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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday April 30, 2002**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I will say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ullukkut. Good afternoon Premier, members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Budget Address. Minister Ng.

Item 2: Budget Address

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, Nunavummiut.

The creation of our territory, just over three years ago, gave the people of Nunavut a new sense of purpose and a profound belief that each of us could make a difference. Our future would be shaped by our people and our land.

Mr. Speaker, we have risen to the task of creating a new territory and functioning government. While we still have much to learn and many challenges remain, we are making a difference. Increasingly, we are determining our own destiny.

Today, I have the privilege of setting out the Government of Nunavut's fiscal plan for the 2002-2003 fiscal year, which charts our path for continued progress.

This fourth budget reflects the growing maturity of our government. As with the previous three, it supports our commitment to manage the territory's fiscal resources in a prudent manner. It demonstrates our determination to be accountable for our decisions, and open to Nunavummiut. And it reinforces that, with the new powers Nunavummiut have assumed in governing our own affairs, come personal and collective responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, this budget presents a realistic view of our fiscal situation and major challenges. It outlines our spending initiatives and priorities for the coming year. It presents a well balanced overall plan that will benefit every resident and business in our territory, a plan that will enable us to take another major step forward in realizing our potential, in order to build a secure future for our children and ourselves.

Fiscal Update

Mr. Speaker, I will begin by briefly reviewing our fiscal results for 2001-2002.

I am pleased to report that, since our last budget the government's short-term fiscal situation has improved.

On the expenditure side, total budgeted requirements have increased to \$745.3 million. That is \$65.8 million above what we initially allocated to spend. These additional expenditures were set out in the three supplementary appropriation bills approved by this Legislature during the past year. Additional funding was provided for such measures as increased health care spending and the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union.

As in previous years, we are projecting that some departments will not spend all of the monies allocated to them last year. This includes approximately \$15 million in planned operations and maintenance expenditures, along with about \$16 million in capital spending of which most will be carried over into the current fiscal year.

On the revenue side, we are now projecting total revenues for 2001-2002 to be approximately \$765 million. This represents an increase of about \$95 million over our budget estimate. Of this, approximately \$92 million is anticipated from higher Formula Financing Grant payments from the Government of Canada. Included is a one-time adjustment of around \$46 million, relating to previous years.

As a result of these changes, on a cash flow basis, we anticipate an operating surplus for the 2001-2002 fiscal year of \$50.7 million.

Mr. Speaker, I will now present our 2002-2003 fiscal plan.

I am proud to inform Members of the Legislature that we are projecting, on a cash flow basis, an operating surplus of \$1.6 million for the coming fiscal year. This will be accomplished, even though there will be more than an 11 percent increase in spending over last year.

Mr. Speaker, total expenditures in this budget are \$759.9 million. Of that, we will be allocating more than \$689 million for operations and maintenance expenditures.

In November more than \$70 million was approved for capital projects for 2002-2003. This marked the first time that Capital Estimates were tabled during the fall sitting of the Legislature. This change was introduced in response to requests from Members of this Assembly, municipal leaders, and Nunavut's business community. The move will

improve our capital planning process and ensure the timely and cost effective delivery of projects.

Our total revenues for 2002-2003 are projected to be \$745.5 million. We are estimating \$70.3 million for own-source revenues. Our largest own-source revenue is personal income tax, which we expect to bring in around \$10.2 million. Other sources include tobacco, payroll, corporate income, fuel, and property taxes.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes a Minister of Finance is faced with the difficult task of informing taxpayers that income taxes must be increased. Happily I am not in that situation today.

In fact, I am delighted to announce, that for the first time in our short history, we will be implementing a number of tax measures that will see all Nunavummiut pay less personal income tax starting this year.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, last year we adopted the tax-on-income approach to determining the territory's personal income tax. This method allows us to establish a unique income tax system for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I will introduce changes to our Income Tax Act to significantly lower the territorial tax rates on all income brackets. As well, the amounts of a number of territorial tax credits will be increased.

The lower territorial tax rates and enhanced credits will apply to the 2002 tax year. These measures will greatly reduce the overall tax burden on Nunavummiut.

>>Applause

I will now summarize the rate and credit changes to be implemented -

- ◆ For taxable income up to about \$31,700, the territorial personal income tax rate will fall from 7.2 percent to 4 percent.
- ◆ For taxable income between \$31,700 to \$63,400, the rate will drop from 9.9 percent to 7 percent.
- ◆ For taxable income between \$63,400 to \$103,000, the rate will decline from the current rate of 11.7 percent to 9 percent.
- ◆ For taxable income over \$103,000, the current rate of just over 13 percent will now be set at 11.5 percent.
- ◆ The basic personal credit will increase from \$7,634 to \$10,000.
- ◆ The spouse or common-law credit will increase from \$6,483 to \$10,000.

- ◆ The credit for those Nunavummiut over 65 years of age will increase from \$3,728 to \$7,500.

>>Applause

- ◆ The long-term disability credit will be increased from \$6,180 to \$10,000.

Mr. Speaker, the cost-of-living tax credit, an important element of our personal income tax system, also will be modified to ensure that all Nunavummiut taxpayers receive an increase to help address the high costs of living in Nunavut. The maximum amount of the credit will be raised from \$645 to \$750.

Taken together, these major changes will mean more disposable income and a higher quality of life for each and every person living in our territory.

>>Applause

These changes will mean that a tax filer who has income of \$16,400 or less will pay no Nunavut Personal Income tax in 2002. Similarly, a single tax filer with either a dependent spouse or child who has income of \$27,180 or less will pay no Nunavut Personal Income tax in 2002.

Individual Nunavummiut will see their Nunavut personal income taxes drop substantially in all income tax brackets. To give two examples:

- ◆ A single tax filer with no dependents with income of \$40,000 will have Nunavut income taxes reduced by about \$865.
- ◆ A single income family with two dependents with income of \$70,000 will have Nunavut income taxes reduced by about \$1,670.

Mr. Speaker, recognizing that it is the private sector which generates the incomes of many wage earners and that the business community plays a crucial role in strengthening our economy, I am also introducing changes to Nunavut's corporate income tax rates.

These changes will provide a lower general income tax rate for all corporate income allocated to Nunavut and a lower tax rate to small business.

Effective for 2002, the territorial general corporate income tax rate will be reduced from 14 percent to 12 percent. The territorial small business rate will be reduced from 5 percent to 4 percent.

Mr. Speaker, this will mean that, as of this budget, Nunavut will have the lowest corporate and lowest average personal income tax rates in Canada.

>>Applause

These tax measures, Mr. Speaker, have been introduced for many reasons, including:

- ♦ to provide additional benefits to those in greatest need;
- ♦ to support individuals entering our workforce;
- ♦ to stimulate economic development;
- ♦ to strengthen our tax base by ensuring that we become more competitive from a taxation perspective; and
- ♦ to attract and retain people with the skills we need to continue building our new territory.

Mr. Speaker, there is one tax increase to be announced. As we all are aware, Nunavut has the highest tobacco use in Canada. Equally, it is well known that use of tobacco poses a serious health risk to individuals, and overall, places large demands on our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's tax on cigarettes will increase from 12.6 cents per cigarette to 15.6 cents effective midnight tonight. This will add \$6.00 to the price of a carton of cigarettes. We hope that this price increase will make many individuals reconsider their use of this harmful substance.

Mr. Speaker, federal transfers represent a vital contribution to our government's total revenues. Our government recognizes the important role that these transfers play in the lives of Nunavummiut.

For 2002-2003 we are projecting \$681.8 million in federal transfers. Approximately \$632.6 million of this will be provided through the Formula Financing Agreement.

The Formula Financing Grant is both our largest transfer and revenue source. The grant is influenced by a number of national factors such as growth in provincial government expenditures and the economy.

As well, factors specific to Nunavut such as our relative population growth and tax revenues also impact our entitlement.

During the past year Canada's economic growth slowed considerably. Consequently, over the last year most provincial governments introduced restraint measures aimed at offsetting lower revenues. These factors will impact future growth in our Formula Financing Grant entitlements. In the near term we expect our formula transfers to grow at rates below that of recent years.

Despite this, Nunavut's fiscal outlook for the short-term is stable. With current fiscal projections, we will be able to maintain programs and services, and even make modest improvements to some priority areas.

However, we do not have the means under these projections, Mr. Speaker, to address the full range of challenges we face. In future years, expenditure growth pressures will likely outstrip our revenue growth.

And this is where the point I made earlier, about increased responsibility being the natural consequence of increased authority comes into play.

If we are to prove to ourselves, and other Canadians, that we are capable of managing our own affairs, and if we are to gain the confidence of potential investors, we must demonstrate our ability to make the right choices in shaping our future. We must be prepared to tackle our significant challenges.

Addressing Our Challenges

Mr. Speaker, the creation of our new territory has resulted in increased economic activity and has brought new jobs to many of our communities. These recent economic improvements, however, are not enough and we must develop a more diversified economy across Nunavut.

The recent release of *The Naujaat Challenge: Working Together*, an economic development strategy framework, is a signal to all Nunavummiut that we recognize that a new approach to economic development is needed.

The foundation for this new approach must be the understanding that government, the private sector, Inuit Organizations and agencies, must work together, toward common goals.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to improving economic opportunities across Nunavut while protecting our traditional values and culture. As our economy develops we will continue to consult Nunavummiut to be certain that our actions and priorities appropriately reflect our culture and traditional values. We also will be mindful of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ).

This year, under the direction of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, we will be establishing an Elders' Council. This council will facilitate the operations of the IQ Task Force, and provide input regarding community wellness, learning, cultural, and social concerns.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's economy continues to be heavily dependent upon the government sector. As our government becomes more established we will ensure that benefits from government activity reach as many Nunavummiut as possible.

Our decentralization initiative has and will continue to result in long-term stable jobs spread throughout the territory. Of course, a large degree of this progress will depend upon Nunavummiut having the required skills and trades.

Recently the Department of Finance opened its third regional office in Igloolik. This has resulted in 17 positions being created in that community. We expect that residents of Igloolik will fill all but one of these positions. This is another good example of how decentralization can work.

Decentralization has generated an increased demand for goods and services in our communities. Also, as a result of increased government and private activity, we see our service sector continuing to grow and becoming a larger part of the economy to support that activity.

Mr. Speaker, an important element of our economic plan is to provide financial and policy support to communities and businesses through ongoing initiatives such as the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti (NNI), the Nunavut Development Corporation, community economic development officer positions, and the many programs offered through the Department of Sustainable Development.

As my Honourable colleagues are aware, Nunavut's promise in the mining area is recognized worldwide. The mining industry continues to invest millions of dollars annually exploring, developing, and identifying opportunities. There are many potential projects in Nunavut; the Jericho diamond project in the Kitikmeot and the Meadowbank gold property north of Baker Lake being two of the more prominent prospects.

Even with the ongoing investments and exploration, our mining potential remains largely untapped. Our government will continue efforts, working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Organizations and other agencies to promote the territory and see the development of viable projects.

As well, we will champion and support initiatives such as the Bathurst Inlet road and port project to facilitate the development of our natural resources.

In my first budget address, I indicated that we were committed to making progress on the transfer of authority and responsibilities over Nunavut's natural resources from the federal to the territorial government.

Mr. Speaker, this devolution is essential if we are to be masters within our own jurisdiction and to fully share in the economic benefits that come from exploration and development of our natural resources. Progress has been made in discussions with the federal government, but we must renew our commitment to this important area if we are to be successful. In this regard, we need the goodwill and cooperation of the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has a number of unique geographic and social challenges that cannot be ignored, challenges that have a direct impact on government spending.

The first is our rapid population growth. Between 1996 and 2001 Nunavut's population count increased by 8.1 percent, which was more than double the national average. In

addition, our population is very young, about one-half of Nunavummiut are under the age of 20.

We will need to see a significant number of jobs created throughout the territory to match our population growth. Young Nunavummiut must have the opportunity and be encouraged to learn skills that will enable them to successfully compete for future jobs.

Since our first budget three years ago we have allocated more than \$70 million for capital projects for the Department of Education. We also have increased the number of teachers in our school system, and this year we will be making more improvements to financial assistance for post-secondary students.

Our young and fast growing population place tremendous pressure on government programs and services. Meeting these needs, particularly social needs, will continue to be a challenge for government. When you factor in the vastness of our territory, the small size of our communities, and our extreme climate, the challenge of providing adequate programs and developing acceptable infrastructure becomes even greater.

This is further complicated by the fact that there is no road link between the territory and southern Canada. Similarly, there are no road links between our communities. Nunavummiut rely heavily on costly air travel.

All goods brought into Nunavut are shipped by water or air. With the long Arctic winter, the ocean shipping season is short, lasting approximately four months, from early July to early November. Even when using the most economical means of transportation, ocean shipping, the cost of most landed goods in Nunavut is substantially higher than other parts of the country. As a result the overall cost of living and doing business is higher in comparison to other parts of Canada.

This past year over \$20 million in additional funding was provided to the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure the ongoing delivery of essential programs. In spite of this, and like the situation in most other provinces and territories, our health care system remains under stress. Costs for essential services such as medical transportation and treatment continue to increase.

Mr. Speaker, we will work hard to ensure that Nunavut has an effective health care system. Our residents should have access to health services that are comparable to other parts of the country.

We continue to work with the birthright development corporations towards the construction of a new general hospital in Iqaluit and two new regional health facilities in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. The total cost of these projects will be in excess of \$80 million. While we are carefully reviewing our options for funding these facilities, I want to assure you that these facilities will be built and will end up being owned by the Government of Nunavut.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, these are important investments that will lead to better access to health care in our territory.

Perhaps the single greatest challenge that we face is in the area of housing. Housing is extremely expensive in Nunavut, often costing up to four times the Canadian average. As a result of this, most Nunavummiut live in subsidized public housing, because they lack the resources to afford their own home.

The housing stock in the territory has grown at a rate far below our population growth. This has meant overcrowded homes for many Nunavummiut, which in turn, contributes to other social and health problems.

Over the past three years, our government has allocated funding for the construction of over 150 new social housing units. While this is a major investment, we realize that it falls well short of the need throughout the territory.

For this fiscal year we have allocated \$17.7 million in capital funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation (NHC). When this is combined with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) funding for modernization and improvements of \$4.3 million as well as the new joint NHC/CMHC Affordable Housing Program of almost \$5 million, the total capital investment in social housing will be \$27 million.

Mr. Speaker, this construction season will see at least one new home built in every Nunavut community. Overall, at least 78 new social housing units will be constructed across the territory.

>>Applause

In addition to being a social and economic challenge, housing also is an operational challenge for our new government. Without adequate housing we are unable to recruit and retain qualified employees. This negatively impacts the quality of our programs and services, the development of the public sector workforce, and the overall goals of our government.

To address this challenge, and improve the efficiency of our operations, we have transferred responsibility for staff housing from the Department of Public Works and Services to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Consolidating public and staff housing responsibilities will allow for the better coordination of our efforts, the concentration of expertise, and in the long term, more consistency in developing and delivery of GN wide housing programs.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to examine ways to encourage individuals to invest in the private housing market. We recognize that we need to be novel in our approach to addressing public and staff housing issues.

A good example of such an approach is the employee condominium initiative. This undertaking will see up to 130 new staff housing units constructed in Iqaluit and our decentralized communities, which our employees will be able to buy.

The housing corporation is in the process of negotiating the construction and purchase of these new units from developers who have responded to the first phase of proposal calls. The corporation also is in the process of carrying out the second phase of proposal calls, as well as finalizing information and educational packages for staff.

When the units are ready for occupancy, the housing corporation will provide assistance with the establishment and operation of Boards of Directors of the condominium corporations, and serve as a liaison between lending institutions and the purchasers. As well, prospective homeowners may be able to access direct funding from the existing programs of the housing corporation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a new approach to providing affordable housing options for Nunavummiut. Lessons learned from this initiative will influence our future approach towards improving housing in our communities.

The NHC also is finalizing details of the Tenant-to-Own Program for introduction this Spring. This program will allow public housing tenants who are ready and able to accept the responsibility of homeownership to purchase their home. Nunavummiut who are in core need may receive mortgage-geared-to-income financing through the housing corporation, much like the successful "Access" program. Clients not in core need, also will be eligible for the program.

I want to reinforce Mr. Speaker that our government remains strongly committed to the principles set out in the Bathurst Mandate, creating healthier communities, supporting families and individuals, and making Nunavut more self-reliant within Canada.

We recognize that addressing our housing and other major social issues will help the development of our economy and will benefit all Nunavummiut.

If we are to continue to meet the needs of our people and address our challenges we must maintain a strong partnership with the federal government. The foundation for this partnership is continuous dialogue with priority issues discussed in a meaningful and productive manner.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Fiscal Review agreed to last year by the federal Minister of Finance gives us an opportunity to present our views on our long-term fiscal situation and challenges to the federal government. It is our belief that long-term revenues will not keep pace with our expenditure needs.

This year we will begin negotiations with the federal government to renew the Formula Financing Agreement which expires March 31, 2004.

We must make every effort to maximize our benefits from the Formula Financing Arrangements and seek more favourable treatment or alternative arrangements specifically targeted at critical issues such as housing.

As part of a strong argument to the federal government for additional investments we must outline Nunavut's needs and demonstrate that our government is responsible and accountable. In addition, we must show that we are providing appropriate services in the most economical way.

In response, Mr. Speaker, last year we announced that we would be initiating a major Program Review exercise to help us plan to better meet the needs of Nunavummiut and maximize the benefits from our limited resources. We committed to developing an inventory of government programs and services as the starting point for this exercise. We have made good progress on this initiative.

An inventory document is being finalized and information is being refined to assist with future business planning. It is our intention to release more detailed information along with an inventory of programs this fall.

Our Program Review Board has identified some 336 programs operated by our departments this past fiscal year. I will now present some highlights of our findings:

- ◆ On an expenditure basis, the largest 30 programs account for about 2 out of every 3 dollars that our government spends while the largest 100 programs account for nearly 9 out of every 10 dollars of spending.
- ◆ About 1 out of every 2 dollars of spending was devoted to Health, Housing, Social Services and Education program activities.
- ◆ More than \$352 million dollars of programming activity was directed toward individuals and families.
- ◆ 241 programs delivered services directly to the residents and communities of Nunavut.
- ◆ On a functional basis, less than 1 out of every 10 dollars of budgeted spending was oriented to government administrative activities, while nearly 3 out of every 4 dollars allocated was related to the provision of a specific service or particular product.

As part of our ongoing Program Review activities we will be consulting Nunavummiut. This initiative will be led by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. It is essential for government to know that its efforts and expenditures are consistent with the goals in the Bathurst Mandate and the needs of Nunavummiut. Taking the necessary time to verify that any changes we introduce are right for our people is also an important element of this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the results of Program Review will influence our approach to how we do things in coming years. It is critical that we chart a course that is right for our people. We

must be realistic in our expectations and pragmatic in our approach. While we will need help from our partners, we cannot expect others to solve our problems for us.

The Government of Nunavut is in the fortunate position of not having a significant accumulated debt, and we plan to stay this way. Borrowing to finance operational spending on programs and services would be short sighted and only cause difficulties in the long term. A significant debt load would mean that we would have to redirect funds that could be used for important social programs to pay interest costs.

If we are to meet growing pressures we will have to do many things differently and focus our efforts on our priorities. Our ability to be innovative, resourceful, and more efficient will be critical if we are to get the most from our limited financial resources.

Our Expenditures

Mr. Speaker, our spending plan for 2002-2003 balances ongoing needs against available resources.

For this fiscal year our government has allocated over \$759 million to fund programs, services, and capital projects throughout Nunavut.

The Departments of Education and Health and Social Services, along with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, will account for over 55 percent of our government's total allocated spending. This spending is consistent with the priorities identified by the people of Nunavut.

I will now review departmental spending and highlight some initiatives for the upcoming fiscal year.

EDUCATION

As all Members of this Legislature appreciate, education and skill development is vital if we are to create a better future for all Nunavummiut. Helping our people, at all ages, increase their knowledge and learn new skills will be central to Nunavut's success. This includes promoting the values of IQ.

For 2002-2003 the Department of Education will have the largest departmental budget at \$172 million. Operations and Maintenance funding has increased to over \$152 million.

As a result of increased enrolments, our schools will receive an additional \$2.8 million for new teaching positions.

>>Applause

As well, we have allocated an additional \$981,000 for school operations to support District Education Authorities. In total, over \$84 million has been allocated for the department's School Operations Branch.

Additional funding of \$740,000 has been set aside for enhancements to the Income Support Program.

>> *Applause*

These enhancements are targeted at the transition to work, and are intended to provide recipients with added support at this crucial time. We have earmarked \$500,000 for enhancements to financial assistance for students.

>> *Applause*

This added funding is to provide increased living allowance benefits for students. As well, new funding, Mr. Speaker, of \$474,000 has been designated for daycares.

>> *Applause*

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, we know that the welfare of our territory depends on the health and well being of our people. This is why the Department of Health and Social Services has been provided with a total budget of \$156.9 million. Included in this is \$151 million for operations and maintenance, an increase of nearly \$32 million, or more than 26 percent, over last year.

>> *Applause*

This large increase reflects the value that all Nunavummiut have for health care.

The Healthy Children, Families and Communities Branch of the department will spend over \$31 million promoting the well being of Nunavummiut. This includes over \$1.7 million in new monies for community wellness programs. In addition, almost \$1 million will be provided for municipalities for alcohol and drug counselling programs.

>> *Applause*

Additional funding of \$650,000, for a total of over \$1.6 million, has been designated for the operation of a community-based long-term care facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

>> *Applause*

And, Mr. Speaker, More than \$2.2 million has been devoted to moving forward with a new mental health and addictions strategy that will see a number of improved support services provided for Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

Two key aspects will be building community support networks as well as enhancing educational and supervisory support to Inuit staff.

HOUSING

Mr. Speaker, we are equally committed to addressing our housing needs in a meaningful and efficient manner. With the consolidation of public and staff housing under one roof,

the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be able to deal with the housing needs of Nunavummiut in a more focused, coordinated way.

A comprehensive plan for the transfer of all aspects of the staff housing function has been developed. A major component of the implementation plan is the need to address the policy issues that form the basis of staff housing. Over the next few months those policies and their attendant procedures will be developed, discussed, finalized and implemented.

For 2002-2003, \$31 million has been transferred to the Nunavut Housing Corporation from the Department of Public Works and Services. As well, an additional \$2.8 million has been allocated to assist in acquiring new leaseholds, renovating units and adding capacity for staff housing development.

Operations and Maintenance funding for social housing also has kept pace with our expanded capital program. Over \$1 million in additional funding will be available to Local Housing Organizations to meet the needs of the new housing units.

I am pleased to announce that, with the addition of social housing funding from the CMHC of \$58 million, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's total budget for fiscal 2002-2003 will be \$154.4 million.

>> *Applause*

JUSTICE

The Department of Justice has been provided a total budget of \$44.9 million.

We have increased funding for law enforcement by over \$3.5 million. This additional funding will enable the RCMP to station at least two officers in each of our community detachments. In total, 14 new policing positions have been created, bringing the overall number in the territory to 97. This public safety measure will benefit all Nunavummiut.

>> *Applause*

We also are increasing support for the Akitsiraq Law School. Total funding for this innovative program, from the Departments of Justice, Human Resources and Education will be \$688,000 for the coming year. Within three years, students will graduate from this program, ready and able to continue making a valuable contribution to Nunavut's future.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, spending on registries and court services will increase by \$879,000 in 2002-2003. This reflects the added workload associated with the Nunavut Court of Justice and increased services to the public.

CULTURE, LANGUAGE, ELDERS AND YOUTH

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, we remain firmly committed to supporting our territory's unique culture and languages. Likewise, our youth are Nunavut's future while elders are a link to our unique history, both groups are worthy of respect and additional support from our government.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been allocated nearly \$9.3 million for 2002-2003. This represents a funding increase of \$1.9 million, or more than 25 percent, when compared to last year.

>>Applause

This additional funding is an investment to support areas that make Nunavut truly unique in Canada, and will enable the department to improve programs and services.

New initiatives include the development of the 'Elders Council', recognizing the valuable knowledge and contribution of our elders, \$300,000 has been allocated for this initiative. The department also has allocated new funding of \$320,000 for a Toponymy Program to identify traditional Inuit geographic place names.

The Elders and Youth programs will receive \$125,000 each to help communities promote the well being of Nunavut's elders and young people.

>>Applause

Similarly, the Archaeology Program and Archive Program will each benefit from \$100,000 of new funding. As well, \$100,000 has been allocated for the Nunavut Historical Advisory Board.

In the coming year the department will provide over \$2.3 million in grants and contributions to support initiatives, including, Mr. Speaker, traditional language promotion and protection, as well as cultural and heritage programs.

>>Applause

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Sustainable Development will be funded more than \$37.9 million. Of this amount, \$35.5 million has been budgeted for operations and maintenance. The department delivers and funds many vital programs that provide essential support for our economy, protection of our environment, and wildlife research.

Over 40 percent of the department's budget has been earmarked to fund programs through grants and contributions. In total the department has allocated \$15.8 million dollars to grants and contributions, this represents a \$2.1 million increase from last year's funding levels.

>>Applause

The department will continue to support the development of local economies by dedicating \$2.8 million to the Community Initiatives Program. Another \$1.9 million will be provided to hamlets for community economic development officers. Nunavut Tourism will be provided an additional \$1 million, bringing its total funding. . .

Some Members: Hear, hear.

>>*Applause*

. . .bringing its total funding to over \$2.3 million, to deliver tourism programs on our behalf.

Of course, the department will continue investing in Nunavut's traditional economy and \$317,000 has been set aside for Hunter's and Trappers Organizations, \$251,000 for the Community Harvester Assistance Program, \$223,000 for Regional Wildlife Boards, and \$200,000 for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. Similarly, key investments will be made in renewable resource areas, \$350,000 for the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program and \$230,000 for the Commercial Fisheries Program.

Mr. Speaker, let me assure you that efforts to identify investment opportunities in Nunavut's new economy will continue as well. We will encourage new business ventures and expansion through the Business Development Fund. Some \$859,000 has been allocated for this initiative. As well, nearly \$3.5 million will be provided to the Nunavut Development Corporation to support community-based businesses and economic opportunities. In addition, the Departments of Sustainable Development and Finance have been asked to work with the private sector and Inuit Organizations to quickly develop and bring forward a plan to implement an affordable and effective Nunavut Film Incentive Program.

>>*Applause*

The department will spend more than \$1.5 million in the coming year on consultations with communities and preparation of the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement for territorial parks, the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, and the new Nunavut Wildlife Act. This budget allocates \$1.5 million for wildlife research projects and \$400,000 for wildlife officer training. The department has committed \$250,000 toward climate change and environmental protection projects.

COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community Government and Transportation has the large responsibility of working with people from all communities and their local elected representatives to ensure that many essential programs and services are available.

In the coming year the department will oversee a budget of \$86.8 million, with \$69.7 million earmarked for operations and maintenance spending.

Included in the operations and maintenance allocation is a grants and contributions budget of \$36.7 million. A majority of this amount, over \$20.6 million, is the Municipal Operating Assistance Program. Communities also receive over \$5 million under water and sewage block funding, \$1.6 million for community development, and an additional \$800,000 for insurance premiums.

The department has allocated \$450,000 for a Nunavut Air Services Study. Some of the key issues that the study will investigate are how to better provide air services to isolated communities, airport needs and airport upgrading requirements for new generation aircraft to be able to operate within Nunavut.

The Nunavut Air Study also will partner with the Department of Health and Social Services regarding requirements for medivac flights, as well as exploring the possibility of an air corridor across Nunavut from Cambridge Bay to Rankin Inlet, and on into Iqaluit.

>> *Applause*

The department also will be holding consultations during the coming year to develop an Active Living Strategy. This strategy will recommend programs and services best suited to Nunavummiut and that will contribute to the overall health of our communities.

PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES

The Department of Public Works and Services will manage a total budget of \$65.2 million for 2002-2003, including \$58.9 million for operations and maintenance.

A core responsibility for the department is the management of facilities, which is a big task for a new government. The department's Operations Branch oversees this duty and has a budget of \$30.9 million for the coming year. This branch also coordinates the Eastern Arctic Sealift Program on behalf of our government.

The Technical Services Branch has been allocated over \$5.7 million in operational funding for the coming year. This 33 percent increase shows the continued commitment to public safety issues through leadership in capital planning and technical standards for infrastructure.

Additional initiatives of the department include the devolution of the Help Desk function from the Iqaluit Informatics Operations to Regional Operations, as well as the planned increase in the number of electrical inspectors for the Safety Division of the Operations Branch.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Department of Human Resources has been given a budget of \$20 million for fiscal 2002-2003. This represents an increase of about \$1.5 million or 8 percent over last year's budget, reflecting our focus on the Inuit Employment Plan and other training programs. Training accounts for almost one-third of the department's planned expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, funding for the Inuit Employment Plan will be doubled from \$1.7 million to \$3.4 million.

>> *Applause*

A key element of the plan will be a Senior Managers Development Program. The goal of the program is to increase Inuit representation at the senior management level throughout government. This program will create 15 intern positions across Nunavut. Increased

funding also has been allocated for existing initiatives such as educational and cultural leave, employee orientation, and Inuktitut programs.

As well, we will continue to support summer student employment with funding increased from \$350,000 to \$700,000.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to effective human resources management and the development of a representative workforce. The latter will clearly take some time, but we will continue to make the required investments to achieve this critical goal. One element of this will be to encourage a better understanding of IQ.

FINANCE

The Department of Finance will receive a budget of nearly \$47.4 million.

We will continue to fund the electrical power subsidy to ensure that all Nunavummiut have access to reasonable electricity rates. Over \$4.7 million has been allocated for this program. The department also administers funding allocated for many government-wide operations, such as employee medical travel, dental and insurance premiums.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General has recommended that we recruit more accountants and financial managers with the necessary training and experience. To help address this need, the Department of Finance will hire 6 senior advisor positions to support financial management capacity across government. As well, money is being provided for 12 training positions for beneficiaries in the department and for increased emphasis on financial management training.

>>Applause

EXECUTIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

For 2002-2003 the total budget for the department has been set at just over \$11 million.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has critical core responsibilities for our government, including support to Cabinet, coordinating major policy and program review initiatives, and representing Nunavut's interest nationally and internationally.

To better meet our ongoing requirements in the intergovernmental area the department has been provided an additional \$758,000 over last year's funding. It is important that Nunavut have a strong voice outside of the territory.

It is equally important that our people know what their government is doing. The department will be allocating an additional \$310,000 for improved communications throughout our communities. Similarly, Program Review will be a priority for the department. An additional \$595,000 has been earmarked for this exercise, with the focus being the development of programs and policies that better reflect the views of Nunavummiut.

The department will continue to have overall responsibility for our decentralization plan. The relocation of positions and employees will carry on in the coming year. We are fully committed to ensuring benefits associated with the creation of Nunavut and our new government flow across the territory.

Concluding Comments

Mr. Speaker, our first three years of operation have demonstrated our will and commitment to Nunavut. We have risen to the task of creating a new territory and a functioning government. We have been open and fully accountable.

This budget presents a well-balanced overall plan that will benefit every resident and business in our territory, a plan that will enable us to move closer to realizing our potential.

>>Applause

We have remained true to the spending priorities of our people. We have increased spending for housing, health and social programs, areas that will yield meaningful returns on investments. We also are committed to protecting and promoting Nunavut's unique culture while advancing our economic prospects. Nunavummiut can be confident that we will continue to develop programs and services that reflect and respond to their needs and priorities. As well, our programs and services will incorporate IQ.

We have made significant reductions to both personal and corporate income taxes. These measures, Mr. Speaker, will provide additional benefits to those in greatest need while encouraging economic development.

Mr. Speaker, this fourth budget reflects the growing maturity of our government, while supporting our continuing commitment to managing the territory's fiscal resources in a prudent manner. It also reinforces that we have been realistic and responsible, recognizing the significant challenges we continue to face, and identifying what is required to meet them head on. We have made the right decisions, and struck the right balance, as our citizens expect us to do.

Through strategic investments and good governance combined with the vision and determination of Nunavummiut, we are making a difference. While we still have much to learn and many challenges remain, we are shaping our future. With the tabling of this budget, we have taken another large step towards this goal.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, we look forward, with confidence to a bright future for our people and our land.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Item 3: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 015 – 1(6): Congratulations AWG

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly as Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I ask you to join me in congratulating and commending all the youth who participated as athletes and volunteers at the 2002 Arctic Winter Games.

The Arctic Winter Games are one of the largest organized youth and culture initiatives, touching nine jurisdictions in the circumpolar world. Mr. Speaker we must not overlook the importance of the culture ties that are established and fostered at international events such as the Arctic Winter Games. These games provided youth from much of the circumpolar world with an opportunity to share in each other's northern culture. Such cultural contacts lead to a more understanding world.

One example of the promotion of culture during the 2002 Games was the initiative taken by Team Alaska to include Inuktitut syllabics in their uniforms. As Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth I would like to extend my thanks to the Alaskan government for that.

(interpretation ends): Mr. Speaker, this year's cultural program was unprecedented in that it was the largest cultural program in the history of the Arctic Winter Games. I truly believe such as the events as the Arctic Winter Games make our communities a better place to live and offer an excellent opportunity to promote pride in Nunavut' Sport, Culture and Heritage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Ministers' Statements. Item 4. Members' Statements. Item 4. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 057 – 1(6): M'Clintock Channel Polar Bear Count

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform members of a successful initiative that took place recently in Gjoa Haven in the last part of this month. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit Qaujimaningit Nanurnuk is a study carried out as a result of concerns raised by the Gjoa Haven Hunters and Trappers Organization over future viability of the polar bear population of the M'Clintock Channel, as well as the integrity of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit related to this population and region.

Mr. Speaker, from April 4th to the 15th of this year a field team travelled to the end of King Williams Island to conduct a survey. Despite the harsh weather the trip was a

success. The team observed polar bear tracks of different ages and sex, evidence of their hunting for seal and their dens, and a male polar bear at close quarters.

Mr. Speaker, the project provided an excellent opportunity for respected elders to share their knowledge and experience.

Two Gjoa Haven elders, Bob Kuunaq and George Qamutaaq lead the research team. Two youth trainees from community, Ian Qamukkaq and Johnathan Puqiqnak were able to learn a great deal during the trip. They were also joined by Coal Researcher, Jerry Arqvik and a documentary filmmaker, Darren Keith.

Mr. Speaker, later this year a documentary video and final report will be prepared which I look forward to tabling in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just about finished my statement. I'd like unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress that this project was not about questioning numbers. Rather it was a step towards using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in collecting data, as well as providing a learning opportunity for youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by acknowledging the funding contributors for this project which were the Department of Sustainable Development, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Bathurst Road and Port Project. These were the funding organizations for the research being conducted in the M'Clintock Channel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 058 -1(6): Spring Camping – Unpredictable Weather – Nunavummiut to be Cautious

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, spring is just around the corner and the days are getting longer. The sun is out longer during the day and our hunters will be out on the land more frequently with their families.

Mr. Speaker, although it is spring, the weather will sometimes be unpredictable and some days will be colder than others. Mr. Speaker, I'd like the people of Nunavut to dress warmly on their trips out on the land and plan their trips with the equipment that is needed when you're on the land.

I would like to encourage them to wait if they're stranded for search and rescue to help them. Have a safe and enjoyable spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 059 - 1(6): Training Skills for the Mining Sector for Nunavummiut

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister of Finance for his statement on the budget today.

Today I rise to revisit the issue of training for jobs in the mining sector, especially in the Kugluktuk area. I look forward to more job opportunities for youth in Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, recent information released by Statistics Canada revealed that the economy of our neighbour grew up by an astonishing 20 percent last year. This is largely due to the development of natural resource extraction sector.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has some serious catching-up to do. I call again upon our government and our ministers to work seriously in investing in skills training today so that our constituents can have opportunities tomorrow. Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to wait.

Our serious social problems are caused by many cases of lack of work and opportunities in our communities. In the Kitikmeot communities, residents are pulling together to start innovative training projects however as my honourable colleague from Gjoa Haven pointed out last week, there are still barriers that need to be assessed in our region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend an invitation to the Minister of Sustainable Development and to Education to travel together to Western Nunavut this summer in order to hear first hand from our community about their needs.

I also strongly encourage the ministers to sit down and talk seriously with the industry decision makers so we can develop a forward looking agenda. Mr. Speaker, it's time to get serious about training and I will be asking questions during the current budget session about what our key departments are doing in this area.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 060- 1(6): Congratulate Arviarmiut for Successful Science Fair

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Mr. Havioyak's statement there, it goes double for me on the mining industry.

Mr. Speaker, it is not every day that I can stand in this house on a happy note but I do so today. I would like to start by congratulating the Hamlet of Arviat for a job well done in hosting this year's annual Kivalliq Science Fair.

The fair took place from April the 8th to the 10th, at the Kivalliq High School in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, from what I heard, the event was a success from start to finish, including Science Olympics and traditional activities such as sewing of mitts and carving. The weather cooperated in the Kivalliq for a change to allow the students to arrive on time and the three day event allowed new relationships between students from all across the Kivalliq region.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud of the participants in the science fair, especially my constituents from the Jonah Amitnaaq Secondary School who served very well. Mr. Speaker, Nadia Ayaruak and Rosie Aalik won first place with their project entitled Survival in the North.

And Chris Cooper and Kya Hashee who placed second with a project called Arctic Haze.

I would like to wish Nadia, Rosie, Chris and Kya and their team-mate Kelly from Rankin Inlet the best of luck when they represent the Kivalliq at the Canada Wide Science Fair in Saskatoon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 061 - 1(6): Medical Air Transportation

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to touch upon the issue of air transportation, especially Calm Air which doesn't fly from Coral Harbour to Repulse Bay anymore.

It creates a problem also with the elders and the patients going out for medical reasons.

I was very pleased with the budget address when Minister Ng mentioned that they will be reviewing the medical transportation of patients. He mentioned that they will be going through Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. However we are in a crises situation today and it will have to be dealt with by the government. There was a motion that was tabled by the people of Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay about air transportation.

(interpretation ends) In fact Mr. Speaker, Motion 110-02, in Coral Harbour, that the Hamlet of Coral Harbour will support all airlines but will not support one airline monopolizing all medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, the concern has been expressed many times before and in fact today, it's still being expressed. I think it will take the leadership of this government to start respecting the patients and the elders who have to travel presently on airlines that have no washrooms and other services except to travel between the points. Calm Air has that service to make the travel more comfortable for the elderly and the patients.

Mr. Speaker, I will urge this government to pressure the regional airlines to respecting and get back to the service that the communities deserve in Coral Harbour and Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Member's Statement 062 - 1(6): Thank Health & Social Services and Finance
Minister for Hospital Project in the Keewatin**

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would to thank the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Finance ministers for taking the initiative to build the hospital in the Keewatin Region.

The Hamlet mayor, Mr. Tikkiq and Jack Habvitok worked extremely hard and went through many challenges to get this hospital project going through the Sakku Corporation. Peter Tatty was the Chair of Sakku Corporation at that time and he worked extremely hard because at times it seemed like the project wasn't going to go ahead.

I do know that it's going to be a regional hospital that will be utilized by the whole of Keewatin communities. There will be employment created before, during, and after. So, it will be a big economic boost for the Keewatin Region.

I'm sure that there will be trainees involved, for example, nurses who will be working at the hospital once it's built. Also the Keewatin Chamber of Commerce worked extremely hard being chaired by Ray Mercer and I would like to thank them all.

I do know that at times the hospital project didn't seem like it was going to go ahead and I do know that the Rankin Inlet residents are extremely pleased that this project is going to go ahead. I'm sure that many of the patients will be treated in Rankin Inlet instead of having to go to Winnipeg or to other medical facilities.

Again, I just would like to thank the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Finance, and the Sakku Corporation for taking the initiative to get this hospital project going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Are there any further Member's Statements. If not, we'll move on. Item 5. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that I have known for a long time, John Amagoalik. A long time ago, when we started getting into the work force, we worked with the territorial government and I recall that when we were going to be taking the constitution home, I was the co-chairman with Charlie Watt during the initial negotiations days.

We had heavy debates and we would like to get over those days. They were days when occasionally we had to rest for half a day to heal our wounds. We worked extremely hard in those days but it seems things got a lot better when we knew that things were going to go ahead.

I would like everyone to recognize Mr. John Amagoalik.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the interpreter/translator trainees who are here in the House. They have their instructor and three students here. Billy Qatavik, Andrea Uttak, Angela Nutarak and Jeannie Manning. They're the individuals sitting behind us.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no individuals from my community but I would like to recognize the Innuinaqtut interpreter, a friend of mine, Mr. Henry Ohokanuak, who is interpreting in the booth.

He and his wife are celebrating their 32nd anniversary and we wish them well and many more years. I would like to recognize Mr. Henry Ohokanuak. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have never recognized you. I would like to recognize you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize an individual, my brother-in-law, Peter Iqallujuaq and also Timothy Audlakiak from Broughton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu for your recognition and welcome to the gallery. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a few individuals that were involved in the lock-up today for the budget. From the media, we have Kerry McKluskey of News North, Patricia D'Souza from Nunatsiaq News and in the booth, Patricia Bell of CBC News.

And also I'd like to recognize a well-known individual, Mr. Doug Workman, who's the President of the Nunavut Employee's Union. Of course, I look forward to all the good things you'll have to say about the budget later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter and applause*

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I also wanted to recognize Mr. John Amagoalik. In 1964, I think it was, or in 1965 in the spring time, we had a foot race with other individuals. I think Mr. Amagoalik was the first one. Rene Uttak, was the second and I was the third and we were all Inuit who came in the top. I still think today that we would have made to the Olympics.

>>*Laughter*

I would like to recognize Mr. John Amagoalik.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a few people in the gallery that haven't been recognized yet.

One is a well known constituent of mine and a former politician herself and I think she knows very well what we're going through and that's Miss Rebecca Mike sitting over on the other side there.

And beside her is Betty Brewster and just back over here, its not too often I get relatives here in Iqaluit, but also here in the gallery is Emily Illnik who is a cousin of mine, originally from Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 7: Oral Questions

Question 051 - 1(6): Assistance for Buying Units

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. He was talking about the housing issue and there was a discussion on buying housing units and assistance given to people who would like to buy their own house.

Is there a ceiling on the amount of financial assistance made available to individuals. For example, is there going to be, just using an example, if I made 100 thousand dollars, would I be eligible to go through one of these programs. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole goal of our program is to try to assist those that need it the most.

So, there is a lower income individual they may more than likely have additional financial assistance versus somebody that earns a higher income and there is a ceiling, in other words, there is a limit where if individuals make too much income they wouldn't qualify for different programs. And again, it depends of the specific program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Did you state that there would be a ceiling on the amount of the salary the individual would be eligible for? If I happen to make over the, if my salary was over the amount, would I not be receiving any assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if you make too much money for certain programs, you wouldn't be eligible for any financial assistance. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the minister is willing to give me a figure where an individual would not be eligible for assistance. For example, how much money would an individual have to make per year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again it would depend on the specific quota, but having said that the member knows that all members, are aware that we are reviewing the programs that we have in offer right now.

That's why the whole intent of bringing staff housing through the Housing Corporation to provide some more consistency on how we deliver our programs and the subsidies and the support that we have for housing, whether it's staff housing or public housing or private home ownership.

So there will be more review and discussion and options that come forward over the next weeks or months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 052 - 1(6): Musk Ox Harvesting – Inspection

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to direct my question to the Minister for Sustainable Development.

Yesterday my colleague had asked questions to the minister in regards to musk ox harvest that has been stopped. The Nunavut Development Corporation is responsible for passing the inspection by the Federal Government, whether this abattoir should go ahead or not.

My question is, the development corporation or the Department of Sustainable Development, don't they know what to do prior to being inspected by the Federal Government. Maybe it's due to a lack of knowledge of the federal inspection process. I'd like to ask the minister why they did not pass this federal inspection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to clarify that the Nunavut Development Corporation, not DSD, is responsible for the Nunavut

Development Corporation but the HTOs are the ones that organise the inspections and it's the HTO that is responsible for knowing whether they are going to be inspected or not.

It's not the department nor is it the Nunavut Development Corporation that's responsible for that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am confused now. My friend from Gjoa Haven was saying that this abattoir did not pass the federal inspection.

Perhaps, if I can ask, what did not pass the federal inspection and what happened with the musk ox hunt?

Chairperson: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can clarify the matter to the member as to why they did not pass the federal inspection. It's because they have to be clean and up to code, and follow the federal code for inspection.

If they have a lack of water, it could be one of the reasons because we have to clean the meat. There are various codes that they have to follow and these are federal codes.

It was mainly due to cleanliness of processing plant so we've got various codes that we have to abide by when we are talking about the inspection failure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that now. However the money is being invested or budgeted by DSD to the development corporation. The development corporation had to make sure that any sponsored organization for economic development like the HTO in Cambridge Bay is assisted so that the money is not wasted. The money is not spent for nothing. In order to get things ready you have to spend money.

A lot of it, I think, comes from DSD indirectly. Can I ask the minister than that indeed the development corporation help the HTO to make sure that they pass the federal inspection? Because we come to expect what kind of inspection will take place to make sure they pass the cleanliness and sanitary and etc, etc. Doesn't the development corporation know? If so how can they help the HTO to make sure that they follow all these things before the federal inspectors come in? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation): Yes, the HTO wanted to work on this themselves. The local hunters and trappers organization wanted to work by themselves so that is how it has been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I have two more questions. However I'll ask my final supplementary I guess. Mr. Speaker I hope the DSD or the Nunavut Development Corporation did not spent a cent in this endeavour if they wanted to do it alone, to pass the federal inspection. If DSD or the development corporation spent some money for the preparation for the abattoir than they have a responsibility to make sure the HTO follow everything in order to get that passed. My question, Mr. Speaker, was not one cent was spent by DSD or the development corporation in this endeavour? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure we have assisted them financially prior to the federal inspection. I am sure we have assisted them and the HTO requested that they wanted to work on themselves and we believe in them and we respected them. So therefore we let them work on their own, that is how it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 053 - 1(6): How Many Outpost Camps Are Utilized For Correctional Facilities

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Justice. I would like to find out today, if possible, just how many outpost camps you utilize for incarcerating both the adult inmates and young offenders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time there are only a few camps utilized, according to my knowledge on the issue. I can't tell you how many outpost camps we presently use, but I can get back to you.

We would like to see more of these camps established. We would also like support from our fellow elected members in trying to bring the facilities to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are so few of them, perhaps it would be easy to count them. I don't think that this requires a whole lot of

research. I would like to ask again, what is the Department of Justice doing to bring up the total number of the utilization of these outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are supportive of these facilities and we would like to see more established. I don't count the camps to see how many there are. I simply provide support to those people who wish to set them up. I do not closely watch how many there are. It is not my job. It is my job however, to support each resident and community who want to set these camps up and how we can simplify the process of establishing these facilities. That is why I can't reply to her at this time but I will respond to her on the numbers when I have them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just another question. What has been done up to date to increase the number of the few facilities that we do have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we support them financially in their operations. From the draft budget that we saw, we will be creating a position that will administer this process of utilizing outpost camps within Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have heard that there will be a new employee dealing with this issue. What has been done to date? Will the planning be initiated, only when the employee is in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, to date we have lent our support to those communities and individuals wishing to undertake this type of camp. We also asked for support when we are dealing with outpost camps taking in inmates. Once a problem arose, then we looked at ways to deal with the present operations of the outpost camps. They asked us for assistance in creating a new position that will administer these multi-use outpost camps.

The budget that has been brought forward today will be utilized for that employee. We are continually looking for improvements for assisting our fellow Inuit. Once the budget is approved today, this will go towards alleviating this particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 054 - 1(6): Tax Cuts

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear today's budget. I think that will benefit Nunavut as a whole. The big issue that I would like to ask today to the Minister of Finance is there was tax cuts to where it helps and it is needed, the lower income, the middle income families. Can the minister give me a ballpark price of how much money this is going to put into the pockets of Nunavut? Five million, six million or eight million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is our projection that we will be looking at just over 7 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to see that the Finance Minister and Government of Nunavut is going to put an additional 7 million dollars in the pockets of Nunavummiut and I applaud the minister for that.

The other question that I'd like to ask him today, and before I go on, I think the lower income earners in Nunavut need a break. So it's nice to see that.

My second question, part of the question is, corporate taxes will be the lowest in Canada. Does the minister hope that by doing this, that he'll attract companies that have their bases other that operate in Nunavut outside of Nunavut, hopefully operate inside of Nunavut and pay more personal taxes here also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that certainly creates the incentive for businesses that may not be using Nunavut as their tax corporate headquarters right now, to consider allocating specific portions or as much as possible, in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and of course with that, occupancy in the corporate tax revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good to hear also. Does the Minister of Finance or his cabinet colleagues have any kind of plans to talk to these corporation that are outside of Nunavut now and are operating in Nunavut some kind of incentive, extra incentive, or meetings to tell them how good it will be to operate in Nunavut with the

current corporate tax structure along with the personal income tax structure because I'm sure that there's a lot more people that are living in the NWT and in southern Canada that would probably like to come up here and work in this tax regime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certain my colleagues, and I would hope members of this Assembly and everybody that's aware of this situation, would be promoting it. In every opportunity, in every avenue that becomes available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 055 - 1(6): Social Issues in the Budget

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question to the Minister of Health.

I like the statement made today, it states that for social issues there will be 1 million dollars, also for alcohol treatment 2.2 million dollars that is going to Nunavut according to this statement. I would like the minister to confirm this.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a broad sense the Minister of Finance announced during the budget speech, which was a very good budget speech, I believe.

Mr. Speaker, some of the strategies that we are bring forward in the new funding that we have available to us as part of what the member asked about is the Mental Health Strategy, 2.2 million dollars which focus on family violence issues, Mr. Speaker, including possible increases to funding of different organizational groups that run these types of programs.

As well Mr. Speaker, maybe the opportunity for limited detox in Nunavut and several other initiatives Mr. Speaker, which will be brought forward by the department during discussion on the Main Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the budget for Nunavummiut, who will be responsible for spending it? Under the health department, which communities are we talking about? Which communities are we going to be helping?

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the protocol on the budget address is that the Minister of Finance in broad strokes, outlines the plan to the government and then as the departments come forward, we explain the details of the budget.

However, in saying that Mr. Speaker, the member is correct that every community in Nunavut, the 26 communities in Nunavut are affected by the 26% increase over the last year in the funding for the Department of Health and Social Services including Brighter Futures and Community Wellness Programs which are run in every community in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to discuss this at some length during the budget debate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Just in reference to your comment, I should remind the ministers and members that the budget has not yet come before the House. So there is an option to direct detailed questions to the minister. We'd rather that we tried to stay away from details until it does come before the House, but it is an option.

Thank you. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? Mr. Havioyak.

Question 056 - 1(6): Possible Children's Group Home in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I have raised this issue a number of times in the House, most recently last November.

My question is in regards to the children who had problems and were placed in group homes. I asked him whether he and his officials were working on the issue of a group home in the community of Kugluktuk.

At times, the young people who have problems and are placed in group homes some times are sent away as well. At the time, the minister had indicated that he was working on it and I was wondering if I could get an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct; in November the member had brought forward the opportunity where the Hamlet of Kugluktuk during my visit there before Christmas, had identified a possible building that could be used, potentially, for a group home.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, there were not the financial resources to run that type of program. Mr. Speaker, as of today, we are investing money as the members know, over 6 hundred thousand dollars new money, into the facility in Chesterfield Inlet, and we're also, Mr. Speaker, evaluating what opportunity there is as a department to see if we can see what resources are there for some other facility.

I should also add Mr. Speaker, there is a situation in Baker Lake where we've gone forward with a geriatric care facility. We're also looking at the situation in Kugluktuk. The short answer Mr. Speaker, is that we don't have the money available to the point where we're able to disperse, but need more follow up as a department to see what the potential possibilities are for that type of facility in the Kitikmeot region.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. I thank the minister for his response. I would like to as well do a follow up question in terms of when or how would we find out when this facility would be in place in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've had the opportunity in several occasions in the last several weeks to discuss this issue with the member. And Mr. Speaker I would hope to come back to the member before the end of this session with a proposed possible timeframe as well, Mr. Speaker, some of the logistics and as well as the financial and administrative question that the member have brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 057 - 1(6): Student Financial Assistance – Summer Students

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. I got probably another ton of questions directed to the Finance Minister we'll have to wait till tomorrow, I guess. I know he is anticipating them with great joy.

Mr. Speaker according to the documents provided to the members by Department of Education giving a breakdown that were sponsored by FANS last year. Under the diploma program there was a most number of students was 28 in the management studies program. In the budget address we heard talk of doubling funding available for summer students.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Education if any of those students that are in the management studies program are in first year, I understand that this is a 2-3 year program, if we are going back to school next year. Will they be eligible and be able to obtain and get priority for employment within the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the summer student employment, the Finance Minister said that this will be increased, doubling the previous amount. There was simply not enough funding there last year. We are increasing it. And in high school we will be able to assist some of the students that will be returning to high school. It is depending on how many will be going to high school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister indicating that all the funding there for student summer student employment is going to high school students and not to post secondary students, like those taking management studies program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are going to do is when we have our discussion during the budget session, we will be talking to the members about summer employment for those students. If it is ok with the member I would like to wait until we do our budget of our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker all I am looking for is a commitment that any student in Nunavut that is applying for a job here in Nunavut with the government whether they are in high school or post secondary education especially in this case management studies.

We hear the Finance Minister is saying we need these kinds of people in the finance area and that is who these people are. And I am sure you know it sounds like we are starving for those kinds of people. Won't the minister commit that these students will get priority under the summer student program to apply for jobs for Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This program is geared towards students. We will keep it a priority for students to have summer employment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to coin the phrase that my colleague always says, it's no secret that students in post secondary education on student financial assistance don't get a whole lot of money to survive. I know of one student that was only getting 11 hundred dollars a month to survive for the whole month.

Students going to high school, unfortunately for the parents are usually still living at home and depend on their parents for support. These students going to college and we hear of students that have quit and gone home because they can't afford to stay in school.

Will they not be given priority to government jobs under this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on the goals set out by the student that is in school as to which field of work that individual is looking to as a career. But having said that, we want to ensure that priority be given to summer students and this is not looking at if the student is currently enrolled in further their education outside of the regular school system, such as the Arctic College.

This is to build experience in our youth to try and help them better prepare for their future with their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 058 - 1(6): Nunavut Arctic College Core Funds

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education. I understand that the Nunavut Arctic College has a number of core programs that it funds. Can he indicate what those programs are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll take that question as notice and provide the member with list of the programs. Thank you.

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

Question 059 - 1(6): Any Plans to Provide Pensions for Elders

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to understand every bit of the budget address this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. The title of that department is very long, perhaps we could get a shorter name for that department.

There is no money set aside at all in his department set aside for elder's pensions. They get an elder's pension from the Federal Government and they also get a small pension from NTI which is about \$100 a month.

Although those are the pensions for those elders, they usually don't have enough money per month because they end up needing income support. My question to the minister is, is the government prepared or do they have any plans in place to provide a small pension from the minister's department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps with the long name of my department, we should have bigger funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly understand what the member is trying to say. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth can look further into this matter, however, at this time, there is no funding provided directly for those items, for example the monies that the elders receive on a monthly basis. We have made progress on programs relating to elders.

We as a government would have to improve that and I would have to speak with the Cabinet to try and provide some answer to the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance stated in Cambridge Bay that the programs at the government would be reviewed and in the program review is there anything written on how the elders could be assisted more in ways of getting a pension. Perhaps fix it up for a 10 year period. At this time the government employees gets in the workplace. Once they reach a certain age to get pension. Is this under a program review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time while we are doing a program review, I regret that I can't answer the members question right away. I have a new Deputy Minister and new Assistant Deputy Minister. While we are doing a program review of our department trying to determine what priorities we will have, I regret that I am not able to answer the members question at this time. But as a government we realize that there should be more help for those elders in regards to their pension.

But I will try to find out more in regards to his question and will get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the minister to say we have not thought of it before as a government to see whether we can help the elders? Although this is being done by NTI but as the Government of Nunavut, it has not been examined and we have not thought about it.

Is that what I understand the Minister to say they will consider this issue further to see how best they can help the elders a little bit more on their pension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have to realize the Government of Nunavut gets their funding from the Federal Government and the money we receive for programs can only be stretched so far. NTI receives their funding from Federal Government as well to help out the Inuit. They provide NTI for funding for people that are 65 years and over.

What I am saying Mr. Speaker is that as a department we will look into it and to find out and see how much money it would take to provide a small pension to help out the elders and as a cabinet we would have to look at the request and we would have to work with the cabinet and then work with the members as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that our elders will not openly just ask for extra assistance. We have a pension for our government employees and housing and as a government we often inform our people that we will try to assist them.

And we often visit the communities as Members of the Legislative Assembly and there are a lot of people in the communities that are trying to keep up with payments or bills. Will you look into seeing how much NTI spends for elders' pensions annually? For individuals that are 65 years of age and older, will you look into seeing whether we could provide pension for our elders with the GN? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, I am aware that we could look into how much NTI spends annually and we are aware that individuals 65 and over receive a pension through that organization and we have a lot of people who work within Statistics Canada that can identify how many elders live in Nunavut.

So this is something we could look into as to how many individuals would need assistance if we were to provide pension for elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 060 – 1(6): Total Budget of Akitsiraq Law School

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Justice regarding the Akitsiraq Law School in the budget and I know I'm not supposed to ask questions on the budget.

There was 688 thousand dollars from three department go towards the Law School. What's the total budget on that Law School a year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I believe its 688 thousand dollars as the Minister of Finance stated. If I'm incorrect I'll review it first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Law School is a great thing and like I say, we will see some lawyers come of that in the next three years.

What does a student going to that law school receive from the government in grants and contributions and loans and whatever they are per year, per student? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all that detailed information with me. The Minister of Human Resources is managing that component of the Law School but from my understanding they're off school right now but they're working for the sponsors.

So, each sponsor is entitled to their services, when they're not in school. They're paid a basic salary throughout their school year and while they're working and they're provided with housing by the sponsors as well which include GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister of Human Resources is overseeing it, can the Minister of Justice provide to this House the total cost of the Law

School from the Government of Nunavut which is 688 thousand dollars plus how much the sponsors are giving, plus if there's a housing subsidy, plus how much per student gets per month on a monthly basis and things like that. Would he make that available to this house, if at all possible? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 061 – 1(6): Minister to Visit Kugluktuk Re: Mining

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to come back to the topic that I had earlier. Are you coming into Kugluktuk in the summer time to take a look at the project there regarding the mining sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes Mr. Speaker, it's something I could look into and I'll look through my calendar to see when I would be able to visit that community.

I'll check my calendar to see which days I could be in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral question. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll expect you in Kugluktuk and I want to ask the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) I'm sorry; I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Will you be coming this summer to Kugluktuk?

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak, please clarify your question.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm inviting two ministers to my community. So you also mentioned that you'd be looking at your schedule and I guess I'm asking you to meet with the Minister of Education also, to invite him to see what's in the community and also in the mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. Yes, I will talk with my colleague, the Minister of Education and check to see what his schedule is like and hopefully we'll have the space to go together, to Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe I didn't hear you clearly, are you coming in the summer time?

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation): I will review my calendar. I haven't said when we would be going there but once I review the calendar we'll make the attempt to go over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral question. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 062 – 1(6): Management Studies Program Offered Again This Year

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another question for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was talking to a student who was taking the management studies program here in Iqaluit and he informed me. The reason I asked the question earlier, for them being eligible to apply for summer student employment and he told me that they weren't eligible because in order to be eligible you needed confirmation that you are going back to school.

Mr. Speaker, the college had told him that they haven't been told that they are going to be offering the second year of the management studies program next year for these students. Instead of taking it this year. I would like to ask the Minister of Education if he could assure me and assure the members of this House that the students didn't waste their time last year taking a program that won't be continued next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to clarify his question. I don't understand what his question was really about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo could you clarify your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker will Nunavut Arctic College be offering management studies program next year here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stated I'll be providing him with information on the calendar of events for Nunavut Arctic College. I will include that information when I provide it for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I got a partial answer to my question and taken as notice. Is the minister indicating if that is going to be included in the list of programs the core programs that the college funds, that he is stating that management studies is a core program funded by the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to inform the member that I will be providing information to the member at a later date. If the information that he is asking about is included in there, I'll look into it and include this information as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in this particular case I would like to ask the minister to look into it as quickly as possible. We have a number of students that are taking that program whose future is up in the air right now. I would like to ask him if he could assure those students that their education and the time that they've put into the program so far hasn't been wasted and it will be offered again next year as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students that are taking the programs, it doesn't matter what program it is. Any student taking a program is not a waste of their time; it is a benefit for the students. I informed the member that I will be providing that information to the member and include it with other information that I promise to give him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Just a reminder to the ministers that they may want to give a little more consideration to taking a question as notice. That way we'll have more time for further questions from the other members. The member has been asking questions for the last five minutes and not getting any answers. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 063 – 1(6): [Health Centre Renovations – Start This Summer](#)

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I remember in the budget that there was funding provided for Health Centre in Gjoa Haven, as it needs renovation.

I would like to ask the minister if this project will go ahead this summer. Will the material for the Health Centre be brought into the community? Do you expect that it will be completed in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member remembers that the Capital Budget was passed in this House this past fall. As a result, Mr. Speaker, I can look at my briefing book here and suggest to the member that indeed the Gjoa Haven facility is not mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker, I don't have that information with me.

Mr. Speaker, I will make that information available to the member as soon as the House stops. When question period is over, I will make that information available to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister didn't understand. I am talking about Taloyoak; I am not talking about Gjoa Haven.

There was money allocated last year for the Nursing Station and the community is aware that there needs to be work done. When would this be completed? When will the financial part of it be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. In Taloyoak we had two programs, one was the extension of the new garage, and the other one was the renovation of the residential facility.

Mr. Speaker, on the project itself, the tender came in too high for the allocated budgeted amount that was approved in this House, for Capital.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, the Department is reviewing the Capital request from the Kitikmeot specifically for this project to see if we could find additional dollars to be able to carry out the work.

The short answer, Mr. Speaker, the project has been delayed because the amount of the tenders that came forward were too high for our budgeted amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can recall when we had a meeting of the Standing Committee that we were informed that there would be a half a million dollars set aside for the renovation of the Nursing Station. I had thought that renovations would start in the summer of 2002.

Could the Minister tell me if this project would go ahead this summer? Could the Minister tell me if the renovations would start this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, originally the budget amount that we had available that was approved this past fall in the capital budget. An RFP was done, tender, and the bids that were submitted were not enough. It was over the scope of the amount that we had allocated.

Mr. Speaker, we had made a request to be able to carry over those funds so that we can actually carry out the projects and review the scope of the work that is intended. Mr. Speaker, now I don't have the actual schedule with me, all I have is the breakdown of the projects itself and what it's accomplished today and that's as of April 15th.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I have no problems, Mr. Speaker, in sitting down with the member and actually finding out this afternoon what the status of that project is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I'm asking that question is there money set aside for this project. My only question is when the construction is going to start. I don't want to have a meeting with you. I just want to know when the renovations will start and when the completion date is.

I do know that there is money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, on the tenders that were publicly advertised, the amounts of the tenders that came forward were outside the scope of the allocated amounts. Therefore Mr. Speaker, we need to go back to the department and with conjunction with the Finance Department and be able to reallocate or at least hold over those capital funds and redefine the project to see indeed if we can do the scope of the work differently.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I don't have the time frame with me on when it would be re-tendered or indeed when the project would start and that's the information that I can give to the member that I would get it for him. When the project would start and so on.

I don't have that information with me here at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. I'm sorry Mr. Puqignak, you've run out of questions. Members will note that question period is now over. Moving on to item 8. Written Questions. Item 9. Returns to Written Questions. Item 10. Replies to Opening Address. Item 11. Replies to Budget Address. Item 12. Petitions. Item 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 15: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 006 – 1(6): Hamlet of Repulse Bay Motion Re: Medical Travel

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document regarding the motion that was made by the Repulse Bay Hamlet in 2001/2002, in regards to the Medical transportation of patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Arvaluk.

Tabled Document 007 – 1(6): Hamlet of Coral Harbour Motion Re: Medical Travel

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the mayor of Coral Harbour. It is also a motion dated March 28, 2002 and that was a motion made by the Hamlet of Coral Harbour in regards to medical travel in that they are not in support of the air carrier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker I seek consensus from the Assembly to waive the 2 day notice requirement to allow for First Reading of Bill 6. Appropriation Act number 2 2002-2003 today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. I believe you are getting ahead of yourself here. We are at Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng I would just ask to repeat under Item 17; Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. For the record. Thank you.

Members we will take a 10 minute break. Please be seated. We will take a 15 minute break. It's a long day. 15 minutes. There is coffee in the Members' Lounge. Mr. Ng I would like to meet with you. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 4.02 and resumed at 4.24 p.m.*

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 17: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 6 - Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 – 2003 – Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members for your patience. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 2nd, I will move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 – 2003, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 17. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent of the Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for First Reading of Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 – 2003 for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62 (1) so the Bill can have First Reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

Item 19: First Reading of Bills

Bill 6 - Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 – 2003 – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 - 2003, be read for the first time, and including as attachments, the Main Estimates documents and the Budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in Order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Bill has had First Reading. First Reading of Bills. Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 20: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 6 - Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 – 2003 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002 - 2003, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to seek Legislative Approval to the Operations and Maintenance requirements for the Government of Nunavut departments, in the

amount 689 million, 608 thousand dollars, to allow for the delivery of programs and services effective April 1st, 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Bill has had Second Reading, and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee. Mr. Premier.

Bill 10 - An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 10, an Act to Amend the Land Titles Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, one of the sections of the Land Titles Act will soon be brought into force, will require spousal consent or declaration of support, for the registration of a lease transfer or mortgage.

The amendment in this Bill provides an exception so that this provision will not apply to documents executed, before the coming into force of this Act. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Bill has had second reading, and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Item 21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bill and Other Matters. As the practice has been to commence review of the Main Estimates in the Committee of the Whole, on the following day, and as there are no additional items in the committee, we will proceed to the next Item on the order of paper.

Item 22. Report of Committee of the Whole. Item 23. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 24. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 24: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the regular caucus at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning at the Natsiq boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday May 1st, 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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 6
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills.
23. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 1st, at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 4.30 p.m.*

