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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday April 26, 2002**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ullaakkut. Good morning Mr. Premier, members. Before we proceed today I would like to make a brief statement. On Thursday April 25, the Member for Baker Lake presented a document under item 10, Petitions. I have reviewed the document and have determined that it is inadmissible under this item since this petition is not directed towards a Minister of the Government of Nunavut for a response. As such I am directing that it be withdrawn from the working papers of this House. I would remind members that petitions should conform to the provisions of Rule 43 of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

I would however, invite the member to table the document under item 13 of the Orders of the Day. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Also of equal importance if members will allow me, I would like to recognize and acknowledge the ladies of the Killiq sewing factory in Arviat for making this beautiful vest for me as a gift. Thank you very much.

>>*Applause*

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 009 – 1(6): Day of Mourning – April 28, 2002

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Honourable Kelvin Ng, the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation joint board for both the NWT and Nunavut.

I rise today to inform the members that April 28th is a memorial day to remember those workers who have passed away on the job. Every nine seconds an employee in Canada is injured. Last year there were close to 900 Canadians who lost their lives as a result of a workplace injury or disease.

Almost 300 Nunavut workers missed work because of workplace injuries or disease in 2001. Five workers in our Territory were killed on the job last year. This date is an important remembrance of these workers; however, it is an event not just for those who have been touched by a death or an accident on the job, but for all of us.

(interpretation ends) Workplace injuries are preventable and we must continue as workers and employers to make our workplaces safer and stop the needless loss of life. The Workers' Compensation Board is committed to promoting safe work practices and it will continue to enforce safety legislation and will strongly promote safety education, especially among youth.

I ask all workers and employers in Nunavut to join the Workers' Compensation Board in the fight to stop unnecessary suffering caused by accidents in the workplace. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 010 – 1(6): Federal Airport Capital Assistance Program Funding

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and you do have a very nice vest and I'm also using my husband's vest today. It's also from Arviat.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, as members are aware my department has been working to secure other sources of capital funding for Nunavut.

The Department of Community Government and Transportation applied for funding under the Federal Airport Capital Assistance Program.

The purpose behind this program is to assist eligible applicants in financing capital projects related to safety, asset protection, and operating cost reduction at airports.

I am pleased to inform Members of the Legislative Assembly that Nunavut has received funding for the following four items. I will try and say them in Inuktitut but I'm not too sure if I will make sense but I really want to speak Inuktitut.

- A motor-grader in Qikiqtarjuaq
- A runway snow-blower in Rankin Inlet

- A new wheel loader in Iqaluit
- And for Coral Harbour, the funding will also go towards fixing the runway snow-blower

The total amount of funding contribution from the federal government for these projects is over 900 thousand dollars and makes up 95% of the total costs of these projects. Nunavut's contribution is 5%.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, funding for these projects was awarded to Nunavut thanks to Transport Canada's recognition of the Territory's ongoing commitment to funding airport safety-related infrastructure. It is also important to note that this federal funding is an addition to Nunavut's regular funding.

Access to programs like ACAP and others are an important way for the Government of Nunavut to stretch its own budget and provide better service to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Moving on to item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 038 – 1(6): Opening of the Baker Lake Elders' Facility

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I ask members of this House to join me in applauding two very closely related successes in the community of Baker Lake.

As members will recall in February I tabled a petition in this House from the community of Baker Lake requesting the Government of Nunavut to assist the community in converting an empty group home into a 24 hour chronic care facility for elders. The community worked very hard towards this goal and I'm very proud to report that today their dream is about to become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, not only will this facility be up and running very shortly but at the same time eight Baker Lake students have successfully completed the Community Support Workers' Program and will be able to provide much needed support in the homes of our elders.

I would like to congratulate Annie Qaliksaq, Bettie Mautaritnaaq, Deborah Etegyptok, Faith Mautaritnaaq, Marina Ikoe, Jean Ungangi, Ruby Paungrat, and Andy Parker for successfully completing their program.

Mr. Speaker I know I am often critical of the overworked, underpaid Minister of Health and Social Services but on this occasion he deserves praise for the part he played in making the community of Baker Lake's dream come true.

The Baker Lake Hospice Society is looking forward to opening this new facility with the Minister and Premier in attendance. I would like to recognize the new board members for the society who were elected this Wednesday. Norman Attungala, Jean Simailak, Lucy Iyago, John Avaala, Sally Webster, Bobby Patsauq, Ruth Paungrat, Winnie Owingayak, Becky Iyago, Winnie Tapatai and David Simailak.

The elders' chronic care facility and elders' residence will be having their opening in May. I would like to invite Minister Picco again to attend this opening and join us on this momentous occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 039 – 1(6): Support and Assistance by NTI Required to Combat Suicide

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today to talk about an issue that I am always talking about and that is suicide prevention.

It was mentioned on the radio by the President of NTI that Hall Beach has the highest rate of suicide. Mr. Speaker, by naming the community and saying it has the highest rate of suicide hurts the community of Hall Beach. Although it happens in other communities too it is true that by naming the community as having the highest rate of suicide then that community certainly needs support and assistance.

For that reason Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say we don't necessarily have to name the community stating that it has the highest rate of suicide. NTI should actually seriously consider if they should help Hall Beach in this regard. For many years now NTI signed the land claims agreement on July 9th, almost 10 years now but not once did NTI hold their board meetings in Hall Beach.

For that reason naming Hall Beach as the community with the highest rate of suicide and using it as an example of statistics in Canada, it is not too nice to state that for the community. For that reason and I know NTI has quite a lot of funding that could be used to assist the community in this regard. I would really be appreciative if they could give support and assistance to the issue at hand. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 040 – 1(6): 2002 Nattik Frolics in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to inform the House about a celebration in Kugluktuk since we heard from the MLA for Iqaluit talk about Toonik Tyme celebrations that were held last week.

Last night the people of Kugluktuk began celebrating the arrival of spring with the 2002 Nattik Frolics. It is a good time to celebrate that and welcome the spring weather. This is a four day celebration that includes snowmobile races, harpoon throwing contest, long drive golf contest and a seal hunt.

Mr. Speaker, there will be live music provided by the King William Island Band from Gjoa Haven and a square dance with music by a well known Kugluktummiut, Mr. Collin Adjun.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker I encourage all my constituents to participate in the activities. I hope that everyone has a safe time enjoying the spring weather and sunshine. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the sponsors and volunteers that make events like this possible. I wish everyone the best of luck in each contest they enter. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 041 – 1(6): Safety Cautions for Spring Camping

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the new ways of travel we are using today which we never used to use. We are now very proud of Nunavut and now that the 24 hour sunlight has come back I know that the community residents will be going out camping during the nice weather.

But at times there is bad weather in the spring, sometimes it may snow a lot, and at times there is no visibility at all and it gets cold. It can also get very foggy reducing visibility to nil. I know campers will be going out camping over the weekend even when the ice is getting thin and full of holes. Therefore as the weather gets warmer and people go out camping I would like to advise all the campers to be cautious and to think about safety.

We now use new methods that we didn't use in the past such as GPS and so on. In the past we didn't have those new technologies when we were reaching our destination. I know we can use GPS and it will benefit us but I want to remind the campers to be cautious of the ice and remember to think about safety.

So I would like to advise all Nunavummiut to enjoy their camping time, but these new technologies can't tell you whether there is thin ice. That is why I have risen to remind

people to be safety cautious for those people that are going out in the spring time. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 042 – 1(6): Arrival of Dog Team Racers from Clyde River to Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, there is a dog-team race from Clyde River to Pond Inlet and they will probably be getting to Pond Inlet around 3.30 or 4 o'clock this afternoon for the information of the people up there listening to the radio.

I expect all the people of Pond Inlet will greet and meet the dog-teams and handlers. Five MLAs including myself will also be going to Pond Inlet to join in the celebrations. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 043 – 1(6): Shoreline Erosion in Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about Qikiqtarjuaq. I had the opportunity to hold a public meeting on April 18.

In 1998 – 1999 the ice broke up in front of the community damaging the shoreline and at that time the water just about made it up to the houses. It became quite dangerous at that time because of the erosion of the ice. This usually happens in the fall.

The people of Qikiqtarjuaq are concerned, especially the residents who live down by the shore. There used to be a road that ran alongside the shoreline and now they don't have a road anymore because of the erosion caused by the ice and water. I would like the Department of Community Government and Transportation to look into this.

There has been erosion because of the high tides and I'm sure that the houses might be reached by water during high winds. I would like the minister responsible to look into this and I'll be asking questions at the appropriate time.

There was a representative that went up there to look at the situation and I'll be asking questions to get an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 044 – 1(6): Barbecue Thieves

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of urgency that I a rise today concerning a very urgent, grave and very serious issue that has caused me great concern.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that I hold no ill will or hatred for the events that have transpired over the past two weeks. Mr. Speaker, at approximately 3:18 pm on or about April 10, 2002 in or around the community of Iqaluit, specifically at house 2428, a devious plot was brought to fruition.

Coming home from work with a load of hot dogs in one hand and some burgers in another to barbeque for my six year old son and many of his friends, as I went out to the deck of our house, lo and behold, the barbeque was gone. Stolen, taken, pilfered Mr. Speaker, the eleventh commandment broken.

My poor little son was so disappointed. I promised him that I would find out who had done this dastardly deed.

Some Members: Shame, shame.

Using all the sleuthing Mr. Speaker, using all the analytical and investigative skills that I've gathered in working in this Assembly, I narrowed the search with the help of my neighbours who witnessed the theft, it came down to two, Mr. Speaker, two prime suspects, who Mr. Speaker, are present today in this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the two suspects have now been identified and I await their explanation and it's like Pinocchio, their noses grow longer each day they delay.

Mr. Speaker, I've been passed a note. Mr. Speaker, the note says, I've been handed a note Mr. Speaker. Inspector Gadget will be here at the end of this sitting today to apprehend the dastardly, devious pilferers. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you very much Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Member's Statement 045 – 1(6): Concerns About Litter on Frobisher Bay

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to be making a statement but I thank you for recognizing me. I'm sure I can come up with statement as today is Friday. I was also in the golf tournament during Toonik Tyme. I didn't win but I didn't lose either.

I did participate in the golf tournament and while we were there we watched the snowmobile races and I talked to some of my constituents who were concerned about the large amount of litter that was down there on the ice.

I had a discussion with the City of Iqaluit and all the debris was taken out by the staff and there was also clean up done by the correctional inmates. I would like to make sure that if there are going to be any activities down on the ice we have to make sure there is a clean up crew to clean up after the people.

I also want to put all of you on notice that I intend to win next year's tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 046 – 1(6): Member's Uncle's Dog Team Event

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As today is Friday I would like to make a brief statement about my uncle. A long time ago the only mode of transportation was dog teams. One time during the spring time when my uncle was growing up there were cracks in the ice and water on top of the ice. My uncle and his nephew who was one year older than my uncle went out by dog team to go fishing and also to gather firewood.

At that time there were times when we didn't listen to the advice of our parents and we'd snatch tobacco from our parents and during that dog team ride with his nephew in the front he started rolling the tobacco so that they could have a smoke during their ride. And before he had to say anything the sled went right in a crack and my uncle fell in the water but my nephew didn't realize that my uncle wasn't there. He looked back and wondered where he went or if he flew off or where he disappeared to.

Since he wasn't anywhere on the ice he assumed he had flown off. My uncle was under the ice but he was able to climb up and that evening when they arrived back home they didn't want to tell anybody about that incident because they were afraid they wouldn't be allowed to go dog teaming anymore. They didn't want to let their parents know about that particular incident that happened out on the ice. In the evening they dried out their clothes, I don't know whether they were in a tent but they used last year's tents to dry out their clothing and in the morning when it got cold all their clothing was completely frozen and couldn't be worn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 047 – 1(6): Gratitude for Pakallak Time Volunteers in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet we will be going to be celebrating Pakallak time in April.

A lot of people from the outlying communities go to Rankin Inlet and I would like to welcome them all. There are a lot of volunteers who coordinate the events and I would like to thank them also and thank them on behalf of the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet.

To the Pakallak Time committee, I would like to extend my gratitude. (interpretation ends) I would like to thank all the people that were involved in putting together the Pakallak Time activities in Rankin. This happens every year and we get quite a few people from other communities participating.

So, on behalf of the council and the Pakallak Time Committee I would like to thank everyone who took part in all the planning meetings as well as the volunteers who will be assisting the Committee during the celebration and who are assisting the Committee.

(interpretation) They work together excellently and we are very proud as residents of Rankin Inlet. When we go to Iqaluit it's obvious to see that the Inuit and the Qallunaat work together and everybody is welcome and Mr. Speaker, I think that if we work together everything will go more smoothly. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to say that these festivities and frolics are held in different communities and it brings together the families and the parents and the children.

To the people who donated to the Pakallak Times I would also like to thank them. (interpretation ends) I would also like to take this time to thank the people that contributed financially to this Pakallak Time: Electrolux, Northwestel, Royal Canadian Legion, Nunavut Power Corporation.

I know my time is up, I'm just about done. I'll conclude my statement if you will allow me or the members allow me. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are also the in-kind contributions that were given by Nunasi Corporation, Prairie Equipment, Kelso Lincoln Ford, Royal Bank of Canada, Kativik Store, and all the numerous other volunteers, people that contributed to this function which is an annual event now in Rankin Inlet. We'd like to thank every one of those people. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 048 – 1(6): Pangnirtung Hunters and Trappers to be Cautious in the Spring Conditions

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a statement earlier to encourage people to remember those that have been hurt and it was directed to those people that get injured or killed on the job.

The students in Pangnirtung will be going out on the land for a few days to be taught traditional skills. I just want to make sure that nothing happens to them and to warn them of the dangers and also to warn the people that are going fishing to be careful in the dangerous areas.

We heard yesterday and we were very happy that the sealskin fur prices will be going up and Pangnirtung is one of the areas where they sell their sealskins so I just want to warn them again of the dangers out there when they go hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not, we'll move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to this morning recognize a person from Sanikiluaq. Most of you know this individual, he was involved with the Land Claims negotiations, Walter Audla. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 031 – 1(6): Insurance Premiums for Tour Guides

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the first opportunity to ask question. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Sustainable Development about Tour Guides that have equipment to take tourists out.

It is in regards to insurance; they have to have insurance which is very costly. They don't make that much of a wage. It is very expensive to operate the bigger boats.

When they buy insurance for their guiding and outfitting, they have to pay for a full twelve month period, and it is very costly. If the individual is going to use his boat to the fullest, they usually operate them for two months at the most. I just wondered whether the minister can see whether they can pay for their premiums at a reduced rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good morning. Good morning to my constituents.

The question that the member is asking is one that I understand. When I visited Coral Harbour, these kinds of questions were asked of me as well. I will be looking into the insurance for those people that operate tour boats during the tourism season.

I will work with the member to see how we can best provide insurance at a cheaper rate for those boat operators, because they don't make very much money. I will review it and work with the members to see how we can provide the best insurance premiums for those people that are operating boats. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He said that he would be reviewing it, the insurance premiums paid by those people. So will this be done before the summer tourism season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't commit to that at this time but we will do our best to do it before the summer season, realizing that it is urgent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is going to be expensive again this summer for those tour operators to pay their insurance premiums. We pay about 600 dollars a year for vehicle insurance and for those people that operate their touring boat it is about 12 hundred dollars for the three month period. It is mostly elders that have those tour boats.

Mr. Speaker I would like to ask the minister, for the coming summer there will be touring guides for the boats, if the minister is not going to fix the insurance premiums what does he have in place in the meantime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I will work with the member to have a plan in place just in case that we can't provide cheaper premiums at this time. So I will work with the member on that and I will look at the other communities in the Nunavut region to see what they do to pay for their insurance premiums to take tourist out to the land in the summer time. And we will look at the insurance costs for those tour operators in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Sometimes the HTOs are given a grant to purchase flotation devices in the summer and others too get assistance to provide them with that equipment. I am wondering if the minister can treat those tour operators that have boats or equipment the same way as those other organizations who get assistance from the government in the meantime? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) At this time I can't say whether I can commit to it or not but I have to look into it before I can positively respond to the member. But we will do our best to try and help those tour operators. What we can do is we can find out how many of those tour operators operate their boats to take tourists out in the summer first and then look at the amount of insurance premiums that they pay for the short summer.

At this time I can't commit to the member but we will look into this and see what we can do for them in the meantime for the people of Nunavut that operate tourism businesses in the summer in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo is next. He is very vivid today.

Question 032 – 1(6): Sought Input from IDEA Re: Distribution of Funds

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that you noticed that I am wearing my nice bright shirt since it is Friday and it is springtime.

Mr. Speaker my question today is to the Minister of Education. I know over the past year or so and more, many issues have come to the House and have been raised by myself or other members about the allocation concerns in the communities in the schools about the shortage of supplies or things relating to the schools.

The minister has always indicated that the DEAs are responsible for allocating the resources within the community.

They basically, as he had indicated on Wednesday, the communities are allocated their funding based on the number of students that they have. I'd like to ask the minister if his department sought input into the distribution of the allocated funds for Iqaluit on how those dollars are going to be spread out through the schools here in Iqaluit from the Iqaluit District Education Authority for this year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows and the House, I cannot release the information regarding the budget until it has been discussed in the House. However, I would like to reiterate the comments by the member that yes; the department does provide funding to the schools for their supplies and for materials for that school.

And that is the funding that they get that is determined through the formula funding which is applied to all the other schools here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I can't ask the minister for details of the budget. I was simply asking the minister if his department sought input from the Iqaluit District Education Authority on the distribution of how those dollars for their budget that they're responsible for are going to be distributed throughout the schools here in Iqaluit for this year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand correctly, this year's budget meaning the existing budget, as I had indicated to the House the other day, when the DEAs are given their budget the DEAs have the flexibility of moving around some funding to other areas which they identify to be of more importance.

If they feel that they are in need of more money for materials or supplies then they have the flexibility of applying more of their funding towards purchasing more materials and supplies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the minister by not answering both times is saying that the department didn't consult with the Iqaluit District Education Authority in the development and the distribution of the funds that are allocated to the community for the schools and he is also indicating that the only thing that the Iqaluit District Education Authority has any authority to do is to move money around for school supplies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to try and make it clear, although, to the member of the House that the budget that the DEAs get here in Nunavut is determined through the formula funding and therefore that same scenario is applied to all to DEAs here in Nunavut. It's very consistent straight across the board.

Now, as I had also indicated to the House, the formula funding has gone under review and at the appropriate time in the House I will table the results of the formula funding review that we have undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the minister indicated, and I think we all know that, that is not what I am asking, the dollars that are allocated to the DEAs and we all know how that is determined.

But in things like the allocation of those dollars within a community, for example here in Iqaluit we have 5 schools. How are those dollars distributed throughout the schools and how are the number of teachers allocated to the community based on the formula, or distributed amongst those schools, the level of which things like the rates, the category of rates the teachers are paid? In the past those are things that the department has consulted and sought input from the District Education Authority here in Iqaluit.

I would like to ask the minister why since April 1st, 1999, especially with the creation of Nunavut when things are supposed to be different, we didn't realize that we didn't have input. I would like to ask the minister why his department hasn't sought that input from the DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a difficulty in the perception that DEAs are not being consulted. As a matter of fact that is why we have gone forward with the Education Act review and also other reviews such as the formal funding that I was just mentioning for their input.

So Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude my response to the member. I have this difficulty because we definitely have put in the work and effort to consult with the DEAs in matters pertaining to their needs, their difficulties with their financing. I also would like to try and differentiate clearly that the teachers are workers of this government and the department. The DEAs are funded separately so I want to make it clear that there is a difference in how the money is allocated for the teachers, a budget that is set for our government staff, and how we fund the DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just to caution the members when a minister is answering a question to allow him to answer the question without any interruption or

heckling. Keep in mind the minister has three options. One is to answer the question. Two is not to answer the question. Three is to take it as notice. When the minister decides to attempt to answer the question I think he or she should be allowed to answer it without being interrupted. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 033 – 1(6): Support to Communities for Suicide Prevention

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question about suicide prevention to the Minister of Health and Social Services. How can the communities be given more support for suicide prevention and how they can have one direction on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker over a year ago the department set up the suicide protocol which is an interdepartmental working group between the different departments in the government with the Department of Health and Social Services I believe. Mr. Speaker at the same time we provide intervention, post intervention and as well last year when we were in Cambridge Bay we unveiled an anti-suicide program focussing on culture and strengthening the communities and strengthening the family.

Mr. Speaker, this year in the Budget upcoming we will be bringing forward, if accepted by this Assembly, a major Mental Health Strategy to deal with psychiatric situations, mental health, as well as family violence.

One of the key components of the Mental Health Strategy, Mr. Speaker, will be another refocusing, a redoubling of our efforts on the issues surrounding suicide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for responding. How are you going to be supporting them, by way of providing more funding or by other means such as services? How are you going to be providing more services to those people who are experiencing problems, personal problems in the community? Did you already have something set up to help them out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, part of the Mental Health Strategy that will be brought forward during this Budget session, includes areas surrounding extra staffing of psychiatric nurses in the communities, because of some of the workloads that

we are seeing. It includes more positions for Mental Health as well as Community Health Workers in the field of suicide prevention.

Also Mr. Speaker, around the issues of depression Mr. Speaker, we have at the present time in most of the communities Wellness Workers, Social Workers, Alcohol and Drug Workers, and Mental Health Workers, as well as the Community Health Centres.

Each of these groups, Mr. Speaker, with co-operation, for example, in the schools, the community school counsellors are working on the issues surrounding suicide.

However, Mr. Speaker, when a person commits suicide, it is not done in an independent fashion. In most cases, Mr. Speaker, ninety percent of the cases, there is always a messaging or a forewarning that is put out by that person, indicating that they need help. Mr. Speaker that is where we need local groups at the community level, at the local level, and families Mr. Speaker, to join with us in partnership to be proactive on the issue.

The member is correct, Mr. Speaker, not only will we doubling our efforts, but we will be putting more resources at the community level as the member has indicated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 034 – 1(6): Report/Update on Shoreline Erosion at Qikiqtarjuaq

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation.

According to my statement, I think in previous years, I can't really remember the exact year, but Qikiqtarjuaq asked the Department to look at the safety aspect of the docks.

The Hamlet council also requested a meeting with the person that was sent up to investigate the problem but it did not happen. The staff member had gone there alone and it created some problems. I was wondering if the minister has received a report on his visit. First of all, I would like to hear if there were any plans made as a result of that visit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the very first time that I have heard about the member's comments about Qikiqtarjuaq and the individual who went to investigate. I don't know why that individual went there with him by himself. I don't like to see that happen because we have to work together, we have to work with the community.

I don't even know which staff member went to the community on their own without consulting the community. Mr. Speaker, if the member wishes me to deal with it, I can

deal with it. I will take it as notice, because this is the first time that I have heard of it and I don't know how to respond to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 035 – 1(6): Update on NNI Policy/Fuel Contracts

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister for Sustainable Development in regards to the Business Plan Strategy to include Article 24 of the Land Claims Agreement for Small Businesses Policy to be reviewed.

I was wondering if the minister can update me on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the member can rephrase his question in regards to the NNI policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the NNI Policy for small businesses. That was my main question because it is directly related to Article 24. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. NNI Policy, the other department is responsible for the NNI Policy, so I would appreciate it if the member can ask the Department responsible for the NNI Policy which is the Department of Public Works. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk, can you address the question.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the member rephrase his question so that I could respond? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Perhaps I did not explain it well enough. I will now direct this question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services by rephrasing my question. I was wondering if they're going to be contracting the same fuel delivery distributors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are now in the process of reviewing this issue. To find out how we can better deal with the fuel distribution issue. So therefore I can't respond to your question because we're dealing with it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Since you stated that you are reviewing this, I was wondering when you plan to complete it, will it be before the summer arrives or next year. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before the summer arrives we'd like to complete it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. If he had known, does he know if there will be different fuel distributors bringing fuel up to the communities and will the price go higher if we change the fuel distributors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I stated earlier, we can't tell whether it's going to be the same people or it's going to be different people who will distribute fuel to the communities.

So, therefore I can't respond to your question today because we are reviewing it at this time. So, we really can't tell you whether it's going to be the same or different people distributing the fuel for the coming summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 036 – 1(6): Number of Probation Officers in Quttiktuq

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Justice. I have three communities in my constituency including Nanisivik makes four, so I would like to ask the minister about probation officers. How many probation officers do we have for the four communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister responsible for Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't respond to that at this time I don't know if they have a probation officer for those communities. Due to lack of funding we only had a few probation officers in the main communities that require the most probation officers so we took care of their needs first although we want to have probation officers in all of the communities, especially to abide by the Federal act that was just put in place.

We want to have probation officers in all the communities and next year I'm sure the number of probation officers will increase after we deal with the budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency there are quite a few people on probation and they need a probation officer.

Can the minister say today that the communities will be getting probation officers this year and can the minister tell me which community the probation officers will be in? I know that the probation officers will have to travel to the communities and travel through Iqaluit.

So therefore if we're going to have probation with the people we need probation officers. I was wondering if the Premier can commit to me to get probation officers in those communities because the correctional centres are always filled to capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see probation officers in all the communities but at this time due to lack of funding. We would like to see the number of probation officers increase so all the communities of Nunavut would have one.

Once we start dealing with our budget again, we will certainly look at this issue but at this time I cannot respond to her question. Once the budget session is over and once it is approved then we'll have a clearer idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand his response but we definitely need probation workers in all the communities and there is a need for them in the communities. There are volunteers in the communities and we need to give them support. I know that we have a few probation officers but we need to increase the number of probation workers. The communities in my constituency are asking for probation officers and there are many people on probation so therefore we need probation officers to assist those communities.

I would like to ask the minister responsible, since there are three High Arctic communities I was wondering if he can put at least one probation officer into one of the communities in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see probation workers in all the communities but it is hard. We are working in that direction and if I am given support in the House during the budget session for this I would be willing to receive your support. At this time we are only able to take care of 10 communities in regards to this matter. We looked at the communities with the most needs and with the highest rate of individuals going through the court system. I would like to pursue this further in the future with support from my colleagues here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Premier mentioned the fact that they would like to see probation workers in all the communities. I am only referring to the communities that I represent. I would like to get a commitment from the Premier to put a priority on the High Arctic communities if he is considering putting probation officers in the communities in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Only if I get additional funds will I be able to do this. We will soon be dealing with the budget in the upcoming month and once that is completed I will look into it. Before we deal with the budget we cannot commit to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 037 – 1(6): Health & Social Services' Job Competitions

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to direct my question to the Department of Human Resources. The question is directed first of all to the Department of Health and Social Services. I just want to make it clear by explaining first and then asking a question.

I am Inuk and I can't speak English very well. I have limited English and if I was to try to get myself a job down south as a social worker I would have a lot of problems. Even though I know how to deal with social issues I don't know how to speak English. The non-Inuit people that don't speak Inuktitut in such areas as my constituency, we don't mind having a social worker, but that individual cannot speak Inuktitut and they have a problem with that.

That is the question that I asked the minister before that we have a problem with the individual. I also asked the Human Resources minister. Whenever there is a job opening for a social worker we have a problem. The minister said to me at that time that he wanted me to talk to Human Resources and the Human Resources Minister told me to talk to the Department of Health and Social Services.

When will the Department of Human Resources and the Department of Health & Social Services be fixing their hiring policy for social workers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services, as I have stated several times, has maintained and kept the hiring of nurses as Department of Education has kept the hiring of teachers.

For all other staff hired for the Department of Health and Social Services it is done through the Department of Human Resources. They take the requests from the Department of Health and Social Services, in this case for a social worker.

Mr. Speaker, as you know and the members know, all the job descriptions have been vetted through the Department of Human Resources, screening is done by the Department of Health and Social Services in this case and they sit in with Human Resource people for those staff.

Mr. Speaker, we have created positions within the Department of Health and Social Services which are entry level positions, training positions, to accommodate some of the concerns that the member has brought forward. Mr. Speaker we are in the process right now of finalizing some of the job descriptions of that and we would be bringing these forward in the new budget session when we have money for those entry level positions. I hope that helps to answer the member's question. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irgittuq.

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make it as brief as I can. I wanted clarification on the process. There is usually a policy for putting out the job descriptions and advertisements and so on. There are capable people out there who can provide social work to the people. We learn by experience everyday. We learn through time through our experiences. I honestly believe we can get a social worker from our community.

My question is about the advertisement of jobs. Is it not possible to open a job and just get applicants from the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I understand the point the member is trying to make. He is making a good point. There seems to be in some cases a systemic barrier to hiring of Inuit in some of the smaller communities for positions based on solely academic qualifications.

One of the things that we have done Mr. Speaker, in this House I introduced our Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinator who was appointed by the Department of Health and Social Services, and one of his tasks is to review some of the job descriptions that we have to see if there is an opportunity, as the member has pointed out, to make sure that there aren't systemic barriers within the system, not allowing people to have an opportunity to apply for positions, being screened out before they have an opportunity to be interviewed.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Minister of Human Resources is working very diligently on this file and the Premier has said many times that the Inuit Employment Plan with this government is a priority. Through the Department of Health and Social Services with the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinator, we're hoping that we'll be able to make sure that there isn't a systemic barrier from the creation and the ability of people to take jobs.

At the same time, on the specific question that the member asked, could we advertise the position solely in a community? There is a Public Service Act that's in place, Mr. Speaker, when positions are advertised, they're advertised on a regional basis first and then a Nunavut-wide basis and if some suitable applicants are not found, then and only then is there an opportunity to go for example out of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I'm asking these questions is because there are a lot of challenges faced by the people out there and you did say that there are standards to be followed. What I keep trying to push for is to get Inuit social workers to fill those positions and I think that the only way we can do that is if we don't use those standards that you mentioned.

There are extremely capable Inuit out there. Is there a law that prevents you from hiring them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, almost half of all positions filled right now by social workers are filled by Inuit throughout Nunavut.

What we would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is try to get that number up like the government has been doing in other positions.

Mr. Speaker, I have said that with the help of the new Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinator we'll be reviewing the job classifications as well as the requirements for positions to see where there is an opportunity to hire more Inuit especially in the field of social work. And I agree with the member that it would be more conducive and it would be more conducive at the community level to have someone who could speak in Inuktitut.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, there are other prerequisites for a job description, academic requirements and so on. And I realize that and that is why I said, Mr. Speaker, that there may be a systemic barrier within the system not allowing us to hire more Inuit. We have continued through Arctic College to provide social worker courses. We had a successful one complete last year. I attended the graduation with the member in Igloodik.

But the problem was a lot of people did not want to move from Igloodik who completed that program to other communities. So we need to be able to redouble our efforts and I believe Mr. Speaker that we are moving in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I had that meeting with you in your office I told you exactly what it meant to be an Inuk and how we can use our experiences and you understood exactly where I am coming from and he was almost moved to tears. What I'm trying to say Mr. Speaker, I'm not talking about the education level, I'm talking about a person who can counsel people and those are usually elders in the community.

If they don't have a formal education is it possible for them to get a job within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I am not the Minister of Human Resources. I am trying to answer a specific question on social services. I can say as a member of the cabinet and member of this government that the government is trying in every way possible to facilitate the hiring of more Inuit.

Specifically in the Department of Health and Social Services and the member is correct. I understand that the ability to speak and counsel someone within their own language is paramount, it is very important especially in the area of health and social services.

I believe Mr. Speaker having our Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit coordinator on the ground and in place he will be able to develop a better program where we will be able to hire more counsellors even not so much to do with what the member was talking about earlier on the statutory obligations of the social worker, but on community based counsellors like our mental health workers and so on. More or less to a degree of qualification that they present themselves where there is a systemic barrier right now based on academic

qualification, it could be made up as the member said with life experience and so on. I believe the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinator will help us facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 038 – 1(6): Update on Anti-Smoking Campaign

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This department's anti-smoking campaign has been operating for some time now. And I witness in my community that youth and also the adults are looking at the campaign that is in place. It seems to me people are thinking about what they are doing when they are smoking.

I just want to ask for an update on how successful the anti-smoking has been to date. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think you can look around here today in the Assembly to see how successful the smoking campaign has been as several of the members have in the past throughout the 14 months quit smoking. I think that in itself demonstrates leadership shown by our elected representatives.

Mr. Speaker during the Arctic Winter Games I had an opportunity to attend several different sessions and it was disheartening to say the least to see many of our young athletes 12, 13, 14 years old smoking during a break and so on. I know I have heard the same thing from the local education councils when they talk about some of the children smoking on school property and so on.

Our ads were targeted at young people. In cooperation with the Department of Education we produced a calendar. I believe Mr. Speaker the smoking campaign has been successful. As I said, almost two and a half years ago when we launched the campaign, it doesn't happen overnight. It is a mind set change. It needs to be continuous, not for 6-12 months, but continuous day in and day out, year after year.

Mr. Speaker the rates of cancer in Nunavut have increased but 40% of all cancer in Nunavut can be prevented, they are from smoking. Mr. Speaker those are shocking statistics and we need to work on them. I would suggest to the member that the program and the campaign has been successful and we want to have it continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. Thank you for your response. The reason I asked this question on your campaign is because I am sure the minister is aware that tobacco is not

the only substance that causes a problem for the youth and the adults. There are other substances such as alcohol, marijuana, hashish and so on etc. Can the minister tell us whether he'd be campaigning to address these forms of substance abuse similar to the anti-smoking campaign? Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I joined in with Pauktutiit during the Arctic Winter Games and wore a condom for the safe sex campaign and took some heat over that. But I believe Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services over the last two and half years have moved towards the preventative side of medicine.

You remember, Mr. Speaker, when I spoke about the down stream approach and I wanted to go up stream. Upstream Mr. Speaker, includes promotional messages for hash, for alcohol and so on. Mr. Speaker those types of addictions had been brought up and are being talked about and promoted against those types of addictions by promoting a healthier lifestyle with our CHRs in the community level on an on-going basis.

Mr. Speaker I've also had discussions with the Department of Justice and the Premier about the RCMP doing a rigorous enforcement of the tobacco laws and focusing on our retailers that are not allowed to sell cigarettes or tobacco products to those people that are under the age of 18. With the new identification cards that are coming forward now by the government in a few weeks or a month we would hope that we would be able to enforce that with the help of the RCMP, that any retailer that begins to sell tobacco products and is caught would feel the bite of the federal legislation that is in place.

So Mr. Speaker the answer to the members' question is an emphatic yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. Yes, we need to do a similar campaign as a tool for prevention. Again I could put it in another way by asking the Honourable Member does he have plans and when he expects to see this type of campaign. Koanaqtit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would hope that after the new budget comes out next week that we will be able to redouble our efforts with the resources that we need to continue that campaign and more campaigns very vigorously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 039 – 1(6): Negotiate with Airlines on GN Travel Discounts

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is directed to the Minister of Human Resources. I could also direct it to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Transportation and possibly the Minister of Finance.

But today I'll try to direct it to the Minister of Human Resources. There is a lot of talk and we know that there is airfare increases going on all over Nunavut. The high cost of traveling is hindering the government and I think the government travel last year alone was in the range of 55 million dollars. And that doesn't include employee travel when they go out on their holidays and so on.

My question today is to the Minister of Human Resources. Has the Minister of Human Resources thought of contacting the airlines and the employees about negotiating some kind of lower airfare for Government of Nunavut employees? I think there are over 2700. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This would require a government wide effort in trying to see how all the different departments can have a more streamlined approach for cheaper airfares for their employees. However I know that with the advance bookings some of our staff are taking advantage of lower airfares.

But directed towards the airlines and cheaper airfares I would have to consult with my colleagues as to how this can be best approached. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that VTAs have gone the way of the Dodo bird. It is going to take a lot to bring them back. We know the folks that travel on the medical services budget they have a discount now because they guarantee X number of dollars. The minister pretty well answered my question, that it would take a coordinated approach by the government to negotiate maybe cheaper airfares for the people up in Grise Fiord and Pond Inlet and Repulse Bay and the smaller communities and the Gjoa Havens that are isolated.

Like I pick up the newspaper, 499 dollars, 699 dollars, Iqaluit to Ottawa and it'd be nice if the employees and families up in the high arctic, if the government would get together as a collective group and maybe talk to the airlines and the unions about trying to get some kind of discounted airfare to employees in Nunavut.

I'm just basically making a statement but will the minister try to get his colleagues together to try to give employees, because there are 27 hundred of them, it affects a lot of air travel, and it is government money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: You've got to be kidding.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: I will definitely take the initiative of supporting the efforts that Community Government and Transportation will be undertaking to look at the transportation study. But however, having said that, I also don't want to undermine that if we look at the different airlines serving different regions, there are different companies serving these regions and the thought and the efforts has to be made also to see if the individual staff can take better advantage of lower airfares even outside of the government effort. But I will consult with my colleagues regarding this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Members will note that question period is now over. I just want to comment on the fact that we still have one member who didn't have an opportunity to ask a question and that's Mr. Puqignak and that's primarily because most of the members have had preambles and second and third preambles and as a result this is what happens.

Some of the members lose an opportunity to speak and to ask questions. So, I'd ask you to keep that in mind when we meet again next week. Thank you.

Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act - Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I give notice that on Monday, April 29, 2002, I shall move that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act, be read for the first time. Koanaqutit, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Ms. Thompson.

Bill 9 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act - Notice

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, April 29, 2002, I shall move that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 03 – 1(6): Process for Review of Bill 1, Education Act**

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

WHEREAS Bill 1, Education Act, has been read for the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Education for review;

AND WHEREAS the issue of education is of fundamental importance to Nunavummiut;

AND WHEREAS it is essential that comprehensive consultations be undertaken on this Bill;

AND WHEREAS Bill 1 is important to all Members of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk that Rule 68(5) be waived, and that the Standing Committee report back to the House no later than the end of the Sixth Session of the First Assembly;

AND FURTHER, I MOVE that the Standing Committee be permitted to undertake its review of Bill 1, Education Act, in such a manner as to allow the Alternate Members of the Committee to participate fully as voting Members in the Committee's deliberations and consultations.

AND FURTHER, THAT any Member of the Legislative Assembly be permitted to take part as a non-voting participant in any Committee meeting on Bill 1, Education Act, when such meeting takes place in a community that is located within the Member's constituency.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to rise at this time to speak to my motion on the process for the Review of Bill 1, the Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, our current Education Act was inherited from the NWT. The introduction of Bill 1 is the first step towards a new made-in-Nunavut Education Act that is designed to meet the needs and wishes of the residents of Nunavut.

Members of the Legislative Assembly now have the responsibility to review the Bill that has been brought forward. This will require careful scrutiny, consideration and deliberation. For the benefit of those who are listening to these proceedings today, I would like to take this opportunity to outline our consultation process.

Consultation activities will play an extremely important part of the Standing Committee's review. As Members of the Standing Committee will visit communities across Nunavut in the fall and winter of this year, it will be important for students, parents and other members of our communities to come forward and express their views.

In preparation for community consultations, information packages will be distributed to community organizations and key stakeholders over the next couple of months. During the summer, a discussion paper will be distributed to community residents through the post office and other means.

Members of the Standing Committee will visit communities throughout the fall and early winter. A more complete schedule will be announced through the media closer to the time of our consultation visits.

Copies of Bill 1, the proposed new Education Act, can be downloaded from the Assembly's website at www.assembly.nu.ca or by calling 1-877-334-7266. The Standing Committee also welcomes written submissions on Bill 1 throughout the review process. Please forward any submissions to the Clerk of the Committee at the Legislative Assembly, PO Box 1200, Iqaluit, X0A 0H0.

During the course of our review we also look forward to constructive input from all Members of this House. Bill 1, the Education Act is a big bill, not only in terms of its size, but in terms of importance and the effect that it will have on our future. As a result of our deliberations, we can anticipate that certain aspects of the Bill may be changed. It is important that we all work together to make the best possible product for our children.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Motion 02 – 1(6): Extended Hours and Days

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

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.

As there are no items for Committee of the Whole we will proceed to Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Reminder for meetings. Tomorrow at 2 o'clock, Standing Committee for Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development. Also at 2 o'clock, Standing Committee Ajauqtiit.

Orders of the Day for Monday, April 29th, 2002.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 9
- Bill 10

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills.

22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn I want to wish all members that are travelling with Mr. Nutarak to Pond Inlet a safe and good trip. Also Mr. Picco, I hope that the thieving scoundrels that liberated your barbeque are apprehended and punished.

>> *Laughter*

This House stands adjourned until Monday April 29 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 11:52 a.m.*

