucus. Unquote. The point of privilege Mr. Speaker, is the suggestion that discussions on this matter were out of the ordinary. My point of privilege here is that, in our consensus system, whether it is reviewing proposed government legislation, business plans, budgets, policies, etc, within our Standing Committees or the Regular Members' Caucus, meetings, briefings, full caucus meetings, it is accepted practice to have in camera meetings.

Dealing with Bill 21 Mr. Speaker, was no different than dealing with any other bill of the Government of Nunavut or this Legislature. And those are the points of privilege that I want to raise to clarify the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And that I might have inadvertently said the Member for Iqaluit West, instead of the Member for Iqaluit Centre and I would like to correct that for the record. Thank you.

>> *Applause, Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Your Point of Privilege is noted and thank you for the clarification. Yes and duly recorded in Hansard. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 171 – 1(5): M'Clintock Channel Special Economic Initiative Plan

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. Mr. Speaker, in 2000/2001 the Department of Sustainable Development agreed to provide one-time special funding to the communities of Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Cambridge Bay to assist them in overcoming the negative economic effects of the moratorium on polar bear hunting within the M'Clintock Channel.

I rise today to inform you on the progress made in implementing this funding. These funds are administered and approved by a panel consisting of the three chairmen of the HTOs and our Regional Director in the Kitikmeot. To date, this panel has approved projects totalling 133 thousand 333 dollars and 33 cents.

A Member (interpretation): Where does that 33 cents go...

>>*Laughter*

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation ends) In Gjoa Haven, a ground survey of musk-oxen on King William Island was approved to determine a population estimate to be used to develop a workable quota for both economic and community benefits. A second initiative was approved for increasing sport hunts for musk ox and caribou. This includes in its structure development plans to provide support for hunters, eco-tourism, and polar bear photographers for erecting a number of permanent structures around each of the management zones with equipment and gear.

Mr. Speaker, the final initiative approved was a sport hunt and eco-tourism marketing strategy in Cambridge Bay. The HTO was taking a new approach to planning and operating a yearly commercial musk ox harvest as a long-term business venture through the HTO.

This year the HTO decided that their share of the economic initiative fund will be directed towards this initiative. Kitikmeot Foods of Cambridge Bay utilizes the meat in their meat and fish plant. The hides are used by the Nunavut Development Corporation for leather and their hair is currently being utilized by the Kitikmeot Hunters' and Trappers' Association as part of a pilot project to develop the fledgling industry.

As well, community based projects to expand Neilson Hills Sport Hunt and enhancing the Ellis River Sport Hunt by providing infrastructure for the comfort and safety of its users was approved.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, the HTO in Taloyoak is finalizing their proposals to develop expanded polar bear and muskox sports hunts with the Gulf of Boothia. Taloyoak is

proposing a new sport fishing lodge and marketing plans aimed at selling the Hamlet as a destination for eco-tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that, in the course of implementing this fund in partnership with the effected communities, the department has respected the communities' wishes to identify plans and implement initiatives developed at the local level.

We have worked closely with communities to develop strategies that are effective and have provided a forum that has allowed decision making to remain with the community.

(interpretation) I am pleased to have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge the efforts made by the three HTOs and Hamlets in developing these projects.

I see the development of these exciting new opportunities as a step forward in expanding the sustainable capacity of all communities within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. I should mention that we have a birthday boy in the House today. And it's not Mr. McLean, because he probably had two birthdays this year. It's Mr. Akasuk. Happy birthday.

>> *Applause*

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 172 – 1(5): Social Work Week; March 24 – 31, 2002

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr. Akasuk a happy 48th birthday.

>> *Laughter*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that my department is hosting a workshop for Custom Adoption Commissioners in Rankin Inlet between March 12-14th. Mr. Speaker, this workshop will bring together commissioners from the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot regions to discuss among other things, the role of the Custom Adoption Commissioner and the Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act.

Mr. Speaker, elders have been invited to attend and will be a very important part of this group. Mr. Speaker, "Social Work for Social Justice", is the theme for national social work in Nunavut, between March 24-31st.

It is important Mr. Speaker that we set aside this time each year to recognize the tremendous contributions social workers make to our society. In Nunavut, they work in

the communities to help individuals and families with the challenges Mr. Speaker, and difficulties some face in dealing with our quickly changing world.

Mr. Speaker, working in the areas of mental health, wellness, child protection, adoption, corrections, adult and children residential services and Mr. Speaker, adult services, social workers in Nunavut work with the communities to build healthy and stable environments in which our adults can live and where our children, Mr. Speaker, can go.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and this House join me in recognizing March 24-31, 2002, as Social Work Week here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 173 – 1(5): International Women's Day; March 8th

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. March 8 marks International Women's Day. This is the day that millions of people around the world celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of women to our society.

(interpretation ends) The Canadian theme for this year's International Women's Day is "Working in Solidarity, Women's Human Rights and Peace". This theme recognizes the important role of women in seeking social justice.

The tragic events of September 11 made visible the situation of Afghan women and opened our eyes to the abuse of human rights that millions of girls and women throughout the world live with daily, just because of their gender.

In honouring women, we must ensure the protection of human rights and the elimination of violence against women. We must work together to create a peaceful, non-violent society where all rights are respected and honoured and full equality is achieved.

We must eliminate the barriers that prevent women from achieving their full potential. We must ensure that a woman's right to contribute to society is not diminished by an abuse of her individual human rights simply because she is a woman.

(interpretation) In Nunavut, our government is working to establish a Human Rights Act that promotes and protects human rights for all. It is important to remember that traditionally Inuit women were more than the lighters of the qulliq and keepers of the flame.

They were providers of warmth, clothing, shelter and food. And they were the keepers of the peace. They kept the family together as leaders of the community.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday March 8, the Nunavut Council of the Status of Women and the Iqaluit Music Society will be holding a coffee house at 7:30 p.m. at Inukshuk High School. I invite all of you who can attend to take part in this musical celebration of women and congratulate the council of the Status of Women and the Iqaluit Music Society for this initiative.

March 8 marks the one day of the year when we officially recognize the contribution of women to our society. Although it is important to celebrate this day, we must not fall into the trap of forgetting about women's issues the rest of the year. The health and wellbeing of women is something we should work towards every day of the year. The health and well being of our society depends on it.

(interpretation ends) They are our mothers, our daughters, our spouses, our leaders, and our role models. I join my colleagues in this government in recognizing March 8, 2002 as International Women's Day in Nunavut.

Let us be sure not to forget about them the next day. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 174 – 1(5): Extension of Priority Hiring Policy

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, on behalf of the Speaker, I'd like to send greetings to his constituency as he has less opportunity than we do to say such things.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to inform my colleagues that the Government of Nunavut's Priority Hiring Policy through the work of the former minister has been extended for 5 years.

The original policy was approved in August 2000, with a sunset date of December 2001. The policy plays an important role in helping the Government of Nunavut establish a competent public service that is representative of the Inuit population.

Mr. Speaker, the Priority Hiring Policy is consistent with Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Mr. Speaker, beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a position and have identified their status are given priority consideration over all other applicants for Government of Nunavut job competitions.

The Priority Hiring Policy is practiced by all GN departments and is applied to all occupational categories. In response to the concern that beneficiaries were not identifying themselves when making applications, a communication strategy is being developed to ensure that beneficiaries are aware of how job competition works and that it is important for them to identify themselves at the time they make applications for specific jobs.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure the effectiveness and relevancy of the policy, the Department of Human Resources will conduct a policy review in 2003 and 2005. I look forward to sharing the results of the review with my colleagues in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 175 – 1(5): Selection of Team Nunavut for the 2002 Arctic Winter Games

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to report that the selections of participants for Team Nunavut has been completed for the upcoming Iqaluit-Nuuk Arctic Winter Games taking place from March 17th to March 23rd. Team Nunavut is made up of 273 people. This number includes athletes, coaches, mission staff and cultural delegates.

Our 207 athletes are participating in 16 events taking place in Iqaluit and Nuuk. I would like to make a special mention of Team Nunavut's 28 athletes who will be participating in Arctic Sports. Team Nunavut will be sending our contingent of 107 people to Nuuk to participate in a number of events ranging from Alpine skiing to volleyball to cultural gatherings.

Mr. Speaker, these participants have shown hard work and dedication in their pursuit of excellence in their fields. I congratulate all members of Team Nunavut and I am sure that all members join with me in wishing them good luck in these historic games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 176 – 1(5): Ikajuruti Inungnik Ungasiktumi Network (Telehealth) Update

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you and the members of this Assembly have been very supportive of our efforts to develop the IIU Tele-health Network. I want to report to you today and update you on my department's progress on this very important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, as you know last year my department submitted a funding proposal to the Canadian Health Partnership Program or CHIP, sponsored by our friends at Health Canada. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut received the third highest award in Canada for Tele-health expansion.

Health Canada is contributing up to 3.7 million dollars Mr. Speaker to Nunavut. And we will have to contribute an equal portion. Mr. Speaker, we are well on our way to reaching our goal of putting Tele-health technology into ten Mr. Speaker, additional communities by March 31st, 2003.

At this point, the Tele-health project team has completed a technical assessment of all health centres in Nunavut as well as a needs assessment of those communities. Mr. Speaker, members of the team continue to visit communities throughout Nunavut to ensure that their needs are met. For example Mr. Speaker, during the month of February, visits were made to Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk. The team will be traveling to Sanikiluaq in March to continue their work.

Mr. Speaker, the department is also developing an education and training package including an instructional video that will be ready by the end of May. The package is aimed at meeting the needs of community site technicians, regional Tele-health coordinators, and those in the community who will use our Tele-health services.

Mr. Speaker, as you know the vastness of Nunavut presents health care providers with challenges in the delivery of services unlike anywhere else Mr. Speaker in Canada. We face tremendous costs in medical travel. Even more important Mr. Speaker, there is a social cost of separating families during time of illness or injury when family and community support is most often needed.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to believe the use of Tele-health technology in our communities will provide us with better access to quality health care services for all Nunavummiut and Mr. Speaker I will keep this House informed as this important initiative proceeds. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 488 – 1(5): Reuniting with Family and Constituents

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of the Legislative Assembly we bring ourselves to the House to deal with the business at hand. Usually we leave our family and our children for extended periods of time, because we have committed ourselves to do the business of the government.

Since we're going to be coming to the end of this session, our sitting seems to be getting more enjoyable. My wife and children are looking forward to my coming home, as am I. I will also be seeing the people in my constituency this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 489 – 1(5): Coppermine River Nomination as Heritage River

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in support of the nomination of the Coppermine River as a heritage river. The community of Kugluktuk is in support of this project and has extended thanks to Minister Akesuk for his past support as well.

(interpretation ends) The Coppermine River has all the values which would make it an ideal heritage river. It has natural heritage, being rich in wildlife and geological features. It has a human heritage supporting the subsistence life of both Dene and Inuit groups. It has a rich cultural heritage and a recreational heritage.

Mr. Speaker, it has the distinct features of being a river system that flows into the Arctic Ocean - something no other Heritage River does. I understand the decision regarding the nomination of the heritage river will be made shortly.

At the appropriate time today, I will be tabling a document on the Coppermine River Nomination Project. I encourage the members to take the time to look through it and I am sure you will appreciate why I give this nomination my whole-hearted support. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

A Member: Hear, Hear.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 490 – 1(5): Media Informing Public

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How do I say this? I would like to congratulate the members and this Assembly for the extensive news coverage we have been receiving, especially yesterday and all morning. I'm sure there's going to be more media coverage on Friday after the release of the newspapers regarding Bill 21.

One thing that struck me in listening to the talk back shows, I heard only one or two people express negative opinions about our actions on Bill 21, from Nunavummiut. I realized yesterday that the media are very able when motivated to talk about specific issues that we deal with in this House.

I encourage the media, be it the radio or the newspapers, to cover stories that are of more interest to the 85 percent of the people out there. I am talking about the Department of

Sustainable Development initiatives, about the Nunavut teachers, about economic development, about Health and Social Services and the Minister's Statement this morning.

We have discussed the group home and the progress of that project. The new Hamlet Act will have an impact on every community in Nunavut. In addition, we have been hearing on an ongoing basis about the shortage of housing. We all know that for many of our people in Nunavut, hunting is their full time employment and the majority of the Inuit hunters take on that occupation...

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, could I have unanimous consent to complete my statement. Qujannamiik.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Members of the Legislative Assembly.

There are a lot of hunters in Nunavut and they use gasoline for their equipment. With the debate that has been going on this week about the quality of gasoline I think we spent one entire afternoon directing questions to the Petroleum Products division and never getting a direct response. So what did the media do to find out what is being said between the lines? We didn't hear anything about it.

The newspaper and the radio people should, like we MLAs do, keep in mind the needs of the Inuit, which is 85% of the population.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 491 – 1(5): Community Hall and Airport Terminal Inadequate

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about a concern of my constituents in Gjoa Haven. These concerns relate to the fact that capital spending has not kept pace with the growth of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I am specifically concerned about the terminal building at the airport and the community hall. Neither is large enough to adequately serve the needs of the community. This is also a safety issue as passengers must wait for flights in an over crowded area. I'm talking about the airport terminal and also the community events over crowd the community hall.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased two weeks ago when the Minister of Community Government and Transportation committed to initiating talks with the Federal Government regarding airports and terminals in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I was also pleased on Monday when the minister recognized the need for new community halls in many communities across Nunavut, including Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear to me that the minister recognizes the priority placed on community halls by the Mayor of Gjoa Haven. I appreciate the minister's commitment to bring this issue in front of her colleagues at the national level and to lobby the Federal Government on this issue as well.

I have almost concluded my statement. I would like to receive unanimous consent to continue.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Members of the Legislative Assembly.

However Mr. Speaker, I remain concerned because there is presently nothing in the 5-year Capital Plan that will address these problems. Mr. Speaker, it is important that the needs of my constituents are met.

I recognize the minister's commitment to determine the priorities of each community. I urge the minister to further investigate these concerns and work towards a Capital Plan that will address these needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 492 – 1(5): National Aboriginal Achievement Award - Jonah Kelly

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on March the 10th, a friend and a constituent of mine will be honoured with the National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Media and Communications. Mr. Speaker, from the NAAA website, I would like to give an overview of Jonah Kelly's considerable contributions to Inuit, Nunavut and indeed Canadian broadcasting.

Mr. Speaker, you could call Jonah Kelly the voice of the Arctic. After working on air for more than 35 years for CBC North, he has definitely earned this title. During his lengthy and distinguished career, Jonah proved to be instrumental in the development and evolution of Inuktitut broadcasting in the north.

Very early on he recognized the powerful role broadcasting could play in keeping Inuit people strong and in touch with one another. His firsts in northern broadcasting are legion Mr. Speaker. Jonah Kelly inaugurated the first Inuktitut coverage of the Northwest Territories' Legislature. He was appointed CBC's Senior Inuktitut Language Programmer Mr. Speaker, in 1974 and developed CBC North's flagship Inuktitut program Tausoni in 1978.

His former colleague Witt Fraser, remembers Kelly during that terrible day Mr. Speaker, the terrible day in 1968 when Martin Luther King was shot. Mr. Speaker, Jonah produced and performed one of the most amazing radio programs I have ever heard said Mr. Fraser. He was a one-man band providing with the most basic tools available, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Fraser also went on to say, in a voice that matched the passion and the timber of Martin Luther King's great "I have a dream" speech, Jonah Kelly related the plight of the black people in the United States and the growing colonizing inequality emerging in our Canadian North.

When he was starting out at CBC, Mr. Speaker, Jonah Kelly and his listeners soon discovered he had the necessary skills to bridge the new and old ways. While reporting on the Apollo moon landing Mr. Speaker, he compared them with the traditional legends which were quite similar. A unique and very successful style was born, Mr. Speaker, and a whole generation of Inuit broadcasters has followed in our friend Jonah Kelly's footsteps.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask that you and this House join with us today, to congratulate Mr. Jonah Kelly on his nomination and his continued success here in Nunavut and with the Aboriginal Achievement Award at the National Ballet in Winnipeg next week. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 493– 1(5): Non-Participation in Supplementary Retiring Allowances

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my regret to the Members of this House that I was unable to attend all of yesterday's sitting because of illness.

Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to reflect on decisions made by this House, however I want to confirm to my constituents in the High Arctic that I will not be participating in the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Plan that has been adopted.

At the appropriate time, I will be tabling my correspondence to the Speaker that indicates my decision to opt out of the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 494 – 1(5): Inadequate Food at Kivalliq Boarding Home and Treatment on Airplane

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's nice to hear the Minister of Health and Social Services and his statement, it was a very good statement today. And I think it's a statement that should be made more often in this House.

But it was interesting the part he was talking about, inequality, in the north. And today Mr. Speaker, I'm angry about something about the inequality in the north. Today I'm angry about the treatment over how a number of my constituents were treated last week while travelling to the Kivalliq Medical Boarding Home in Winnipeg.

Uqaqti, I happened to be on the flight from Baker Lake to Winnipeg last week, with a half a dozen Baker Lake residents enroute to the boarding home. Uqaqti, three of the constituents were elders and a couple of them were infants. Mr. Speaker, yourself, you know how long the trip is from Baker Lake to Winnipeg.

You have to stop in Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Arviat, Churchill and Thompson before arriving late at night at your destination. The flight has an average time of six to eight hours. Uqaqti, the only thing that my constituents got to eat was something that resembled a bag of dried pretzels.

Mr. Speaker, I got off the phone less than an hour ago with one of my constituents who is presently in the Kivalliq Hall. I asked him what he and the other patients got to eat when they arrived at the boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, do you know his answer was? Leftovers. That's right, leftovers. Uqaqti, I am outraged at this. And at the appropriate time I will be asking the minister responsible about what action his department will take to ensure that patients at the Kivalliq Boarding Home are fed properly and on the aircraft, on their way home.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, the return airfare is over 24 hundred dollars. Think of what this kind of money would buy in southern Canada and would our people, Canadian citizens, get treated this way in southern Canada. I think not Mr. Speaker, and his department should act on this immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

A Member: Hear, Hear

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 495 – 1(5): Non-Support of Arctic Creations by Qikiqtaaluk Corporation

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I heard some news that is not too pleasant from my constituency. You all know Monica Ell, who owns a store called Arctic Creations selling traditional clothing, craftwork and materials at the QC building. I have been at her store many times and many Inuit women have bought their sewing materials from that store.

I was very disappointed to hear that the store was closing. QC is supposed to be helping the Inuit businesses, but there were complexities encountered in their relationship. This is not pleasant to see. As an Inuk, I hope that she will be given more support for her business.

I spoke with Monica Ell earlier on, she will try and re-open her store some time in the future but she won't be located in that building. Although this is hopeful news, I'm not very pleased to hear that her store is being closed down. I would like to see an improvement on how we all support businesses in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 496 – 1(5): Utilization of Sanikiluaq Arena

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I will be making some comments on a concern I have. As a Member of the Legislature, I have made statements regarding our hockey arena.

Just recently, last winter at the end of January, on the last Wednesday we were finally able to use the arena due to the warm weather.

I'm very proud of the fact that during the Arctic Winter Games one of my constituents will be with Team Nunavut. Although other communities have longer use of their hockey arenas and our hockey arena can only be used for a month at a time, this is quite an achievement.

In my community the weather is starting to warm up so we won't be able to use our arena at the end of this month and I expect we won't be able to use the arena again until next year.

Recreation and sports is very good for the mental and physical health of the youth. Recreation can help you to be mentally more healthy...

>> *Loud snowmobile in background*

...it's all right, it's just a skidoo. I guess the gasoline is all right after all.

>>*Laughter, Applause.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to say that the warm weather is literally ruining our hockey arena in our community. We can't use the hockey arena for a long period of time due to the weather. We are in support of the Arctic Winter Games here in Iqaluit and we would like to see Team Nunavut win many medals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 497 – 1(5): Inuktitut Speaking Reporters Work With Unilingual MLAs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Excuse me I'm laughing, I apologize, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about our interpreters who are very capable. I know that we have received a lot of assistance from the interpreters especially for those who are unilingual. I am very proud of our interpreters.

But, Mr. Speaker, when we hear about ourselves through the media which is different to what we have said, it is disturbing. This might give rise to conflicts between the media, the interpreters and also the Members of the Legislature, especially for those of us who are Inuktitut speaking unilingual members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a point to those media people who understand Inuktitut to very carefully listen to Inuit Members of the Legislature speaking their own language and pay close attention to the unilingual members' comments. I ask them to try harder.

We praise the media for bringing out the information to the residents of Nunavut, especially in the proceedings of this House. For that reason, the Inuit residents, Inuit people who are working in the media should work harder to reflect what we say in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 498 – 1(5): Letter from Minister of DIAND Regarding Grave Relocation Work

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today the thoughts of my relatives that have passed on are with me. Mr. Speaker, my stepdaughter who is our oldest, is celebrating her birthday today and she may see me on television so I wish her a very good day. I would like to make that point first.

I still haven't given up on the issue of the grave relocations and I would like to make a comment on that issue.

I want to be very clear about this. When we work, no matter who you are, if you have done some work and you haven't been paid it is really difficult. You want to be paid.

I would like to talk a bit about the document that was tabled by the Premier. It was tabled yesterday and the Minister of DIAND, Robert Nault, wrote "I understand your community is planning a community feast to honour those individuals who relocated these graves. I expect that DIAND will respond positively sometime in the near future".

This letter says sometime soon, so I hope they respond positively. This was written by the Minister of DIAND and it says it will happen hopefully soon. This was dated October 19, 2001. It has been many months since this letter and I haven't heard anything else about it. I don't know how this is proceeding.

I would like to get unanimous consent to complete my statement, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you colleagues, Mr. Premier, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the correspondence received from the Federal Government about the people who worked on the relocation of the gravesites, I would like the workers to receive a response before they all pass away.

Some of them already have passed on. I have worked with many people and I know what it's like to work for wages and if we know that we have been docked pay for so many hours, then we demand to know why pay has been deducted from our wages. If you are a contractor and you know how much you are going to be getting after you complete your job, and they only give you half of it, then you get very upset.

This is the right of individuals nowadays to be compensated for their work. But for these people that haven't been paid yet, I feel for them and they don't know about their rights.

They should be able to demand payment but they have no avenue to complain. They don't know which department they should demand it from or which government they should

demand it from. Some of them don't know what NTI does and some don't know what the government departments in Nunavut do sometimes.

These ordinary people don't know these things but they would like to be compensated and I would like everyone to know about that. They have the right to be compensated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 499 – 1(5): National Aboriginal Achievement Award - Uqittuq Ashoona

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say a happy birthday to my wife because we have the same birthday.

>>Applause

In following the statement made by Mr. Picco, there is also an individual in my constituency that has been nominated through the Aboriginal Achievement Award. A lot of people do carvings in Nunavut, this carver has been carving for quite some time, and he makes very excellent carvings. He has done that for many years and has promoted carving in Canada and the rest of the world.

He was born in Cape Dorset, he is 49 years old, and he will be recognized through the Aboriginal Achievement Awards. His carvings have been displayed in Chicago, in 2000. And in Vancouver, Toronto and Yoko Ono has some of his carvings. Also the National Hockey League has received some of his carvings. Also the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Winnipeg Art Gallery has Uqittuq Ashoona's carvings as well.

He is also a respected hunter from Cape Dorset. He use to live in an outpost camp outside of Cape Dorset and his father was also an excellent carver and is recognized world wide as well. On behalf of the all MLAs here I would like to congratulate him for receiving the National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 500 – 1(5): Rankin Inlet / Whale Cove Meeting with Minister & International Women's Day

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have lots of Members' Statements out due to this being our last day. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would

like to thank our Premier Paul Okalik for his comments about Monica Ell's Arctic Creations shop. I also would like Monica to continue her work in her store.

I would like to thank the Mayor of Rankin Inlet Jack Kabvitok, Councillor Louis Taparti, David Ningeongan, elder Ollie Ittinuar and David Krittterdlik Mayor of Whale Cove. These people that Mr. Anawak and I represent were able to meet with us along with some of the ministers and the Premier.

I would like to thank the Premier for letting them voice their concerns. I would like to also say thank you to Mr. Kattuk and thank myself ...

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker I would like to say thank you to Mr. Picco, Minister of Finance Kelvin Ng and Minister Akesuk for being able to meet with our constituents. Minister Kilabuk could not meet with them because they had to leave early. I would like to thank my colleagues, the ministers and the Premier for giving my constituents the opportunity to voice their concerns.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say thank you to my Executive Assistant and my secretary Leah for putting up with my demands, for co-ordinating the meetings very well. I guess I can also say at this time that I will be tabling two documents from those two communities today.

Mr. Speaker, I was acting as an MLA at the same time as an interpreter. So I know it is frustrating at times and I wasn't as good an interpreter as the interpreters we have. I get frustrated very easily with that. Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me I just have a few closing remarks. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to conclude her statements. Are there any nays? Please proceed Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we can't talk about two different topics at the same time. If you don't mind I just wanted to mention the International Women's Day that will be happening on March 8th and commend Minister Jack Anawak for announcing that today. We have to celebrate the accomplishments and the victories of women in our society. We have a lot of our mothers and our grandmothers that have done a lot of good work for our society in Nunavut. And I'd like to recognize them.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker I would like to thank my mother and grandmother and my great grandmother. My mom is from Wager Bay and she moved to Coral Harbour after she married my dad. She didn't have any relatives. Most of us were girls in the family. We didn't have very many brothers and she always told us to try and do the best that you can for yourself because nobody else will help you. So this is the advice that I got from my mother and that is the way I am today. We have to be able to stand up for ourselves

and to listen to the advice that we got from our ancestors such as our mothers and grandmothers who were able to survive in a harsh climate. They had the know-how to keep us warm along with the first Europeans that came to our land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 501 – 1(5): Gratitude to MLAs and Ministers

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank my colleagues. Especially I'd like to thank on behalf of Kugaaruk the Ministers of Education and Health. The Minister of Education worked very hard to put a school into our community.

I'd like to thank the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth for the work that they have done for my constituency and for the assistance that they have given me. I'd also like to thank the Premier for his assistance. It is very important to show our appreciation.

When we were children, I remember that being said by my mother and I really appreciated that but I also really appreciate the assistance that I get from my colleagues.

I appreciate the work on the access roads, it helps the hunters in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 502 - 1(5): Nunavut Athletes and Volunteers at Arctic Winter Games

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues support Team Nunavut for the Arctic Winter Games. Many of our young people and our elders will be representing Nunavut.

I'm happy to say that this is going forward and I know it takes a lot of work to put together such an event. The Government of Nunavut has provided schools and arenas for this event. We heard earlier today that the arena in Sanikiluaq is finally open. Earlier I talked about the schools that will be upgraded.

I hope the athletes do well and I support their participation and if the members are going to be here during the Arctic Winter Games, I encourage them to observe the activities and events. I encourage the members to support the staff and the athletes during the Arctic

Winter Games. I will be volunteering as an announcer at hockey games and as a driver. I encourage all of you to join in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 503 - 1(5): National Aboriginal Achievement Award - Jordan Tootoo

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this coming week, on Sunday, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards will be held and there is an individual from Rankin Inlet who will be recognized. His name is Jordan Tootoo.

This person is a young man and he has set an example for our youth. I know that his parents are very proud of their son for his achievements and our young people look up to Jordan Tootoo.

He grew up in Rankin Inlet and he used to skate at the arena during the coldest months of the year. I think that Community Government and Transportation Minister has to work towards putting in artificial ice in the community because we produce individuals like Jordan in our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Premier.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 460 - 1(5): Police Officer / Grise Fiord

Hon. Paul Okalik: Merci Monsieur President...*(interpretation unavailable)*... I wish to advise the member that the housing arrangements for the RCMP detachment in Grise Fiord are not yet finalized. Senior RCMP personnel will be visiting the community next week and it is intended that arrangements will be finalized after that.

I'll be free to provide a note to the member to advise her of the plans once they are concluded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Merci Beaucoup, Monsieur Premier. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Premier.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member for Baker Lake asked what percentage of jobs in the decentralized communities is filled. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to update the House that the jobs that are in decentralized communities are at 61 percent capacity as of December 2001. Merci.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 505 - 1(5): Consider Sunset Clause - Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti Policy**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is to the Minister of Public Works and Telecommunications regarding a written question that I had submitted on February 25th and the response I got today.

Mr. Speaker, he didn't answer the question that I asked. And the question that I asked, and I'll pose it in the House today. Will the government consider extending the transition period until March 31, 2003 on the sunset clause for the NNI policy for companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. I thought I had responded to all your questions. But, I will take this as notice and get the response to the member before he leaves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 506- 1(5): Elder's Assistance to GN

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Premier. I hope that my question is clear. My question is, in Nunavut, are they putting together an elder's assistance program in Nunavut, in any sort of capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are presently working on an elders' support program because we have received a lot of assistance from elders so

I am working with Mr. Anawak in putting together an elders' support program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How about elders that are not receiving support? The elders that are staying at home, what kind of assistance would they provide for elders that are not so visible in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure how to respond to that question. The Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and I are working together as to how we can provide more support for elders in the communities. This is something that is being done presently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there not an elders' support program presently in the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is something that we are working towards and we will be able to keep the members updated on the work that we are doing. We haven't dealt with the budget yet as to how we would support the elders but we are working towards this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't get the response that I was looking for. Was there a plan in the past that they could use to put the program together? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just putting together different programs presently. We are working with the elders. We have received a lot of support from elders telling us what more we can do in the communities. We are collecting information, I am doing this with Mr. Anawak, and these programs will be made available under the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit task force. But we are working on this and hopefully it will be together as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 507 – 1(5): Recommendation By Health and Social Services Regarding Consent Forms

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question today to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of Health is aware of the recent media reports regarding a new consent form, related to the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program that will have to be filled out by Inuit across Canada.

This consent form will allow for the release of personal health information and concerns have been raised about access to information being collected. Can the minister tell this House whether his department has made any recommendations to Health Canada regarding the new consent forms being drafted for Inuit beneficiaries under the NIHB program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't as the member knows, comment on what's being published in the media.

Mr. Speaker, there has been some contact with Health Canada on certain items that they're bringing forward including information being requested by them on the NIHB. Now the NIHB, Mr. Speaker, the member knows and the House knows, is a federally funded program. As a federally funded program, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has a right to ask for certain information to the people who apply to that program.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, there are laws in Canada, which guard privacy and so on and those are some of the concerns that we have been in discussion with Health Canada about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear that the Department of Health and Social Services has been in contact with Health Canada on this issue.

I'm wondering if the minister could inform the House as under what conditions he or his department would support the existence of consent forms that ask for Inuit to release their personal health information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker, like any other government or jurisdiction we would appreciate and support the release of information that follows all the guidelines, rules, regulations, and laws including, Mr. Speaker, the Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms as well as the Privacy Act that's in place.

That would be brought forth by the Federal Government in their information request.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if he can provide any information on how the department will be involved in making the Inuit of Nunavut aware of what they're signing in this consent form and what it'll mean to them.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when and if the Federal Government brings forth the information paper as reported, and I can't comment on the veracity of a media report that the member saw in the newspaper.

I can only comment on the official contacts that we have had with Health Canada. And as the member has rightfully pointed out this is information that's being requested from all people across Canada that are involved in the NIHB Program.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that type of contact, with my cabinet colleagues, with the Department of Justice, to make sure any information request follows the guidelines, rules and regulations of the government and of the Federal Government. Then Mr. Speaker, we would have look at that opportunity once it presents itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad that we have a very thorough Minister of Health and Social Services who is going to make sure that a lot of these other government departments for their responses and look at whether this information can get out or not.

But again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask him, you know, will his department go through some type of publicity program or campaign to inform the Inuit of Nunavut what this change will mean to them so that they are aware of the type of, what they're signing on this consent form and what it will mean to them. 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, when and if the Federal Government proceeds with their plan as identified in various reports the member has talked about.

At that time Mr. Speaker, as a government, it would behoove us Mr. Speaker, to make sure that is again in all the Acts, regulations and rules that are in place. That information

that is being provided to the Federal Government is used in a proper and accountable way.

And at the same time Mr. Speaker, we would be informing the people of Nunavut about their rights, under said requests for information from the Federal Government. So we would do that as a matter of course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 508 – 1(5) Review Remediation of Mine Site

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Yesterday on March 5, you made a statement and I will be referring my question to that statement you made yesterday. In regards to the closure the two mines, you stated that there was a Nanisivik Working Group and a steering committee of Government of Nunavut managers. Now that you have these two working groups, which one will be reviewing the remediation of those mine sites? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the remediation of those sites, the Nunavut Water Board and the Federal Government are going to be working on the clean up of the Nanisivik Mine and the Government of Nunavut will be sending a person from DSD who will be working with these two.

What I'm trying to tell the member is that the Nunavut Water Board and the Federal Government will be working on this issue much more than the Nunavut government and I'm sure that they will be working closely with the member representing the high arctic.

At the meeting that we had up there, the Nunavut Water Board was going to be setting up their own working group with representatives from the community and the Government of Nunavut stated that they are willing to work on this project.

We can also put a representative of the Government of Nunavut on the working group but the Nunavut Water Board was going to be setting up their own group. But the Government of Nunavut is more than willing to participate if they should be asked to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand then, on behalf of my constituents that the GN DSD is involved on the environmental aspects of it because they have a division?

For my understanding and for my constituents, the Nunavut Water Board and the Federal Government are the only ones who are going to be working on this project while the Government of Nunavut just stands as onlookers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member asked that same question not too long ago. Our government, the Department of Sustainable Development has an environmental protection division to protect the environment. As the Government of Nunavut, we will have to make sure that the lands, not only Nanisivik, I could also use Clyde River, Kugaaruk, Cape Dorset as other examples, to make sure that the environment is safe for the communities.

I know that they will do a good job, because that's what they do. I am sure that the regulations will be adhered to by the Nunavut Water Board and the Federal Government. We are not just going to be sitting on the sidelines as observers, we will participate, because of course we are here to protect our environment. We are not just going to stand on the sidelines.

But if they should ask us for support, we are more than willing to do so and more than capable of doing that. We are not just going to be sitting on the sidelines. But the Nunavut Water Board and the Federal Government are working on the process and I know that they will do a good job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Only after the government knows exactly what is happening will they finally give their support. I am not asking whether they are going to be doing a good job or not, but who will be reviewing the plans that have been set for the remediation of the mines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Sustainable Development has different divisions. We have Wildlife, Environment, Energy and so on. The Director of the Environment I am sure will do a thorough review of the plans that have been developed for Nanisivik Mine. I will also be traveling to Arctic Bay within six months, possibly within the spring to see what has been done at that point with the mine.

Before I go I will be keeping a close eye on what is happening during the closing phase of the mines. The mines that are coming up in the future will have to close eventually and I know that we will do the best that we can to deal with the closure of the mine in Nanisivik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response and I am pleased that the minister will be going up to Nanisivik. The mine will be closing in six months and I am sure the communities up there will be looking forward to the ministerial visit before the six months are up.

I also know that he has a staff person who will be working on this closure and that there is also one in Arctic Bay. Will you only be going up in six months or prior to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January I said 6 months. I can now say 4 months. I've got it slated for July but I don't have the date pinpointed yet.

I will be visiting the mine and I am sure a lot of people will be out on the land. But I am sure they will welcome me with open arms and the MLA who represents the community. I'll be looking forward to working with her and also go up for that visit. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 509 – 1(5): Sealskin Rebates Information – Northern & Co-op Stores

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Yesterday we spoke about a rebate on sealskins and I asked questions about that.

He stated that he would give me a copy of the list of those individuals who had harvested or sold sealskins. Yet at times we sell our skins to the Northern and Co-op stores. I was wondering if you could include these individuals who sold their skins to these companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes whether it is a Northern store or a Co-op store, they do purchase our sealskins. As a government we don't give them benefits because they buy the skins on their own. We don't get a list of individuals who sold the sealskins to the stores. They take care of those individuals themselves. But we are talking about the individuals who have sold their skins to Renewable Resources. These skins would be used and there would be a rebate on the sealskins. Also we will be using the list that is already written by our staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The list of the individuals who sold sealskins to the Department of Renewable Resources. I was wondering if he could elaborate to me as to how many skins were sold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I counted them. I am just joking. The skins that are listed are close to 5 thousand 500 approximately. These were the skins that were sold to Renewable Resource offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk for being precise and concise. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In his response it is evident that they sold over 5 thousand skins. Do the sealskins vary annually when they sell them or does it vary to other numbers? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. With sealskins it is very hard to know the total harvest annually of the skins. The numbers of the skins that are sold vary from year to year.

But we would like to see the marketing of the sealskins internationally, now that they are starting to buy the sealskins internationally. We would like to see this go ahead and we would like to see that go ahead. In regards to your question, there are a number of skins that are sold mostly at the same time.

At times we sell three thousand skins and in some years we sell seven thousand skins a year. So the number of skins that are sold varies from year to year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when the individual sells a skin they get a rebate, which I am very happy to see. Is there a limit on the number of skins that can be sold at the community level?

For example, can Arctic Bay sell only fifty skins? Is there a limit on the number of skins that could be sold? He said the number of skins sold varies, so is there a cap on this and if there is what is the number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we don't have a quota on the seals that can be harvested and sold. It is not limited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 510 – 1(5): Soapstone Carving Markets

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I didn't speak with my colleagues about whom to target today but I am directing my question to the same department. I guess we were thinking along the same lines. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

The carvers, especially those that depend on carving as their livelihood, there has been a negative impact on those carvers, especially this winter. We sell our artwork to the galleries down south and overseas. I was wondering if they have informed you whether the market for these carvings has improved or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The September 11th tragedy has had a negative impact on all things, including the market for carvings. We have had a concern about that in my constituency because it had an impact on the sales and marketing of carvings and art.

When the Premier went to Germany on the trade mission, he brought along some samples to help market the carvings. In fact every time the Premier goes anywhere he brings along samples from Nunavut to showcase the artwork from Nunavut.

When I travel down south, I often visit the art galleries to find out how we can improve the marketing of the carvings. I will work hard to improve the marketing of carvings, but September 11 had a negative impact on all the sales of carvings and artwork. We would like to see an improvement in the marketing of artwork and carvings from Nunavut residents outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The artwork and the jewellery workers also depend on their art. We would like to see them being supported, but at this time, for example when we speak about carvings, I don't think the government is going to come up with a new strategy to market artwork.

There was a member asking a question on how to improve the marketing of sealskins and I know that at the community level that they can work on their skins and the preparation of the skins and tanning of the skins.

Have you looked at ways to improve these skins so that the woman can better make artwork or at least have a tannery available to the women? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're looking at ways to give more support to the carvers and art workers. If we're looking along the lines of establishing a tannery, there are chemicals that they have to use in the process of tanning skins. Therefore, we have to pay close attention to these contaminants, as we don't want to pollute our Nunavut environment.

With the sealing strategy we could look at ways of how to improve this situation but it's quite hard at this time to discuss the tannery issue. For sealskins, although we can look into this in the future, it's going to be quite difficult because we have to pay attention the environmental aspects of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at this time, for people who make their living on carving, it's very difficult and they do have to make ends meet as they do make their money from their carving.

I was wondering if the Department of Sustainable Development of Nunavut could inform by way of press release, at looking at how they can market the artwork, whether they can find a market overseas. Perhaps if he can appoint an individual to work on this so they can look at the assisting part of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. A reminder to my good friend, Mr. Puqiqnak, to try very hard to keep his second supplementary brief. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, the Department of Sustainable Development has been working on this continuously, trying to improve the marketing and employment opportunities for Nunavut.

The Department of Sustainable Development is looking at economic development as it's within our responsibilities. We could utilize the Nunavut Development Corporation as they have assisted in marketing handicraft and artwork. We're already working on this and we do have officials that work on this issue. If we were to travel anywhere outside of Nunavut, we can showcase the artwork to advertise the marketing of the handicrafts and art work outside of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 511 - 1(5): Negotiate with Ministers on Payment for Grave Workers

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have asked many times on this to two ministers and at this time, I will ask a question to either one of them.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I have been asking this question for about two weeks, practically every day. Our Premier tabled a letter yesterday and it doesn't state exactly what compensation will be provided to those workers that transferred the graves. It states that at some time the Federal Government will provide an answer. As soon as they can, it states.

Because the letter is not very new, from a few months ago, I don't know what they mean by as soon as they can. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance whether he could negotiate with the Minister of Indian Affairs because the amount of money that we are requesting is not very much.

I'd like to ask the minister whether he could negotiate with his federal counterparts and see whether he can get the money given to those people as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're trying to work to resolve this as soon as we can. I will speak to the federal ministers to see whether we can meet with them in this regard on the member's concern. I am also having a draft letter translated so I can share it with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq. Supplementary.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question that I asked was directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng. Because it's going to be dealt with by finance people, so I'm asking the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. I realize that you did direct a question to Mr. Ng. But rather than see you lose your question, I understand the Premier has been on this issue for the last number of weeks.

So that's why we directed it to the Premier, which it duly belongs in his hands. But if you wish I could direct the question to Mr. Ng, he can answer it. If you choose to answer or take it as notice. It's up to you, Mr. Irqittuq. How would you like to proceed? Thank you.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get a response to my question from the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't try to refuse to answer any questions. I try not to take any questions as notice unless I have to.

Mr. Speaker, in this situation, I believe my honourable colleagues, both the Premier and the Minister of Health have addressed this issue on numerous occasions and we recognise the importance to the member.

I cannot say I that I would be willing to commit meeting individually with the federal Minister of DIAND on this specific issue. As you know, at the moment, the Premier does have the lead in the Intergovernmental Affairs portfolio in dealing with the DIAND Minister and I would respect that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just asked two questions, but I am already on my last supplementary. I'm not saying that the Minister of Finance go and meet with the DIAND Minister, but the question is whether he could meet with his cabinet colleagues to discuss the amount of money that should be compensated for those people that transferred the graves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish I had the power to direct ministers to spend on different programs within their areas of responsibility. If the member would like to propose that as a motion, I certainly would be in support of that.

But I mean, Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness in this situation, it's up to the individual department or minister responsible to deal with the matter within his or her area of responsibility, to bring forward a submission if required for additional resources to FMB and at that time it would be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 512 - 1(5): Increase in Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm directing my question to the Minister of Education.

The minister is quite aware that the Department of Education is a very interesting and challenging department. Mr. Speaker, the students at Arctic College, whatever kinds of courses they are in, has their funding been increased since the Government of Nunavut came about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The student financial assistance has not increased since Government of Nunavut came about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Department of Education planning to increase the student financial assistance because there are a lot of things that are getting very expensive?

For example, government employees got an increase because of the high cost of living. Even MLAs are getting an increase. Would he let the students follow this type of increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to note that when we have our next session, our sixth, we will be dealing with the Main Estimates. I will be announcing something at that time. But I can say for now, that the problems with the funding for students have always been raised with us. Last year it was the same thing and they wrote us letters wanting an increase in their funding.

We will make an announcement at the budget session but at this time I am not at liberty to discuss it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year some time, the Premier stated that the Akitsiraq Law School students will be provided with adequate funding so they could continue with their education.

The students that are going to Arctic College have no incentives to stay in school. There should be another one for those students. Can you do the same thing for the other students that was done for the Akitsiraq students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have the same benefits for the Arctic College students as we do for the law school students. It's totally different from what the law school students are provided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's too soon, my last question, so I would like to ask him about the policies. Is the department going to set up a policy or

change their policy so that the Arctic College Students could be provided with an incentive and could it be in the budget for the budget session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could rephrase his questions.

>>*Laughter*

The first question that he had, whether we were looking at the policies in regards to student financial assistance. We reviewed the policies of student financial assistance and when I have a chance, I can provide members with the policy directives that we have so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Sorry, Mr. Arvaluk, the minister has answered the question to the best of his ability. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 513 - 1(5): Update on Decentralized Positions Filled in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for the Decentralization Secretariat.

Earlier on the return to oral questions, he mentioned they are at 61 percent capacity as of December 2001. I guess, first of all, I would ask how many positions are filled in Kugluktuk to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the document that I tabled that I attached to the statement, there are currently 33 jobs filled in Kugluktuk as of December 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How many Inuit have filled these government positions in Kugluktuk? How many Inuit have been hired?

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should clarify there are 33 jobs at the headquarters in Kugluktuk and 21 were filled. From that there are 13 that are Inuit employed. Koana, Uqaqti.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you for that response. Will there be more Inuit filling these positions? I would like to see more and more Inuit filling these positions. Would there be any initiatives for training so that we will have more Inuit to fill these positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not just Kugluktuk but for the whole of Nunavut. We are planning to make sure that the Inuit employment is increased in the government.

I am glad to say that there are a lot of people employed in the Government of Nunavut in the decentralized communities and if we can do more we will try to do more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the Premier. Is there an on-the-job training program in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In several decentralized communities there have been various on-the-job training positions for example in the Department of Health and Social Services. We will try to do as much as we can in this area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 514 - 1(5): Plans for Youth

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Today many young people are unemployed in the communities. I noticed that there are many youth in Iqaluit unemployed also. They go through hard times during the time that they are unemployed.

Is there any assistance that will be provided to young people that need it to keep them busy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a cold and I apologize my voice isn't very clear.

We often talk about our young people not having centres or places to go to. I have stated on the earlier occasions that we don't have any money for building facilities at the moment. I will work with the members in the coming years in order to seek some funds for youth and elders' centres.

In the communities, the hamlet or the Department of Education might have buildings that have rooms or spaces available. I am inclined to first check to see if there are existing facilities that we could lease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response. I stated there are a lot of young people that don't have anything to do in the communities. Is the minister looking at ways as to how young people could be taken out on the land perhaps learning how to survive and programs such as that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Annually in Nunavut community groups often take young people out especially during the fishing season. The elders often take young people out on land. We're going to look at how these kinds of activities could be promoted in the communities, because we feel this would benefit our youth.

We'll be looking for funds for these kinds of activities for our youth in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question for the minister. In Nunavut does he have an estimate as to how many young people there are, what the population is in Nunavut for young people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): This answer, as an Inuk, would be different to estimate. Young people are identified in today's terms as being under 18 years of age but elders often look at people my age as being young.

The population is proportionally very high in Nunavut for people that are under the age of 25. We're looking at how we could promote healthy living in the community for our young people, because the population is very high in Nunavut for people that are under the age of 25. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Members will note that question period is now up. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask unanimous consent to go back to item 5 on the Orders of the Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is asking unanimous consent to return to item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? Proceed Mr. Akesuk.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a good friend of mine who works very hard during the Federal/Provincial/Territorial meetings for Canadian Council for the Environment. My colleague from the Federal, Territorial and Provincial Ministers, he works very hard to make sure that our meetings on the environment are well run.

I believe he is one of the guys that work very hard to make sure that our meetings on FTP go really well. It is Mr. Peter Kablinski from CCME, behind me.

>>Applause

Also, a good friend of mine is sitting over there, Mr. Andrew Tagak. I would also like to recognize him too please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 007 – 1(5): Concern and Dissatisfaction with Quality of Gasoline in Cape Dorset

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's my day today. I would like to table a petition from constituents of mine on the gas issue from Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 10. Petitions. Are there any further petitions? Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Report 019 – 1(5): Report on the Review of the 2001 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services I am pleased to rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on its review of the first report of the Auditor General for the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, your committee is requesting that, pursuant to Rule 91(5), that the government table a comprehensive response to the report within 120 days of its presentation. Today with your indulgence, my colleagues and I would like to read some portions of our report into the record.

Introduction and Background

The first Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut was tabled on November 27, 2001. This followed the tabling of Nunavut's first set of Public Accounts on May 29, 2001. Under the Nunavut Act, the Auditor General of Canada is responsible for auditing the Government of Nunavut's financial transactions and financial statements. The Auditor General also performs this function federally, as well as in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Each year, the Auditor General prepares a report to the Legislative Assembly in which management issues that arise during the course of the annual audit are brought to the attention of elected MLAs. The Government is provided with the opportunity to make management responses to the Auditor General's observations and recommendations.

The Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has the mandate to review the Public Accounts and the Report of the Auditor General. Standing Committee reviews of such reports as those presented by the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Languages Commissioner provide an opportunity for the issues raised by each independent office to be discussed in a transparent manner. Government accountability is fostered through the requirement in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly that the Government table a comprehensive response to the Standing Committee's report and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

The Standing Committee held meetings on February 5 and 6, 2002, to review the Auditor General's 2001 report. These meetings were open to the public and media to observe, and were broadcast on local cable television. In addition to providing an opportunity for the Auditor General to appear before the Committee to speak to the issues raised in her report, Committee Members were able to pose questions to senior Government of Nunavut officials on the management responses to the Auditor General's

recommendations. English and Inuktitut transcripts of the meetings are being prepared and will be made available on the website of the Legislative Assembly.

Acknowledgements

The Standing Committee would like to express its appreciation to Mrs. Sheila Fraser, the Auditor General of Canada, for appearing in person before the Committee to present and discuss her first annual report. The Committee would also like to thank the following officials from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG): Mr. Ronald Thompson, Assistant Auditor General; Mr. Dale Shier, Director; and Mr. Roger Simpson, Principal. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the witnesses from the Government of Nunavut who appeared before the Committee in order to respond to questions posed by Members:

Mr. Robert Vardy, Deputy Minister of Finance and Comptroller General; Mr. Rod Malcolm, Assistant Comptroller General; Mr. Alex Campbell, Deputy Minister of Sustainable Development; Mr. Ross Mrazek, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Services; Mr. Andrew Johnston, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services; Ms. Terryll Allen, Department of Sustainable Development; and Mr. Don Maychruk, Department of Health and Social Services. Senior officials from the Nunavut Development Corporation were unable to appear before the Committee because of flight cancellations resulting from inclement Kivalliq weather.

Observations and Recommendations

General Issues

The Auditor General's 2001 Report presented sixteen recommendations directed to the Government of Nunavut. The Standing Committee undertook a chapter-by-chapter review of the Auditor General's report, posing questions and comments to appropriate Government of Nunavut witnesses at each stage.

During her appearance before the Standing Committee, Members enjoyed a productive exchange with the Auditor General on a number of broad themes. In particular, Members noted with approval her observations concerning the need for governments to introduce performance measures that take into account outcomes, and not simply outputs.

The Government of Nunavut began tabling annual business plans of departments and other entities for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. However, less progress has been made with respect to implementing a government-wide system for evaluating its performance and results, and for making this information public in the Legislative Assembly.

The timing of the Auditor General's appearance in early 2002 is noteworthy. On February 21, 2001, the 5th Session of the Legislative Assembly was opened with an announcement during the Throne Speech that the Government would be undertaking a Program Review exercise.

The Government stated that: "In the coming months, the financial and program experience gathered in the first two years of Nunavut's operations will be examined. The integrity of our programs and expenditures will be tested against the expressed concerns of this Assembly and the people of Nunavut, through a process of Program Review. This review will bring together our stated priorities with the financial and program experience of our first years. Our goal will be to use this knowledge to effectively re-shape our institutions and activities to better respond to the needs of Nunavummiut."

In May 2001, the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly tabled a joint report in which a number of critical questions concerning Program Review were raised. These remain relevant, and are attached to this report as an appendix. It is the Standing Committee's understanding that the 2002-2003 Main Estimates, which are not scheduled to be introduced until after the new fiscal year has begun, will take into account the Program Review process to date. It is the Standing Committee's expectation that the issues raised by Members will be addressed in the Government's decisions and spending proposals.

The Auditor General made a number of valuable comments with respect to Program Review in other jurisdictions. Members noted her observations regarding the present structure of the Government of Nunavut. Members also raised the important issue of the social and economic costs to Nunavut that may be incurred as a consequence of the Government's inability to deliver essential services because of such factors as a lack of staff housing and high turnover within departments.

Standing Committee Recommendation #1: That the Government of Nunavut table, on an annual basis, performance reports for each of its departments, boards and agencies. These performance reports should reflect not only expenditures and outputs, but results and outcomes. In some cases, these may complement existing statutory reporting requirements.

Standing Committee Recommendation #2: That the Government of Nunavut table, during the Spring 2002 Session of the Legislative Assembly, a report on the progress to date of the Program Review initiative.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

The Standing Committee engaged in a productive dialogue with Department of Finance officials on issues related to the timeliness and format of financial statements. Members noted that the Government is, at present, technically in violation of the law, given that the 2000-2001 territorial accounts were to have been tabled prior to December 31, 2001. Members also noted that the annual reports of several crown corporations and other entities have not been tabled in the Legislative Assembly in a timely manner. For example, the annual reports of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Nunavut Power Corporation are, at this point, long overdue.

Members noted with approval the commitment on the part of the departmental witnesses to the principle of improving both the timeliness and the comprehensiveness of financial documentation. Members were also pleased that the department's officials agreed with the need to improve the compatibility of estimates documentation with the information contained in the public accounts. Members also appreciated the commitment to increasing the number of supplementary tables in the public accounts.

However, Members were disappointed with the department's prediction that the level of detail in the Government of Nunavut's second set of financial statements would not be dramatically better than in the first year.

It should be noted that the Standing Committee has been recommending for some time that improvements be made in the level of detail in estimates documentation. Members were pleased to note that the 2001-2002 main estimates were substantially better than those of previous years in this respect. The ability to compare previous years' actual expenditures to current projections is a crucial tool for legislators during the budget process.

Members also raised concerns regarding the perceived transparency of the Government's contracting processes, as well as the need to account for the Government's grants and contributions expenditures.

Standing Committee Recommendation #3: That the Government continue to improve the level of detail presented each year in its estimates documentation and in its financial statements. With respect to the 2002-2003 main estimates, the Standing Committee recommends that information be provided at the detail object level in the areas of compensation and benefits and contract services.

Standing Committee Recommendation #4: That the 2000-2001 Public Accounts include a comprehensive schedule of grants and contributions made by the Government of Nunavut.

Standing Committee Recommendation #5: That the Government increase its efforts to ensure that crown corporations and other entities such as Nunavut Arctic College improve their performance in meeting statutory deadlines for tabling annual reports and financial statements in the Legislative Assembly. The Committee expects to see all outstanding statutory tabling requirements met by December 31, 2002.

Standing Committee Recommendation #6: That the Government table, on an annual basis, beginning with the fiscal year 2000-2001, a comprehensive list of tenders awarded by GN departments, boards and agencies; the value of the tenders awarded; the identity of the successful bidder; and the value of all bids received in the tender process. The Standing Committee further recommends that the Government table, on an annual basis, beginning with the fiscal year 2000-2001, a comprehensive list of all RFPs issued by GN departments, boards and agencies; the results of each RFP process, including the value of the contract awarded and the identity of the successful proponent.

Standing Committee Recommendation #7: That the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to allow for the "back door" tabling and subsequent review of such documents as the Public Accounts during times when the Assembly is not in Session.

Standing Committee Recommendation #8: That the Departments of Finance and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth work together in developing standardized terminology related to financial and budget management.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to turn the reading of the report over to one of my colleagues on the Committee, Mr. Arvaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chapter 2 - Accountability: Reviewing Government Operations

With respect to the concerns raised by the Auditor General in relation to the Nunavut Development Corporation (NDC), it should be noted that Standing Committees, in their May 2001 Joint Report, raised the issue of the Nunavut Development Corporation not receiving a clean audit for 1999-2000. Although Development Corporation officials were unable to attend the February 5 meeting, the Committee looks forward to meeting with NDC staff at a later date to receive a full update on efforts being made to address the Auditor General's concerns.

The Standing Committee notes that the Government has committed to reviewing the Corporation, and looks forward to receiving the results of this review. The Committee also noted comments made by the Department of Sustainable Development with respect to having detailed information on job creation expenditures on the part of the NDC being available in the near future. The Committee also looks forward to receiving this information.

The Committee also noted that Department of Finance officials indicated that reviews of the revolving funds are presently underway. Members noted that the government-wide Program Review exercise is expected to consider the broader issues of utility price subsidies.

With respect to over-expenditures made by the Department of Health and Social Services in 1999-2000, Members noted with interest a reference made by Government witnesses concerning this problem with the department in the first two years of operation. Members will be attentive to the 2000-2001 Public Accounts in this regard.

The Committee is aware of longstanding problems associated with the control of health expenditures, especially in relation to such issues as medical travel. The Committee noted, for example, a 1992 comprehensive audit conducted by the OAG of the GNWT's

Department of Health in which this issue was discussed. The Committee will be asking over the coming year whether board dissolution has, in fact, fostered better financial management in the area of health and social services.

Standing Committee Recommendation #9: That the results of the Government's reviews of revolving funds, utility price subsidies and the Nunavut Development Corporation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly prior to December 31, 2002.

Standing Committee Recommendation #10: That the Government's Program Review exercise identify options for addressing the ongoing problems associated with over-expenditures and deficits in the Department of Health and Social Services, and that these options be presented to the Legislative Assembly for consideration.

(interpretation) I will now have Mr. Iqaqrialu read chapter three. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chapter 3 - Government Financial Health

No specific OAG recommendations or GN management responses contained in chapter 3.

The Standing Committee engaged in a wide-ranging dialogue with Government witnesses on the themes of sound budgeting practices and the need for the Government to live within its means.

Members raised a number of concerns related to the financial health of the Government, including the outstanding issue of pay equity. Members noted that the recently tabled Public Service Annual Report identifies the issue as having "serious financial implications for the GN."

While appreciating the efforts of the Government of Nunavut to obtain additional revenues from the federal government, Members stressed the need for the Government to work towards less instability in its budget projections, noting that the multi-million dollar deficit projected in the 2001 Budget Address turned into a significant surplus by the end of the year. Members stressed the need for decision-makers to have sound figures upon which to determine spending priorities. These priorities must reflect the need to achieve the Bathurst Mandate goals of a self-reliant, well-educated, healthy society.

Speaker: We need a quorum. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to rest.

On the revenue side of the fiscal equation, Members noted the importance of revenue growth keeping pace with expenditure growth. Members also queried whether the 1% payroll tax inherited from the NWT is worth the cost of administration, and whether it is fulfilling its original function of capturing a measure of revenue from non-resident workers in the jurisdiction.

Standing Committee Recommendation #11: With the adoption of the Tax-on-Income system (TONI) in 2001, the Government of Nunavut has increased flexibility in building a tax system that better meets the needs of Nunavummiut. The Committee recommends that the Government develop options in such areas as tax credits and the number of tax brackets. The Committee's recommendations made during consideration of the TONI initiative in the fall 2001 Session remain applicable.

I will now turn the report back to Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chapter 4 - Building Good Financial Management

The Standing Committee raised a number of issues flowing from the Auditor General's report. The Standing Committee noted that an evaluation project of the Government's decentralization initiative is presently being conducted by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Members look forward to receiving the results of this evaluation, given the importance of decentralization to Nunavut's communities.

Members noted the importance that the Auditor General has placed on the Government strengthening its internal audit and evaluation capacity, and increasing the number of financial management staff. Members also note the importance of the Government conducting periodic audits on crown corporations to ensure compliance with established procedures, and sound stewardship of public money. Although Members noted that the Department of Finance has plans to recruit additional accounting staff, it was alarming for Members to learn that there may not actually be any housing available for these newly hired individuals.

Members remain unconvinced that the Government has an effective plan to address the critical staff housing shortage in Iqaluit and in smaller communities, while noting that the responsibility for addressing this issue now appears to fall under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Members have noted that job advertisements for positions outside of Iqaluit appear to increasingly indicate that the positions are ineligible for staff housing. Members are concerned that the Government's inability to fill its positions will result in an over-reliance on consultants performing critical functions.

Members stressed the need for the Government to work in partnership with such entities as Nunavut Arctic College in developing training programs in the area of financial

management. Members also stressed the need for training programs to build on the life experiences and skills of residents. Members pointed towards the recently established Akitsiraq Law School as being a potential model for training programs that respect the circumstances of Nunavummiut in providing a quality education that is accompanied by the resources that allow for students to focus on their studies. Members pointed out that many training programs in the past have not been successful, due to high dropout rates caused by students not having the resources to support their families while enrolled.

Standing Committee Recommendation #12: That the results of the Government's decentralization evaluation be provided to the Standing Committee for review.

Standing Committee Recommendation #13: That the Government allocate the necessary resources to developing training programs in the area of financial management, so that capacity gaps can be filled. Training programs must take into account the circumstances facing students attempting to study and survive in the Canadian jurisdiction with the highest cost of living.

Standing Committee Recommendation #14: That the Government bring forward a plan in 2002 to address the staff housing shortage across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to turn the reading of the report over to my colleague Ms. Williams. Thank you.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chapter 5 - The Environment

The Standing Committee appreciated the opportunity to hear from the Department of Sustainable Development on this issue. Members also appreciated the Department's willingness to identify this as a priority area. However, Members remain unclear as to why it may take so long to undertake the necessary work. Members also drew the Government's attention to the linkages between this issue and the pending mine closures in the High Arctic. Members further note from the Public Accounts that no dollar figures have yet been calculated with respect to the potential costs to the Government for environmental restoration.

Given the federal role in reaching solutions on this issue, the Standing Committee would wish to see the Office of the Auditor General make recommendations at the federal level on the need to move forward.

Standing Committee Recommendation #15: That the Government table an environmental action plan with concrete timelines prior to the end of 2002. The action plan should prioritize the clean up of sites that pose the most immediate threat to the health of Nunavummiut.

Chapter 6 - Lease or Buy?

(interpretation ends) The Standing Committee was deeply concerned with the findings of the Auditor General in this area. Members note the irony of holding a public hearing within the Legislative Assembly on the issue of leases, given that the legislature is itself a leased property with no clear ownership resolution at the end of the lease period. Members have raised the issue of leases in the House on previous occasions.

The Standing Committee noted the Government's acceptance of the Auditor General's findings and recommendations. The Committee fully expects the Government to make good on its commitment to provide better information in the estimates documentation, including the 2002-2003 main estimates. The Committee also expects the Government to develop and table a clear policy regarding leasing activities before the mid-point of the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The Committee also desires to receive a copy of the agreement that was signed in Rankin Inlet in late 2001 regarding the development of a regional health facility in the community.

The Standing Committee was particularly disappointed with the witnesses' responses concerning the proposed new health facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Although a global figure of approximately 80 million for the three projects has now been floated, Members were frustrated with the lack of firm information on this file. Members did note with approval repeated assurances on the part of the Government that it will carefully scrutinize financing options prior to making binding commitments. Members are also of the view that the current review of the NNI Policy may have an impact on the Government's practices in this area.

Standing Committee Recommendation #16: That the Government table a comprehensive list of leased properties as of March 31, 2002, including information on the entities from whom the properties have been leased; the length of the leases; and the total cost of each lease.

Standing Committee Recommendation #17: That the Government bring forward financing options regarding the three regional health facilities for consideration by the Legislative Assembly prior to making binding commitments.

Now I will turn it over to my colleague, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will go on to the conclusion of this report.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee's public review of the Auditor General's first Report to the Legislative Assembly was a milestone in Nunavut's progression towards building a Government that is equal to or better than those in other Canadian jurisdictions with respect to transparency and accountability in its management of the public purse. Over the coming year, the Committee will be closely monitoring the Government's progress in fulfilling its commitments and responding to the Committee's recommendations.

The Standing Committee would also draw attention to section 47 of the Nunavut Act, which states:

47. At the request of the Commissioner, made on the advice of the Executive Council and with the agreement of the Governor in Council, the auditor of Nunavut may, if in the auditor's opinion it does not interfere with the auditor's primary responsibilities, inquire into and report to the Assembly
- (a) on any matter relating to the financial affairs of Nunavut or to public property in Nunavut; or
 - (b) on any person or organization that has received or is seeking financial aid from the Government of Nunavut.

Prior to the dissolution of the first Legislative Assembly, the Standing Committee will be considering priority areas in which to recommend that this option be exercised. From time to time, such comprehensive audits serve to not only strengthen accountability in government, but to identify solutions and "best practices" that can be put to use in the service of Nunavummiut. The Standing Committee would again wish to thank the OAG and Government of Nunavut witnesses for their attendance and contributions.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. At this time I would like to move that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House as read. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members agree that the Standing Committee report be received and adopted by the House and that it be entered into the record as read? Thank you.

Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 089 – 1(5): Annual Report of the Director of Medical Insurance for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to table the following document. The Annual Report of the Director of Medical Insurance for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Havioyak.

Tabled Document 090 – 1(5): Coppermine River - Nomination Document

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. As per my Member's Statement, I am tabling the Coppermine River Nomination document. I encourage the members to look through the document. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Thompson.

Tabled Document 091 – 1(5): Whale Cove Outward Bound Program and Cultural Enhancement Camp**Tabled Document 092 – 1(5): Nunavut Heritage Centre in Rankin Inlet**

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. One from Whale Cove entitled, Whale Cove Outward Bound Program and Cultural Enhancement Camp. I also have another one from Rankin that is a very well prepared research proposal for a Nunavut Heritage Centre in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

Tabled Document 093 - 1(5): 2000/2001 Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table this document "2000/ 2001 Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Tabled Document 67 - 1(5), Motion 21 - 1(5) and Bill 15 - 1(5) with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair.

In the accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 002-1(5), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 15 minute break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 3.32 p.m. and resumed at 4.58 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. Before we begin the Committee of the Whole, I have some comments to make regarding the Committee of the Whole proceeding from yesterday.

Committee of the Whole Ruling

On March 5th during the Committee of the Whole proceedings Member Tootoo raised a Point of Privilege against Member Thompson by stating, I quote, "The member just indicated that three members said that they weren't going to opt into this plan because they wanted to get re-elected."

In preparation for my ruling, we listened to the tapes of March 5th Committee of the Whole proceedings, in both English and Inuktitut including the translation and reviewed the Hansards.

Based on this review, at no time did Member Thompson nor the interpreter translators state that three members said that they weren't going to opt into the plan because they wanted to get re-elected.

Therefore, my ruling is that there is no point of privilege.

The committee will now come to order. We will be dealing with Bill 15, Motion 21-1 (5). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to deal with Bill 15 and if possible we will deal with Motion 21-1 (5). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Do we agree that we'll deal with Bill 15 and Motion 21? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is he saying, if possible we'll deal with Motion 21 or are we talking about a motion to extend the hours? Or are we going to be dealing with Motion 21-1 (5) before 6:00. If I remember, I think the Speaker said that we would stay in Committee of the Whole until it reports itself out.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Speaker did not state that, so you can go ahead. If you have a motion, then you can go beyond 6:00 otherwise we'll finish at 6:00. Thank you. Is that okay?

I'm sorry, I am informed that the Speaker did say that we would continue until we finish with our business. But if there is a member that wants to report progress before that, we'll do a vote. Do we agree that we will deal with Bill 15 and Motion 21-1 (5)?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Minister responsible for Bill 15, do you have opening comments, Minister Kattuk?

Bill 15 – Technical Standards and Safety Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will read it in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to address questions on the Technical Standards and Safety Act that has been put forward by the Department Public Works and Services.

Mr. Chairman, after the creation of Nunavut in April 1999, my department made it a priority to revise inherited legislation in order to reflect advances in technology over the past 13 years.

Reviews and revisions also allow the Government of Nunavut to take a position on electrical and mechanical safety issues. Mr. Chairman, the proposed new Technical Standards and Safety Act sets out rules, responsibilities and acceptable practices for safe installation of boiler and pressure vessels, gas and electrical systems in Nunavut.

Elements of safety and acceptable installations and practices are basically the same for electrical systems, boiler and pressure vessels, gas and elevating devices. This is the main reason why the new Act combines the three existing acts into one.

Combining the Act reflects directions taken by other jurisdictions in Canada. Ontario and British Columbia have already taken steps to combine similar legislation in their jurisdictions.

Having to update one Act instead of three makes it easier for the Government of Nunavut to make minor revisions if required. Mr. Chairman, one major change in the new legislation gives contractors more responsibility for the quality of their work.

The need for inspectors often results in delays in power connections permission to install wiring and approval to start equipment. These delays often affect time-critical projects. With the responsibility to meet requirements of the Act and its regulations, contractors will see more timely approvals for power connections and equipment used.

Most codes in Canada change in four-year cycles and each code change requires changes to legislation. The new Act allows a system of codes by updating regulations to reflect the code changes. New legislation will not be required to deal with each change.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your attention and of the committee. I will welcome any questions committee members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chair of the committee have any opening remarks? Glenn.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, and I'll make this short and sweet.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development is pleased to have had the opportunity to review Bill 15, the Technical Standards and Safety Act, with the Minister of Public Works and Services and his officials.

Members will recall that this Bill received second reading in the House on November 26, 2001.

Mr. Chairman, the Technical Standards and Safety Act combines the Electrical Protection Act, Gasoline Protection Act, and Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act into a single Act.

The committee notes that several other jurisdictions across Canada have also decided to take this approach, including Alberta and Ontario.

The committee is pleased to see the Department working to reduce duplication in legislation in order to achieve a more streamlined system. In addition, this approach creates a new Act from the ground up, resulting in a statute that will be available in both English and Inuktitut. The committee strongly encourages the minister to ensure that all regulations flowing from the Act be produced in both languages, as well.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is pleased to note that certification requirements will take many factors into account above and beyond just paper qualifications. As members are aware, many knowledgeable and experienced people live in Nunavut who are competent and able to do many different jobs. It is important that practical, real-life experience be given due credit, and the committee encourages the Department to ensure that the regulations reflect this.

Mr. Chairman, this Act is groundbreaking in many ways. For that reason, the committee recommends that the minister formally report back to the House a year from now on the implementation of the Bill and its regulations, their impact on contractors, the number of contractors certified under the new regulations, and any areas that may require enhancement.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is pleased to note the provisions in the Bill that will allow contractors to take on a self-regulatory role. Due to a relatively short construction season, it is important that projects in Nunavut be able to move ahead with a minimum of delay. This new system will allow contractors, based on past performance, to work in a timelier manner without waiting for inspections.

Mr. Chairman, the committee understands that the technical nature of this Bill requires that extensive regulation making powers be given to the minister. However, the committee is concerned that increasing the amount of regulations while reducing the content of statutes can result in the diminishment of the democratic process.

It is for this reason that the committee is pleased with the Minister's commitment to provide copies of the new regulations to the Committee for review prior to their coming into effect.

It is important to note that as Acts become increasingly technical, more substantive elements of policy are creeping into regulations. It is important that elected legislators be provided with the opportunity to scrutinize the proposed regulations in the same way that we scrutinize Bills. We encourage the practice of providing draft regulations to Committees of this House.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee recognizes that the department has conducted stakeholder consultations and appreciates the Minister's candour as to outcome of those consultations. The Committee realizes that it is difficult to satisfy all parties when safety is an issue and is pleased to see the Department striking a balance between safety and efficiency. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to work towards achieving consensus as they complete draft regulations.

Mr. Chairman, The Standing Committee recommended that the Department look at establishing a body to hear appeals, choose new codes, make decisions regarding certification and incorporate Inuit Qaujimatjuqangit. In response the Minister indicated that funds are not presently available for such a Committee. However as Nunavut develops and the private sector expands with more contractors, it may be important to pay close attention to this issue and perhaps form a committee for these purposes at a later date.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee recommends the passage of the Bill to all Members. Individual Members may have questions and comments as we proceed.

On that Mr. Chairman I'd like to say that this Bill is a Safety issue Bill. I think it is out there to protect the residents of Nunavut. It doesn't have to deal with standards and criteria on behalf of the department coming forward with new standards and criteria. I think it is a good Bill to protect the residents of Nunavut from sloppy work and accidents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister you are able to take your seat at the witness table. Who will be joining you? I would like to ask the Minister if he could bring in his witnesses. Agreed. Sergeant-At-Arms please bring in the witnesses.

Welcome Mr. Minister and please introduce your witnesses so that the members will know who you are sitting with. So please introduce your witnesses. Thank you.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is the Deputy Minister for Public Works and on my left Ed Zebedee who is in charge of safety.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome. Before we go on to questions I would like to ask the Committee if they have general comments. When we are dealing with Bills in Committee of the Whole each Member has 10 minutes to make general comments and after general comments we will be dealing with questions. Welcome Ms. Cooper. Does the Committee have any general comments? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly. The inspectors that do the inspections on electrical equipment. I think it was stated yesterday that we have to spend our money wisely, six million is a not a lot of money, and we spend a lot of money on inspectors.

Mr. Speaker, I raise this question because in the communities there are a lot of technicians that are certified, living in Nunavut. Some technicians work on furnaces and so on. Are they starting to certify individuals or people in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To respond to Mr. Arvaluk's question, this bill was put together so that it better reflects Nunavut. The Technical Standards and Safety Act was put forward and it was amended from the former grandfathered Act of the former government. I'll get Ed Zebedee to respond to Mr. Arvaluk's question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: The department does not certify any individual. Certification comes from the Department of Education and the Apprenticeship Training Branch. All we do is inspections and as far as inspectors go, all inspectors must be certified as a trade's person in the discipline that they do the inspections in.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I understand then, if a person, a tradesman is certified by the Department of Education in the community, that person can be

assigned by the Public Works to be an inspector for buildings or other installations that's being done in the community rather than importing Public Works inspectors from outside of the community. Is that what you're saying? Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're on general comments at the moment. Mr. Arvaluk if it's okay with you after general comments he can get back to and you could raise that question. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, minister and your witnesses. I just want to make a brief comment.

Whenever you see an Act like this, it takes a load off your shoulders because this is a safety policy for the workers. For example, when they are putting up an electrical system and plumbing, they have to be inspected to see if they're put in properly.

That is why it is good to see Acts like this and when these workers have journeymen certificates I think those should be looked into carefully because it show that person is a journeyman.

Because when a person is assigned to inspect a certain project it tells you that you can inspect the work that's been done before. If for instance, a new building is finished and it's not inspected by a certified inspector, when are you going to know if that building is safe to live in?

Like James mentioned earlier, when you're hiring someone from outside of Nunavut, you bring him up there. You have to make sure this person is a certified inspector because it says it in the policy. This inspector cannot be an inspector unless you have a certificate. That's why I'm making a comment on this.

We're going to be discussing this Act. I think it's straightforward. I just want to inform the departments and make sure that the people who are coming up to Nunavut to work, we have to make sure that these people don't have criminal records and are certified inspectors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are there any general comments. If there are not, we'll move on to the next question. Mr. Arvaluk, you can raise the question that you tried raising earlier seeing that there are no more general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if you have a certified tradesman in town, this person can be assigned by your department to act on your behalf to do some inspection of particular type whatever the trade is. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will again, give the microphone to Mr. Zebedee who was going to be responding. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: We have made provisions for municipalities or Hamlets to take on the role of doing inspections within their Hamlet. But we have kept the responsibility of appointing inspectors with the minister. An inspector that is appointed has some legal requirements that they have to meet.

So we've left the appointment of inspectors to the minister but we have allowed wording in the proposed regulations to allow each Hamlet or municipality to take on inspection duties themselves if they have qualified people and they want to do it.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you. Last question. A quick small comment before my question Mr. Chairman. It seems that when it comes to regulations, technical or otherwise, or legal, in the Department of Justice, there are no rules for let's say saving some money, of the government budget. Everything has to be up to par, up to code or up to standard or up to whatever. The codes are there for us to follow.

Whereas in other areas of programs, like education, not so much health, but other programs, economic development, are flexible depending what we can afford. My point Mr. Chairman, is there any way in the Department of Public Works through Bill 15, that the costs could be cut down by allocating those responsibilities locally, if there is such a person certified.

If you answer, through the regulations yes, then we will use them to get this information out to all the Hamlets that if they do wish, they can do so and you would be whatever the section or clause is, at least you would cut down on travel costs for your department. Qujannamiik.

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

Mr. Zebedee: When it comes to inspectors, I don't think that we can change how an inspector is appointed. Where we anticipate savings for the government is in the areas of trades' people. We have settlement maintainers that under the existing legislation cannot do work because they don't have an electrical ticket, or a boiler ticket.

We anticipate under the new legislation, to allow those people to do restricted work in their communities, and that would save the communities and the government money. When you talk about codes, I would just like to make an example, we are studying a new code that is out right now and the impact of the Government of Nunavut. One section in that code we estimate will cost this government a half a million dollars a year if we go with that code.

We have decided not to implement that section of the code. It is only a maintenance portion. So one of the things that this new Act and regulations do, will allow us to pick and choose the best pieces for our government and for our territory. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little bit more optimistic than the department. Because I come from a smaller community and I know there are trades people in town who I believe get a few contracts once in a while. I am not talking about the maintenance people from the Hamlet, I know most of them have been working there for 30 odd years without actual trades training, it is mostly from experience, although some of them aren't one of the best, the mechanics and etc.

I am talking about the electrical journeymen trades' people, pipefitting and plumbing and etc. These people are available in some of the communities. My question was very simple Mr. Chairman. Will you be seeking or at least letting the communities and Hamlets know that you will be conducting an inspection in that particular community, do you have available in your population, in your town, a person who could do this and that with these trades' certificates with them that would qualify them to be appointed by the minister if the community knows about it. Qujannamiik.

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

Mr. Zebedee: We have a provision in the regulations to allow any Hamlet or municipality to take on the responsibility of doing inspections within their boundaries. The person would have to be qualified but if the municipality wanted to and the person was available, we have allowed that in the regulations, the minister could then make the appointment, and they would be fully able to do the inspections within their communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I was trying to say was, in the best of times, the community doesn't know when the Public Works inspector is coming into town. They just come in with no regard to how much it will cost the government to transport that person, put them in a hotel, and do the inspection for a couple of houses and he goes out.

I'm saying at least the public can participate in cost reduction programs, or at least control the costs that the government is spending by looking at options, letting the community know that we have inspections to do. Do you have somebody there, if not, we'll come in. At least give them that notification. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to Mr. Arvaluk's comments, that has occurred in the previous government days. What we're trying to do is make an amendment to the Act so that it is more Nunavut relevant and easier to handle at the government level.

We are making a change so that the communities will be able to use the people at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, that's it? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to touch on the journeymen specification, I know we have lots of them Nunavut traveling from different provinces, probably from the states too. Do you have some type of tracking system, where it says, yes this individual is certified to do electrical work or plumbing.

Just to be comfortable here, something that says anybody that comes from the south has to carry with them their certificate. Just to make sure, just to follow up on that, how does that work? Just to make sure that yes, this is a journeyman in this area, plumbing, an electrician. How does that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: When an individual comes to Nunavut to do work, they have a journeyman certificate that is issued from any jurisdiction outside of Nunavut or the Northwest Territories, we request a copy of that certificate.

We do up a letter that we send to the province or territory that they came from. We verify that that individual, along with their social insurance number is who he says he is and that he does have a license and that his license has never been suspended or revoked and then we issue them a Nunavut registration number and all dealings with that individual are based on that number after that point.

They cannot work or obtain permits until they are issued that number from us.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Zebedee. I have no other names on my list. We will go clause by clause. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is partly a general comment and a question. There a quite a number of journeymen trades people out there in the communities. In regards to boilers, most houses use them and we have boiler technicians in the communities. They are people who can service the boilers and I think the Government of Nunavut should use the Hamlet offices so that they will have a list of qualified names in that community and it would save you expenses.

Do you do such things?

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue was touched upon earlier. If there are people with journeymen tickets at the community level, we

could go through the Hamlet office if we require the services of that person for an inspection or anything else.

As long as they have a licence or a certificate, we can utilize that person who is already at the community level to provide inspection services for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister. I have no other names on my list. I would like to go clause by clause. Technical Standards and Safety Act. Bill 15. 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. Page 2. Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 8. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 9. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 10. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 11. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 12. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 13. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 14. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 15. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 16. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 17. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 18. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 19. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 20. Agreed. On Clause 20. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Just a question Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure about this Clause 20. (interpretation ends) It mentions wrongful act or omission of the inspector or the Chief inspector. How do you prove this? What method do you use to determine the negligence on the part of the inspector? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. To the question. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: Negligence would be determined by the courts. The inspectors do not. If somebody feels that an inspector by not doing due diligence or negligence is responsible for a loss. They have the opportunity to address it through the courts and then the courts would then identify it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else. Mr. Arvaluk. Thank you. Clause 20. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 21. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 22. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 23. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 24. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 25. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 26. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 27. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any opposition. Carried. Clause 28. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 29. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 30. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 31. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 32. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 33. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 34. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 35. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 36. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 37. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 38.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 39.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 40. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 41. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 42. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I didn't hear you say 41. You went from 40 to 42.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I believe. Clause 41. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, sometimes the problem arises after 30 days of the inspection on some buildings. For example if the inspector comes in after the area has been sealed or drywall has been installed and the inspector comes in then something was wrong with the electrical later on, after 30 days, once the building has dampened or the washer has overflowed or whatever.

Why is this appearing with the court within 30 days? Why is it a very short, you know, time frame. Is it to protect the inspector or what's the purpose of only 30 days? Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: Clause 41 has nothing to do with inspections. Clause 41 deals with after an inspector has issued, or a chief inspector has had a hearing, into these items covered under 40 or previous items. If the person does not agree with the determination of the chief inspector, we have put in a clause that he can appeal to the Nunavut Court of Justice and he may have the chief inspector's decision overturned depending on the judgement of the Court of Justice.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 41. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 42. Agreed

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 43. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 44. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 45. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 46. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 47. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any opposition. Carried. Clause 48. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 49. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 50. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 51. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 52. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 53. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 54. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 55. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 56. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I don't want to make a general question but on the 56 on the regulations, it's fairly lengthy. Is this where Mr. Zebedee, is this where the minister will be making a regulation respecting the authority that can be given to the Hamlet to be an agent on your behalf to appoint not appoint but at least recommend a local inspector, certified tradesmen that the minister can appoint. Is this where the regulation comes in?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: In the regulations, and I have got to that point in the regulations, we have put a clause in that allows the municipalities who want to take on the function of doing inspections to request to the minister if they have a person that's qualified, that person be appointed by the minister, to do inspections within that community.

The community would be bound by all the legal requirements that the government is bound by for the safety of its citizens. These regulations are where we are putting that. Yes.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will these regulations be reviewed by the committee or at least be available to the community so they will know what they are bound by. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: All government statutes and regulations are available to any person that wants them. We have taken the time already to have this Act translated which is one of the first pieces of legislation that I'm aware of that we've inherited from the Northwest Territories that has been done. We are working to translate it so that all the communities will be able to have copies of it.

And yes, the communities will all be given the opportunity to obtain copies of the Act and regulations.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Clause 56. I apologise. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My questions have already been brought up by Mr. Arvaluk. So I'll leave it at that.

Chairperson (interpretation): What was that again?

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): The questions that I was going to ask have already been brought up. I'm okay now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 56. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 57. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 58. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. It says here, repeal. What are they going to repeal? Could this be clarified? Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: The existing legislation that covers the items dealt with by Bill 15 is the Electrical Protection Act, the Boiler Pressure Vessel Act and the Gas Protection Act. These existing acts have been amalgamated into this one Act and we'll be repealing them when the regulations are ready and this Act is signed into force.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once these acts are repealed, we won't have any Acts for these other issues. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Zebedee.

Mr. Zebedee: Bill 15, this Act in front of you has these items in this bill. What we're doing is we've developed one Act to cover all these three things and when we're ready, we'll be repealing these three Acts that we've inherited from the Northwest Territories.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Clause 58. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 59. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. The bill as a whole. Do you agree that the bill is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The bill is now ready for third reading.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for being at the witness table and I would like to thank the Minister and his officials Mr. Mrazek and Mr. Zebedee. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue on with Motion 21 – 1(5). Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will deal with this motion. Mr. Minister are you going to remain at the witness table or bring in other officials.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): We will remain at the witness table and I am just going to bring another witness in to replace Mr. Zebedee. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Motion 21 – 1(5). Are there any comments from the members? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too many comments to make on this issue, but we didn't complete the gasoline issue. Therefore, I would ask to continue with the questioning, if there are further questions. If not, I would like to excuse the witnesses from the table.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq for reminding me that this is a continuation from our previous deliberation on this issue. I don't know how long we are going to deal with this, but are there any comments or questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just thinking that at this time, I know the issue of gasoline quality is not going to stop right away as I am sure there are going to be other communities experiencing the same problems. So perhaps Members of the Legislative Assembly can keep deliberating on this in the future.

Perhaps I could ask the officials if they expect to see the continuation of this poor quality of gasoline. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Who is going to respond? Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Iqaqrialu's question, I don't think I understood it completely. I was wondering if he could re-phrase his question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu could you re-phrase your question? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We expect to keep receiving correspondence from the residents of Nunavut and from our constituents. Even if we have

finished this will we have another opportunity to deal with this issue again if it arises in the future?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Yes, we will continue to have that opportunity even though the session is over. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Hansard on Monday, there were some answers by Mr. Wispinski in several pages of questions and answers. I don't mean to be critical however, it seems the members were exploring what may be the cause of the gasoline to be different this year.

However most of the answers seem to point to that we have not tested for this, we have not tested for that. If we test all of them any kind of suspicion, then it would be very expensive. I guess my question then is, are you, I will use this scenario for a second.

Everybody makes pizza, chilli, spaghetti, when something is missing or something is too much in terms of spice, we know. In this case we don't know if it is too much or too little of something in the gas. Isn't there a test that you can do or the Alberta Research Council can do to determine from several tests not a whole lot, to find out something appeared? Or something didn't appear that is supposed to be similar to last year's contents or lack of it.

Is there anything in this area that you can determine not accidentally but you're your substantive knowledge that something is missing or something is too much or something that is added that is new. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Wispinski cannot be here today. In regards to Mr. Arvaluk's comments, I know that when we add too much spice to the food that we notice if there is too much spice or not enough spice. Along that line the results that came in with the testing of the gasoline of Nunavut, the results keep coming that gasoline is all right.

We think this laboratory can do a lot more testing for additives or lack of additives. We still haven't received the results from the testing, but we expect to see those results anytime now. We have sent the sample out to England. We don't know if this gasoline has too many additives or not enough additives. But we still haven't received the results as of yet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. I was going to ask those questions so therefore I won't be asking those questions because that researcher is not here. But I would like to ask the minister, that the laboratory that is doing the testing overseas. Once the results arrive according to the contents of the results, will you be releasing a press release on the results of the findings? Why this gasoline had a bad odour and that this gasoline perhaps the colour is so brown. So perhaps then will you be able to report why this happened.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this has been a concern of many communities, we have to inform the communities, and once we find out the results of the testing, we will inform them. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I don't want to hear that the gasoline is fine. The gasoline may be fine, my face is fine too but everybody notices something different. I'm not hurt. It's a scar from a temperature that was not supposed to be around when I was going home.

But at least tell the public that what was suspicion, even if it's fine, but tell us about it. Next question, Mr. Chairman, is can the minister assure Nunavummiut that you will be ordering, this summer from Petro Canada, winter gas, Canadian made fuel to ensure the quality will be good for Nunavut in the winter time.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been hearing the complaints about the quality about the gasoline for quite some time.

NTCL purchases the fuel in bulk to distribute to the communities and the government pays for the fuel that was purchased and distributed to the communities. We'll keep that in mind so that we can purchase fuel that can be used in Nunavut. I'll ask the company that purchases the fuel to look into this issue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, several weeks ago I had wrote the Minister responsible for POL on the constituent concerns with gas, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the minister and his staff for meeting with me and explaining some of the situation around the gas at that time. That's before a lot of the public exposure to the issue around the gas occurred.

Mr. Chairman, yesterday I had a call from the President of the Amarok Hunters' and Trappers' Association here in Iqaluit. He had a specific request that I would ask the minister today and I would like to ask the minister if it's possible for the minister and his good office to make available the specifications of the gas for arctic conditions that we

purchased and if it's possible to make that information available to the Amarok Hunters' and Trappers' Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The quality of gas that we are debating lately will probably be known in the near future after we hear from the overseas testers. I will keep the member's request in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have a question Mr. Iqaqrialu?

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people of Nunavut already know that the quality of gas is not right. There must be something, is there any way of ensuring that we have a good quality gas.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk. We're trying to correct a problem. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): I will get my Deputy Minister to respond to the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask if the member can repeat the question. I heard about half of it but I'd like to be clear. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, can Mr. Iqaqrialu repeat your question. The question that he asked was if there is any way that you can get a better quality of gasoline for the people of Nunavut especially for the Baffin Region.

Mr. Mrazek: We are presently working with a contractor which is NTCL making sure that the specifications and the quality of the gasoline will be set and will be known before anything takes the delivery. We can only specify at this point of time the specification, which is listed in the current contract. But with our discussion with NTCL, they are very aware and fully aware of the problems we are experiencing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister. Yes, we are clear on that now. NTCL should do their testing before they deliver fuel into Nunavut because everybody wants good quality whatever they buy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the other day when the witness was here from the Alberta Research Council, he had indicated when I asked if there was anything different this year over last year in the fuel that was analyzed, he indicated I believe it was the colour and the smell of it.

I'd like to ask the minister or his officials if there is a possibility that something that whatever causes the colour to be the way that it is, it's obviously darker than it usually is. You know if it's something that makes it that colour that could be, you know, some sort of additive or whatever, that makes it darker could be causing the problem.

Are they looking at specifically doing some tests on that to determine if there is something there whether it be, because those are the only two things that are different from before, as the witness had indicated in those two areas that could be causing the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Which one of you? Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry Mr. Wispinski could not be here today but whatever answers he made couple of days ago, I can get my Deputy to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Tootoo, with our discussions with the contractor, with the Alberta Research Council, the colour and the smell it's really subjective. It doesn't go to any tests, any standards and every refinery is basically free to choose or not to choose any colour or smell. So it is not regulated by any norms or specifications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that is what the witness had indicated the other day but what I am saying is that is something that we don't look at when we are doing the studies and the testing of it. If that is the only thing that is different in the test from the fuel that we had last year and this fuel, you know, maybe there is something there. What makes it that colour? What is causing that smell? Could it be whatever is causing that different colour or the smell? Maybe something's there.

Maybe that is causing the problem with the fuel, which is adversely affecting the engines here. It is coating inside of the engine that is plugging of the jets and fuel pumps of snowmobiles and automobiles. Something in there is doing that. And if that is something that we never looked at before and that is the only thing that is different, maybe that is where the problem is. I guess I am looking for, will the department specifically look at those two areas to determine that there isn't anything there that could be causing this problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our dealings with the contractor we are requesting confirmation from the refinery in order to give us some potential answers for

the colour or smell. Our first reply from the contractor was that they are unable to do it from the refinery. So we went back to the contractor, which is NTCL and requesting these things again. We are also besides this stuff, we are also taking samples from the snow machines across Nunavut, directly from the gas tanks of the snow machines.

The Alberta Research Council will be providing additional testing to find what is the cause of the problem. What people are mixing with the gas and find out additional details. We will be able to report back when the samples when they are done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the department ask the Research Council if they could study the gas and see if there is anything in it that cause the change colour or the smell that could be causing the problem.

If we can't get it from the refinery certainly today's technology they should be able to analyse the fuel to that extent. It's pretty narrow. What is causing the problem to cause this colour? Do we have to wait? Will the department direct the Research Council in it's testing to look at those two specific areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In our dealing with the Alberta Research Council we are having discussions and we don't have confirmation from them yet if they are able to determine the colour or the smell. We are having serious discussions with them to try and find the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the Alberta Research Council, I don't know if it's a matter of determining what the colour or the smell is but what's caused the difference in what we usually see in fuel which is a lot lighter and doesn't have the odour that the fuel seems to have this year and it's a lot darker and it stinks.

Whatever is causing that, can they look at what that is and they can't do it, will the department go somewhere else so we can find out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, right now we are dealing with the Alberta Research Council and we'll see what the result will be at that point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you. I appreciate the fact that they are currently working with the Research Council. If they are unable to look specifically at those two issues to determine what's in there that's causing that, will the department look somewhere else to find the answer so that we can determine if there's a problem or if it's not the problem.

If we don't find out we won't know. So, if the Alberta Research Council can't do those tests, will they go somewhere else to get those tests done to find out if that's a problem or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're expecting samples from England. We have requested samples from New Jersey. Now we will have the samples and we have some samples from the Alberta Research Council. The problem here is that the colour and smell has nothing to do with the specifications. We are obviously trying to work with Alberta Research Council to see if they are able to analyse chemically the colour or smell from that point.

We have no proof yet and we don't have anything positive yet. We are just dealing with ARC at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd still like to know if we can't get concrete results from the Alberta Research Council and the analysis and the colour of the fuel and what's causing the colouration and what's causing the smell. I'm fully aware that that's something that's not in the specs, but you know if they can't do it, will they go somewhere else and find somewhere else that can do it so we will be able to draw some closure to it and find out if that's the problem or not.

Either we can say that's it or cross it off the list and look for something else. We need to know. If they can't do it, will they commit to going somewhere that can? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Firstly, I'd like to make a comment. The quality of gasoline, when I first started concerns about this issue, Mr. Tootoo and other members assisted me in getting information. The Deputy Minister is the same person that is dealing with this from the beginning and we did research or sampling.

We were told that there was some sampling being done and we were told that once we received the results, that we would be able to find out what the cause is but I am certain we will get to the bottom of it. I'll get Mr. Kattuk to respond.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The sampling is being done, we've sent samples to England and New Jersey. We won't know the results until

we've received them. That is why samples were sent out, but we don't know when we'll receive the results.

Once this has been cleared, we'll be able to know what the cause was but to date we don't have the results and samples were sent out. So, once we've gotten the information and the results, the members will be informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. I still haven't got an answer to my question and maybe you'd like to ask why the minister and his officials won't say we are going to find out if something has caused the colour and smell to be different than the previous years is the problem. If they can't do it through the tests that are out there, that they won't pursue it to find out what the problem is until they find someone who can do it.

That's all I'm looking for. If they can't do it, will they go somewhere else or find somewhere else that can do it just to make sure that it gets done. I don't know why they're not answering me. They just say that they're waiting for tests. But if these tests come in and they're not conclusive in those areas, will they pursue those specific areas of testing until they find someone that can give conclusive results in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Response please, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you. I stated that samples were sent out and it's being looked into. Once we've received the results, we can't say whether it will get tested because we don't know what the results will be. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): There are no answers right now? We can raise a lot of questions and go on and on and raise the question over and over again but without the results, there are no responses. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I've missed most of it but I heard that the gasoline comes out of New York. Does the gasoline come out of New York for all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The gasoline that is purchased in New York goes to the Kivalliq and the Baffin region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That answers my question. Now I seem to detecting that there seems to be a problem with gasoline between November and March. Does that seem to be the problem with gasoline with those? This time of year from November to March during the very cold winter months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): I will get Susan to respond.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Makpah.

Ms. Makpah (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister know what the octane level is for the gasoline that is purchased in New York? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: The level is 90. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is not a high test. That is not a low test. It is sort of a middle grade gasoline. I am not sure what do the new snowmobiles need for an octane level to burn properly in their snow machines today. Is it 92.

Does the minister know if that gasoline that was purchased was at the 90 level octane? Is that suitable to the machines that we are driving today? The new Polaris, Yamahas or the high performance snow machines. I've been talking to some of my constituents.

The larger engines the 700, 800 need a higher level of octane and if you burn that lower level than you get engine failures. Like I have a 440 machine a Polaris and I am not really having any problems with the gasoline and I use mine everyday. So is there a tendency that this gasoline affects certain types. Do you know? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not a mechanic so I don't know. I'll have my Deputy to answer your question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looks to me like different manufacturing of the snow machines, some of the listing gas requirements and some of them don't. But the jury

is trying to look for an answer to that. I think they are basically talking somewhere anywhere between 92-95 octane number. Which is not basically available because we getting the supply of the gas once a year. Our octane level is 89-90 and in that category. It a mixed grade gas for all year use. So it could be problem there but I can not make any other positive comments from that point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: I was waiting for the light bulb to go off in front of me and in my head. Thank you for that answer. On that issue, we know we are dealing with a severe climate here and at 40 below, I know we have problems with home heating fuel long time ago when we were buying heating fuel. P-30 and it was clogging up and freezing and furnaces weren't operating because it sticking like molasses and so I think the government now has a standardized fuel called P50 and I don't think that ever gels too much and it operates and people can use it at home heating and people can use it as automotive and people can use it with whatever.

Now, I'm not an expert in gasoline by any measure and I don't know about stinky gasoline and stuff like, I've, if it runs and it burns but to me, I don't know if that's the issue. A gasoline that smells bad doesn't really burn right.

But I know the south they have advertisements where there is a winter grade gasoline for Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and gasoline stations advertise a winter grade gasoline. I don't know what they're talking about there but it seems like a good idea because when years ago there used to be a lot of freeze up in the old engines down south in automobiles because there was a bit of vapour gasoline or water vapour and things and vehicles froze up.

And, I know you're buying the gasoline out of New York, and probably because there is a very good reason, probably because price dictates what we do in this government and in every government.

Have we looked at buying, purchasing gasoline from one of our refineries like in Alberta or Saskatchewan and may be specifying like a winter type gasoline and do you think that would alleviate the situation where were having problems. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Makpah.

Ms. Makpah: We are looking into that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Well that's nice to know because I think, like I say I'm not an expert in gasoline. But there seems to be more problems in the winter time with snow machines and a couple of people I've talked to about. It's not a really big issue in my community, like I say I have a snow machine, I have a Honda, I have a couple of trucks, I have a

couple of diesel trucks and I don't seem to be having a problem and up here they're having problems in places like Repulse Bay and Iqaluit.

Do you think, now I'm just, a philosophical question here, and I don't want to put the minister down, that when they're shipping fuel, when they're shipping gasoline into Nunavut, and we're a small consumer, somebody told me years ago that we're equivalent to one, you know, all of Nunavut's gasoline sales are equivalent to one gasoline station in Toronto. So we're not a very big player in the market. You know what I mean, like we're insignificant. So, I know when the government goes out to buy gasoline they get the best deal possible.

Like you have these easy gasoline companies in the south that sell gasoline for 6 or 7 cents a litre but you don't know the quality of gasoline you're getting.

So, are you going to look at that in regards to what we're purchasing in New York now, and compare it to what we can purchase in Alberta or Saskatchewan, with their consumers in the winter time and would you consider that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): You want to continue. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer. I know the days getting long but just another question. I don't know too much about it. That when we're shipping petroleum products into the Arctic and things like that, you have carriers and I think that NTCL has a large ship that they anchor out in offshore and then they pump NTCL pumps out of that and fills their tanks and delivers it to the sites, specific sites and that's the story I have and that's the story I heard that they do.

Now, when you're buying offshore petroleum products from like New York or something like that we're going for the best price what's to say that ship wasn't carrying something before they were carrying gasoline. They could have been carrying a liquid fertilizer. They could have been carrying a low grade heating fuel, they could have been carrying whatever tankers carry out on the high seas. And you know how the flush those tankers out and clean them they just dump everything and then you know flush some seawater through it and stuff like that.

Would that be a possible cause for some of the problems that the tankers that are carrying it are not really cleaning up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a very interesting question. We were talking with the contractor which is NTCL. We raised that question for possible

contamination. Mixing the different products in the tank. But apparently there is a procedure in place, when the empty tanker, before the loading happens from the shoreline, that the tanks are inspected and has to be completely emptied and dry.

There is also, some of the specific fire regulations in place, to make sure the mixing of the fuel cannot happen. So, we have been assured that the process is going through the verification of the different and on board of the ship and also from the refinery. And it's recorded into some kind of report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ross, you've done your homework there. So you've been checking. I can't doubt you there. You brought up about snowmobiles, the octane levels that you suggest, you've obviously checked into it, the 92 to 95 percent octane levels, that snow machines operate under today, and we're around 89-90 percent in our octane levels that we're selling to the consumers.

It's not secret that sometimes gasoline in some communities sits for a couple of years and I don't know, when you store a vehicle for a year or something like that, you have to put a fuel stabilizer or an octane booster after. I know you're not a mechanic, you're an engineer of some kind and a Public Works boy, but, say the octane level is lower, and I don't say that derogatory, Ross, don't look at me like that.

>>*Laughter*

I say that as a good thing. If the octane level is starting to go down 88 or 89, long term, would that contribute to engine failure in snow machines? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my last question for sure.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a chemist and my chemistry wasn't really a great subject, but I believe considering the capacity in the different communities where we work almost a 100 percent turn-over every year, that the gasoline can be old for one year. It may lose some octane number.

But I believe, and don't quote me on this, that maybe with reducing the octane number, the engine may possibly run a little bit slower or rougher or anything like that but I don't think that will contribute to the overheating and damage which is being experienced with snow machines these days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question, and if I make a mistake, let me know. I hear that the tankers that go to the

Keewatin, well my question is, is the same tanker going to the Keewatin and the Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Susan.

Ms. Makpah (interpretation): There are four tankers in the Baffin Region, that do the re-supply for those communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): I would like to say is that in Repulse Bay, they started having problems with the gasoline, I think in October. They have been waiting ever since. I have to say this, we are working very hard on behalf of our constituents to get this problem resolved.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. There was no question there. We can't get responses to our questions. It has been very hard to get the responses. I am sure after the results come in we will be getting the responses that we need. It is something that cannot be done overnight because of course we have to rely on results coming in from out of our jurisdiction. I don't have any other names. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiving my hand there. If you use two different of sodas for example, one 7-UP and one Coke. There would be a difference in the taste in the odour and the colour. With this gasoline this year's colour is a little darker than last year's.

In the communities they use 45 gallon drums to store the gasoline. And if there was left over gasoline in the barrel and you put a new stock into the 45 gallon drum and if you mix those two. Would there be a difference in the quality of the gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Using your community as an example. This summer we built new tanks in Pond Inlet to store gasoline. The colour of the gasoline is exactly the same say for example Iqaluit and Sanikiluaq. Even when you totally empty out the tank in there. We put in new gasoline and still it is exactly the same as the one here in Iqaluit or in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The communities should be all the same. Just for clarification there are some communities that are having more problems than other communities.

Just listening to the discussions that are being held around the table, we hear that we get the same product in the Baffin region where this gasoline was bought from New York and the Western portion of Nunavut they are bought from Edmonton.

There are communities that are having more problems and some less. This is what we heard on the radio. So I was starting to wonder if the tank still had some left over from last year and you put in a new stock in the same tank. Would that change the quality of the gasoline? And for those communities that are having less problems. Is it because of the temperature, is it dependent on the climate, whether it's warmer or colder? Those are my questions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Makpah.

Ms. Makpah: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some tanks have some fuel in the tank from re-supply. Some tanks are empty.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question, are you doing studies on whether there is a difference between filling in a tank with last year's fuel in there and new fuel mixed together and the climate of each community. I would want to know the results of those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Makpah.

Ms. Makpah: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the barge or the ship gets into the community, we take out a sample from the tank itself and we pull out a sample from the barge or the ship itself prior to discharging it into the tank. The sample that we take out from the tank itself prior to discharging. We hold that until we find that there aren't any problems with the fuel.

The fuel, prior to discharge is tested. Then again, we take out another fuel sample with the fresh batch in the tank farm.

Chairperson (interpretation): Other questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I think it was on Monday that we asked those same questions when we started dealing with gasoline and there was a person from Alberta.

If something has been sitting there for a long time, the heavier element tends to settle down to the bottom of the barrel and when there's fresh gasoline put in, we were told that samples are taken within a certain number of hours but there's usually a difference when a product has been sitting there for a long time and the heavier products tend to settle down to the bottom of the barrel.

One question that I brought up but never was never responded to, there is a difference between a product that's been sitting there a long time and we were again told that there's testing done in six month intervals. That's why I was asking the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any one of the witnesses. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): In response to Mr. Nutarak's question, from what I know, we don't rotate the gasoline once it's poured into the tank.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't have any other names. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we all understand that we're not completed with this issue. We are waiting for England to come with the results. I am sure that the members will keep an eye on that and we will be eagerly waiting your response at the April session. We have not satisfied the people are out there who we are representing because we don't have the appropriate responses.

But we do know that next round of sealift we do have to get appropriate gasoline. Very possibly a winter gasoline so that it is suitable for this environment. I don't think we are going to be going anywhere from here. I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. This motion that we have been dealing with, Motion 21-1(5), is that completed for now. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank you for responding to our questions. I do know that we will be going back to this issue possibly in our April session.

Thank you very much Mr. Minister, Deputy Minister and Susan Makpah. Thank you very much. There was a motion to report progress. All in favour. Opposed. Carried. I will now rise and report progress.

Speaker: Take your seat Mr. Picco, thank you. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 15 and I would like to report that Bill 15 is ready for Third Reading and would like to report that Motion 21-1(5) is concluded. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the

Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqignak. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder? Do we have a seconder? Mr. Alakannuark. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Against. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – Technical Standards & Safety Act – Third Reading

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove, that Bill 15, Technical Standards and Safety Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk is your seconder Ms. Thompson. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Members before we proceed to the next item, I'd like to ask the Clerk to determine if the Commissioner of Nunavut is prepared to enter the chamber to give assent to the bills. Mr. Clerk.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Irniq (interpretation): As Commissioner of Nunavut I am pleased to give assent to the following Bills.

Bill 15 - Technical Standards and Safety Act - Assent

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

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

Bill 21 - Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act - Assent

Bill 22 - Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act - Assent

Bill 23 - An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act - Assent

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to prorogue the Fifth Session of the First Legislative Assembly. The Sixth Session of the Legislative Assembly will commence on March 7th, 2002 at 1pm. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for the Sixth Session Thursday March 7th, 2002.

1. Prayer
2. Opening Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Petitions
9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motions
12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
13. Motions
14. First Reading of Bills
15. Second Reading of Bills
16. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until March 7, 2002 at 1.30. Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 7.09 p.m.*

