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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday May 2, 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. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark could you say the opening prayer?

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ulluukkut. Good afternoon. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 017 – 1(6): Baker Lake Elders Group Facility Now Open

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. I am very pleased today Mr. Speaker, to announce that after extensive renovations, the Baker Lake Elderly Group Living Environment Facility is now up and running and serving the needs of Baker Lake and the surrounding area.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the first of the residents have moved into the facility and more are expected to join them over the next month. Mr. Speaker, the Hospice Society in Baker Lake will run the facility under a contractual agreement with my department. It will be run as an integrated service which includes the Hospice as well as, Mr. Speaker, the Home and Community Care Programs.

Mr. Speaker, the facility is being staffed in part by residents of Baker Lake who have been hired and are being trained as we speak, to work with our elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 018 – 1(6): Elders and Youth Conference and Drum Dance Festival

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly. The weekend of April 12th 2002, I had an opportunity to attend an Elders and Youth Conference and Traditional Drum Dancing clinic hosted by the Repulse Bay Elders' Society.

Over seven communities representing a mix of elders and youth gathered together to discuss a wide range of issues affecting the elders and youth today, including working together to preserve and promote Inuit culture. One highlight was an interactive approach to the teaching of the Pisiqs and the Inuit Traditional Drum Dance.

At a time when school drop outs rates are high and incidents of suicide amongst the youth continue to occur in our communities, these types of collaborative community events provide our elders with a means to pass on their knowledge to our youth which builds self-esteem and pride in their culture. This provides a better foundation for their future endeavours.

Government alone can not preserve or promote Inuit culture and heritage. Cooperation is required of all parties as it relates to cultural protection and promotion. It starts at home and at the community level. Our elders and youth working together are key to the preservation and protection of our heritage. Although it is costly, this should not be a hurdle when this is an investment in our culture.

I want to congratulate the hard work and dedication of our elders of the Elders' Societies and youth who participated in the event, and to encourage other communities to take the steps in building a strong cultural community.

In closing, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is committed to promoting and preserving Inuit culture and in assisting community organizations to build strong cultural programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 019 – 1(6): Nunavut Sivuniksavut – Naming Project

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 22, 2002 I had the opportunity to attend the unveiling of the Nunavut Sivuniksavut-Photograph Naming Project.

This project was a partnership between the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut training program in Ottawa and the National Archives

of Canada. My department funded this project which was conducted in Igloolik from October 2001 to March 2002. Nunavut Sivuniksavut acted as the project manager.

This project, which brought youth and elders together to identify people in old photos, accomplished the following goals:

- Strengthened and preserved Nunavut's cultural heritage by putting names to the people in photos taken in Nunavut during the first half of the 20th century, while the window of opportunity existed for doing so. Our elders are continuing to die with their knowledge still not passed on and this could be our last chance.
- Increased opportunities for interaction between elders and youth at the community level.
- It also increased the knowledge that youth have about their past.
- It provide youth with work experience in archival research, project management, financial administration and multi-media.
- It also contributed to the ongoing digitisation of the National Archives photo collections, and
- Enhanced the quality of data contained in the National Archives Photo Collection.

As Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I am very proud of the worthy accomplishments of the elders and youth who collaboratively worked on this project. Not only did this project provide elders and youth with an opportunity to work together, it also ensures that we are able to preserve a part of our heritage before it is lost forever.

I ask you to join me in congratulating and praising the Nunavut Sivuniksavut staff, youth and the elders of Igloolik for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 070 – 1(6): Community Churches

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to lend my voice in support of a very important but under used resource in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, almost every community across Nunavut has at least one church, if not more than one. As we look back at the history of the north we see the clergy were the first people to travel north and actually live with Inuit. Priests and ministers joined our

communities and shared their knowledge and wisdom while at the same time learning the language and coming to know the people.

Members of the clergy served the people of the communities in many ways. They could speak to the difficulties of the soul and provide guidance and advice. Since the introduction of other types of services in our communities, such as those provided by the government, many people have turned to those other services for support and assistance. In many cases those service providers have become overwhelmed and overworked.

The ministers and priests in community churches can and offer to play important roles in our communities. They are still there for us to turn to. They are a resource and I would like to encourage the community members who may be seeking support and advice to remember the clergymen are there too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 071 – 1(6): Unmarked Graves in Churchill

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is always sad when a loved one passes away, but that person's life can be remembered and honoured. One of the ways we do this is by placing some kind of marker on the graves of our loved ones, whether it's in the north or the south.

Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds of unmarked graves in Churchill, Manitoba. These are the graves of people who were sent south from their homes here in the north to receive medical care.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately these people did not return home. It is time for the lives of parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, to be remembered. Mr. Speaker, I believe that a memorial in Churchill would give people who do not know the exact location of a loved one's grave a place to grieve and a way to keep memories alive.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time I have spoken in the House on this issue. I believe that the Government of Nunavut, NTI and the Federal Government have a role to play in ensuring that an appropriate memorial is erected in Churchill and in other places in the south, Quebec City, to mark the lives of many northerners and maintain their link to the past. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a 12 page list of names of people from the north who are buried in Churchill with no markers.

But as a southerner Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize if I had a loved one buried someplace in the south, that went away to a hospital or some kind of centre and never returned and I don't know where they are, that would put a lot of stress on my family also.

I think it's time, I know this government is only three years old, but I think it's time for all those organizations out there to get together and remember those people and give some kind of memorial erected in these locations. And it shouldn't only come from this government; it should come from all parties involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 072 – 1(6): Compensation for Hunting Mishaps

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, hunting mishaps are not uncommon in Nunavut, but sometimes individuals are injured or disabled for life. One of my constituents in Repulse Bay lost his left thumb in a hunting mishap and was never compensated for his loss.

You see Mr. Speaker, the thumb is the main part of the hand for gripping mechanical items and without it one must learn new techniques to grab and hold objects. Therefore I will be directing questions to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 073 – 1(6): Aqsarniit School Walk-A-Thon to Raise Money for the Women's Shelter

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on April 19, twenty four grade seven students at Aqsarniit Middle School here in Iqaluit held a Walk-A-Thon to raise money for the Baffin Regional Agvvik Society.

Mr. Speaker, the Baffin Regional Agvvik Society runs the Qimarvik Women's Shelter. Twenty four students saw a need in our community and took the initiative to answer that call. Mr. Speaker, the students raised over two thousand 278 dollars for the Qimarvik Women's Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join with me in congratulating the Aqsarniit students who walked as volunteers and teachers Carol Horn and Rodney Corkum for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 074 – 1(6): Cape Dorset Graduation Ceremony

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this evening there will be a happy event in my community of Cape Dorset. I would like to congratulate the community of Cape Dorset for this ceremonious occasion tonight. I will be travelling with our Premier to Cape Dorset to participate in the graduation ceremony and for that I wish to thank him and for several individuals that are graduating whom I will name. Grade 12 graduates have been increasing annually in our community. The graduates are; Ola Pootoogook, Lucy Ragee, Mary Taukie, Aniniq Aningmiuk, Mathewsie Ashevak, Denis Nakoolak, Peter Petaulassie, Usuituq Kovianatuliak.

These students have conducted themselves well in their life and are now completing their grade 12 education. We wish them well in the future and encourage them to continue their education. Although this is one aspect of their education, there are more things to learn out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 075 – 1(6): Taxes to Meet the Needs of Nunavummiut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about an issue that we all love to hate, taxes. We all hate taxes. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that members are painfully aware that the income tax returns of all Nunavummiut were due less than 48 hours ago and I am sure that all members enjoyed filling out their forms as much as I did.

Mr. Speaker, in December last year this House deliberated a bill to introduce the so called Tax on Income System in Nunavut. At that time my colleagues on the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services gave their support to this initiative so as to enable our government to have greater flexibility in designing the tax regime to meet the needs of Nunavummiut.

In December we made a number of recommendations for the government to consider with respect to such ideas and issues as reducing the tax burden of low income families and elders.

Mr. Speaker, this week's Budget brought in some welcome measures and I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance for listening and taking action.

Mr. Speaker, I do feel the need to raise a cautionary note. As Members of this House well know, Nunavut is in a position where we have to lobby hard to make the Federal Government recognize the crisis we face in such areas as healthcare and infrastructure.

That is why I was concerned to read a recent statement from the Federal Government on the issue of so called fiscal imbalance in Canada. Let me quote one section briefly. "The

fact that virtually all provinces have chosen to reduce taxes in recent years, implies that they believe they have sufficient revenues to manage their spending pressures.”

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Minister of Finance will share my rejection of this argument, along with his other Cabinet colleagues. Especially as it applies to the northern territories, where the cost of living is the highest in all of Canada, and where our constituents struggle to make ends meet on a daily basis.

What concerns me, Mr. Speaker, is whether we have a strategy in place to convince our federal partners that we face a unique set of circumstances in Nunavut so our efforts to stimulate our economy and put more money in our constituent’s pockets will not backfire on us when we approach Ottawa for sorely needed investments in critical areas.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the appropriate minister questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Member’s Statement 076 – 1(6): Nunavut a Consensus Government

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sometimes reminisce about the good old days. Many of the people who were involved in getting Nunavut started since the seventies when we first started the process that led to 1999 when Nunavut came into place; many of the leaders in those days have passed away.

Both my adoptive father (step-father) and my real father have passed away, as well as my older brother and sister, and two of my younger brothers. I thought to myself what would they think, now that we have our own government and the Land Claims have been settled. I wonder what their prognosis would be, especially those who were involved in this process. I think about my relatives who have passed away.

As we were getting Nunavut started, when it was the Northwest Territories government they was not cognizant of the issues and some of these things were not discussed. People like Tagak, Elijah Manirajaq, John Amagoalik, James Arvaluk. It started because they didn’t agree with a lot of the things that were going on with the Government of the Northwest Territories because the Inuit culture was not included in many areas.

Now today that we have our own government and territory of Nunavut and we were reminiscing that the Inuit wanted to see more cultural activities going on when we would have our own government. It was felt that Inuit would be better respected and recognized for their contributions to the creation of this territory.

I think that we should keep in mind and we should remember that this whole process is a result of the Inuit who signed their land claims and this government was created and

today we have a consensus government here. This is the way it has evolved. There are no parties, although there are MLAs who act as critics to certain ministers.

We are always looking for better ways to deal with different things in this government. It is obvious that our bureaucracy can continue to get better. We want to be able to work together. We can make Inuit in the communities more comfortable with this government if they are able to communicate with us freely. There are still certain expectations that are levied upon us by our representatives although these things are starting to improve.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to request unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker: Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, there are lot of Inuit aware that this government is getting better all the time. Like I said before, as a consensus government we shouldn't be thinking that this could not be a good government.

We shouldn't be thinking that we're not doing proper jobs because we don't have good criticism or we don't have opposition. Yes, there is always room for improvement as a government. We should not be scared and move ahead.

At times I know that when the public is not happy with what we're doing, we should always instead of feeling down because of that; we should look for constructive criticism and improve on it. I know that people will compliment, especially the Inuit will compliment us. So let's not hesitate to ask the public what they're thinking and feeling about the government. And ask those individuals or the public how they're feeling.

Yes, as ministers at the cabinet level we shouldn't be too far away from the public and there shouldn't be a wide gap between the cabinet and the public out there. We should allow them to speak to us and make ourselves available to the public.

What we hear from the public shouldn't put us down. We should just proceed more properly and use it as constructive criticism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 077 – 1(6): Taxes - Garnishees

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister made the budget address and announced the reduction on personal income tax and I want to make a comment on that.

There are quite a number of people out there who are in the workforce and according to their salary they pay their taxes and sometimes they go in debt for income tax. A majority

of the people of Nunavut end up owing money for income tax and some of them are huge sums and this really hurts Nunavummiut.

The personal income tax, when we owe them money, they're very powerful in trying to get their money from individuals and at times they can charge individuals for not paying their income tax and on top of that for individuals who didn't pay their income tax their income tax interest is quite high.

So, it's very painful for individuals. It's alright to pay income tax as Canadian citizens. We have freedom in Canada. But it seems like we lose our freedom when we owe income taxes. These individuals of Nunavut are hurting because of what they owe to income tax. I don't think this a very good goal to follow. I think we need proper goals because we are Canadians and we should be using our freedom and rights.

We hurt each other due to income tax because they're very powerful in trying to get money from the individuals and it seems like they don't care if they kill us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 078 – 1(6): Absence from House

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform my fellow colleagues in the legislature and the people of Kugluktuk that I represent, that I will not be here next week, from May 3rd to the 8th for personal reasons. My wife is going to the hospital. I just wanted to inform everyone. Thank you.

Speaker: Before we proceed and just to remind the members, this one got by me. Mr. Havioyak, you are only entitled to one Members' Statement.

>> *Laughter, applause*

So tomorrow you'll have none. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 079 – 1(6): Commissioner's Award – Mathew Nungaq

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to inform you that in one of my constituency ridings, Resolute Bay, there was a Commissioner's Award presented to Mathew Nungaq and Nathaniel Kalluk. They received these awards for saving two young girls from drowning in September. Emily Ulajuruluk and Connie Padluq were saved from drowning that day.

I want to honour them and show respect for them receiving the Commissioner's Award. As well, another person to receive an award was Paddy Aqiatusuq, we all heard last year

that someone who was trying to get to the North Pole fell through the ice and an award was presented for work performed during the search by Paddy Aqiatusuq. There was a prayer yesterday in Resolute Bay. Kiyoshi Kono was remembered and the community prayed from him. His wife, his sisters and close friends came from Japan and were present in Resolute Bay and joined the community in prayer. I want to inform you of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Havioyak, you've had your two for the day. If not we will move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 076 – 1(6): Incident in Chesterfield Inlet – No RCMP Available

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice. We have heard that in Chesterfield Inlet there was someone who had committed a violent act against another individual while intoxicated and we heard this over the radio. We are not talking about the incident, but about the police.

The police were called to Chesterfield Inlet and they said they would not be able to get into that community until Monday. They said that it was not an emergency. It's an emergency according to the community.

My question is, the procedures and policies that are followed when there are no police in the community, such as Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove, they are supposedly administered by the Rankin Inlet detachment. I am wondering why this is not happening, that they are not looking after the communities? I want to know what is happening, could I have an update on those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. I haven't heard this and nobody has informed me about this. Thank you for this information. I haven't heard any reports on this matter and I will find out more about it. I will inform you once I get more information from my staff and I will request this information immediately and as I am informed, so shall I inform the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once you get more information, could you tell the commanding officer to place police officers in those communities as soon as possible? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, needless to say.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 077 – 1(6): Income Taxes Reduced – Owing More to Revenue Canada

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Department of Finance if he could go back to his seat.

If he can hear me, in regards to my Member's Statement earlier, I would like to ask the minister about income tax. We're proud and happy to hear that there was a reduction on the income tax rates here in Nunavut.

But I would like to ask the minister, since there was a reduction on income tax, then will the workers within Nunavut end up owing money to Revenue Canada because there was a reduction in our own tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, the reductions were for the Nunavut portion of personal income taxes and corporate taxes as the member is aware.

And we have a tax collection agreement with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency who administers the tax on our behalf. There is no impact with respect to federal taxes. That's up to the Federal Government and the Federal Minister of Finance in respect to dealing with that specific issue. I don't know if I answered your question or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand your response although I heard it. We have various workers and staff under various entities and agencies and private businesses too, they end up owing a lot of money to income tax or Revenue Canada.

I was wondering if Revenue Canada is aware of the fact that there was a reduction in our income tax rate here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's question now. The protocol is that I notify the Federal Minister of Finance prior to introducing formally the tax changes on behalf of the government, on behalf of our government.

What happens is after it is formally announced we notify the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency and they make the appropriate adjustment for the deductions to take place.

So that is incorporated to come into effect usually on July the 1st. So that's the first time that an individual's pay cheque will see reductions in their income tax. But having said that, our reduction is retroactive to January 1st of this year. So for July 1st to December 31st, there will be larger deductions on the Nunavut portion of the income tax.

And then of course for the 2003 year, starting January 1st, it will be the same throughout that taxation year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand his response. It was very interesting, but through the Nunavut Legislature and through Parliament when they initiate something, it seems really good but once you start actually implementing it they are not as positive as the announcements.

So I was wondering if it is going to have a negative impact on private businesses or some workers that might end up having to owe money for income taxes. So I just want you to assure me that this will not happen so the Nunavummiut will have information and understand this as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally, Mr. Speaker when you lower taxes whether they are federal taxes or territorial taxes it is a positive impact on all the taxpayers. You end up getting more money because less taxes are being deducted.

So from that perspective there wouldn't be any negative impact to anybody. I would think that all reductions are positive for taxpayers whether they are individuals or corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 078 – 1(6): Compensation for Repulse Bay Hunter

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. On April 3rd last month, I wrote to the Honourable Minister of Sustainable Development about one of my

constituents in Repulse Bay who has lost one of his thumbs in a hunting mishap and wants some compensation.

My question is, will his department review my constituent's case and see what can be done to help the individual? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ma'na, Uqaqti. (interpretation) Usually the hunters have to fill out a compensation form when there has been an incident. The wildlife officers have to assist the individuals who have had hunting mishaps to fill out their forms and this is done in conjunction with the health centre. So that is usually the procedure that we follow. Once the forms are filled out they are forwarded to the Workers' Compensation Board and that agency looks at how they can be assisted.

In response to his question, I have not seen or reviewed the particular incident. What I am talking about is the procedure they follow because there is a procedure to follow and there is a form that is given to the WCB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He responded to my question and I thank him. When hunters have a hunting mishap sometimes they become disabled or lose a limb. I have written a letter to the minister so I would like to ask him whether he received the letter and understood the correspondence that I sent him in regards to this issue. So, does he have the correspondence that I sent him? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I have the correspondence and we are willing to assist you. We are reviewing how we can assist the individual. So once the session is over I am willing to discuss this matter with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hunters that have had a hunting mishap although they want to fill out the forms they never know who to forward them to.

So if there could be some information as to how the procedure goes, will these individuals be given some information on the procedure after filling out the forms? Such as where it is going, when it will be dealt with and when they should expect an answer to their application. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the wildlife officers at the community level do have those forms. Once you get the forms from them, they can assist the individuals to fill out the forms.

The forms have to be signed by the nurse. Then, from the Wildlife division they're given to WCB and then WCB deals with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 079 – 1(6): Kivalliq Boarding Home Contract

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister responsible for Health & Social Services.

As I'm sure the minister is aware, I asked him the odd question in the last sitting about the Kivalliq Boarding Home contract and when it was going to be awarded. I wonder if the minister could let me know if the contract has been awarded on the building of the new facilities and who is going to get the contract to run the operation of the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health & Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we can make that information available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know it's not Friday yet, and usually Friday is the clown day but I didn't expect it to carry over on Thursday. Could the minister be more explicit on who got the contract to build the new facility because my constituents have wanted a new facility and I can speak for the whole Kivalliq that the Kivalliq wanted a new facility that this government dragged on building down there.

Who's got the operational contract on that facility? Can I make it any clearer Mr. Speaker? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm trying to be clear. He had asked me the question the last session and I answered that question at that time.

Mr. Speaker, he had asked me at that time to give a cost benefit analysis for the facility, who won that facility, was cost the major factor. Mr. Speaker, I answered the question at

that time. I will repeat that answer again. Mr. Speaker, the winner of the contract was the Kivalliq Development Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, they came in with a good contract proposal in answer to the RFP that we had issued at that time. Mr. Speaker, the RFP at that time had asked for the development of a new facility to be used in Winnipeg for the hospital patients in the Keewatin.

Mr. Speaker, we confirmed that they had won that proposal to bring that forward. Mr. Speaker, the current facility is under contract with a consortium, a group that is running this facility. There are I believe two or at least three partners involved with that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's great to know. Like I say, the residents of the Kivalliq will be finally pleased that they're going to get a facility that equals anywhere else in Canada.

But Mr. Speaker, my second or third question is who makes up the rules for the day to day operations and is there a set of rules for the day to day operations of these group homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member, and I just want to clarify this, the member had asked me about the boarding home in Winnipeg, and then he had asked me just now, about the policies for these group homes.

Mr. Speaker, that's two different issues. And Mr. Speaker, for the boarding homes, and I believe that's what the member was trying to say, for the boarding homes Mr. Speaker, we want the boarding homes to operate as close to a home environment as possible for our patients that are outside the territory seeking medical assistance.

That is the reason Mr. Speaker, for having a medical boarding home. As the member knows, we operate these boarding homes in Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton, in Yellowknife, and indeed Mr. Speaker, Churchill and as well here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the policies and procedures at the boarding homes have two points. One is in the contract award; there are policies and procedures outlined for the running of those facilities, as well as Mr. Speaker, through the Department of Health & Social Services, reviews the policies and procedures at the boarding homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the help of the minister in correcting me between a group home and a boarding home but I'm going to talk about a boarding home.

When these rules are set out and I know there is a set of rules because they're public buildings funded by the Government of Nunavut and I've got some phone calls from constituents that there is a lot of this going on. And that's gambling, card playing in the boarding home in Winnipeg.

And I'm wondering if the people that make up the rules do they condone this type of behaviour because it's disrupting the elders in those facilities and if the operators are condoning this type of practice in the facility can I have it stopped immediately on behalf of my constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department does not have a written policy per se on gambling in boarding homes. Mr. Speaker, in the last three years, I can honestly say that we've had three complaints to me as minister concerning gambling in homes and those were addressed here in Tammaativvik.

At that time we contacted the management of the Tammaativvik which is run under a contract by an independent society and asked them to make sure that indeed there was no gambling in the common areas of the Tammaativvik.

Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I've had an actual complaint ride or rode here in public concerning the boarding home in Winnipeg. Mr. Speaker, I will contact the operators of the boarding home to indeed see what the options are available to them.

At the same time Mr. Speaker, what goes on behind closed doors in a facility, there are rules, regulations, privacy rules and so on in Canada and if people have their door open in a facility and people can see that they're gambling, if they're making noise bothering other patients, that is not acceptable.

If Mr. Speaker, the member or Ed Picco or anyone was staying at a facility, and I invite you or anyone else Mr. Speaker, to come into my room and we played cards, Mr. Speaker, the door is shut, we're not bothering anyone, Mr. Speaker, I don't think that the Government of Nunavut or the people of Nunavut should be interfering in that.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the laws of Canada will hold that. At the same time Mr. Speaker, if there is a concern that people are gambling, that they're disrupting other patients, Mr. Speaker, that they're causing problems for elders, then Mr. Speaker, I'd like to see that in writing Mr. Speaker, and we will have that investigated and we will have it stopped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 080 – 1(6): Financial Assistance to the Organizers of Dog Team Races

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Minister responsible for Cultural, Language, Elders & Youth and the Status of Women.

We often hear about dog sled races and there was a race from Clyde River to Pond Inlet. The next leg of the Nunavut Quest will be originating in Igloolik next year with the race heading towards Arctic Bay.

I was approached and asked whether we could assist the organization financially. I in turn asked whether this could be something that could be exported to Nunavik, as they are losing their ties to the dog teams of the past.

I want to ask the minister if he is prepared to financially assist these kinds of organizations when approached for financial assistance, especially as huskies comprise a large part of our cultural past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The dog mushing organizations could be informed or will be informed as to how they could put in proposals when they need financial assistance. The organizers will be informed and we will try to find out what financial assistance is available.

I want to inform the member and the rest of the House, that for organizations that plan these kinds of events we are more than willing to assist these organizations financially because it promotes our culture. We are most willing to assist the organizers of the Nunavut Quest but before assistance is made available they should know that the money that we assist them with cannot be used for prizes.

But we will be able to provide information, either through literature or as a presentation as to how these individuals could look into seeking assistance from the government. We are free to assist them but we cannot fund them for prizes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, for your preparations. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the department is willing to support these programs, but I want some further clarification. There are offices of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in Igloolik and Iqaluit. Which office would I approach, or send the completed application forms for financial assistance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The finance department for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is in Iqaluit so they would be

approached. But in respect to the matter I alluded to earlier, we will provide information through the radio, and the papers such as Nunatsiaq News. There are also advertisements in the paper as well. I would like to inform the members that these individuals can give proposals not just through the mail but they could fax over proposals to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The funding that is being requested, usually there is a limit as to how much an organization can receive. Let us use 5 thousand dollars as an example. So will there be a limit as to how much an organization can receive? I just want to get some clarification as to how much an organization can receive for such events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like we have stated to potential organizations that wish to receive financial assistance, if they are putting in proposals and seeking financial assistance for their operations, we are able to assist them up to a maximum of 15 thousand dollars.

If it is over 15 thousand dollars, we would require a report as to what that money was to be used for. They have to report to us as to what they are spending that money for, especially if it is over this amount. It can't be used for prizes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 081 – 1(6): Fur Price Increase

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

Last week he talked about the sealskin fur price increase in his Minister's Statement. He noted furs would be purchased by the department and auctioned in the south. My question is, the department will first purchase the skins for this and then the skins will be auctioned off in the south.

What does he expect the highest price to be for furs sent south, either based on his personal knowledge or the results of the last auction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your question is very clear. During an auction, the price will vary depending on the quality of the fur. The best quality furs are the most expensive. Some years there were no sales of skins at these auctions. In the past, we weren't making very much money and as a matter of fact, we

generally operated at a loss. One positive example would probably be for the most expensive fur, approximately 100 dollars. But even skins of this quality do not always get sold. But the auction would be in North Bay, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If seal fur is purchased for 60 dollars by the department, I know the very good quality furs are purchased from my constituents. My constituents are already sharpening their harpoons and gaffs so that they can harvest all the young seals. I wish to inform the department that they will be receiving hundreds of skins from the Inuit.

If the department purchases seal fur for 60 dollars and sells it for 100 dollars, would that individual receive the 40 dollars later? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) The increase in the price is a reflection of the actual costs of the skins and the individual will receive that initial sixty dollars.

The money that is being collected through fur sales, when auctions are done in the south it depends on the quality of the fur. The amount is different annually as is the profit the department makes at these auctions; sometimes we lose money as well. We will continue to look at the quality of the furs and to see if we would be able to make a profit.

But in respect to the question, yes, if the skin retails for over the price that we purchased, then we would look at increasing the average cost of the skins. We will look into this in North Bay during that time. We cannot predict how the auction will turn out, so at this time I cannot say that we will increase the price. I can only say that we will review it when the auction is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to remind you minister, that this process is the same as the one used for fox pelts. There are auctions going on with fox pelts and the prices that are garnered for the skins are sent back to the trapper. How come the seal skins are not treated like the fox pelts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question is interesting. It is quite difficult to even try to reply. I can review this and find out more about it. The sealskins are of different quality. Furs from the sea mammals and also from the land, they are different furs so I can find out more about this. Once I get the

information on sea mammals, seals, and land animals fur prices, I will find out about this and be able to provide you with more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response and I think you are representing yourself well. Inuit all know about hunting seals and which fur is the best. We have heard the fur prices are much higher in Newfoundland. We have heard that the price ranges from 74 to 100 dollars per pelt. We heard this on the news and we want to be able to see this in Nunavut.

June is just around the corner and a lot of people will be after young seals. I would like to know how much money we will be able to get before June so I can inform the hunters and the wildlife officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will do my best to keep the seal hunters well informed. Back to the first question about the land animals, I wish to add that the land animals' furs are different from the seals. Foxes have four legs, wolverines, wolves; they have different prices from seal prices. The seals are not very big. That is why the prices are not the same.

Yes, like I said, I will find out more about this as it relates to seals and our seal hunters and I will let you know the prices in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 082 – 1(6): Potential Federal Repercussions Due to Tax Cuts

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Earlier in my member's statement, I raised some concerns in regards to possible implications or risks that the government may face as a result of some of the tax measures that were undertaken in his budget address.

And don't get me wrong Mr. Speaker, I'm not disagreeing with those actions and measures. I agree with them and I think it's great, a good step forward for the territory, but I'd like to ask the minister, do these cuts, could they pose some kind of risk to us as a Territorial Government and going to the Federal Government in asking for additional funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that there wouldn't be any significant risks if any at all. Given that the Federal Government has indicated, they're trying to stimulate the economy, make Canada more competitive

internationally and that works for the provinces and the territories overall in respect of lowering tax rates to allow that to happen.

So, I mean this is no different than what other jurisdictions are doing in moving down, the trend to move tax rates lower. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess that's one arm of the government saying that and the quotes that I read from the document, there is another arm of the Federal Government saying that they believe it implies that other jurisdictions have sufficient revenues to manage their spending pressures.

So I guess based on that I wouldn't mind making sure that finding out which arms are we talking to and are they listening to it and make sure that it doesn't pose some kind of a risk in the future.

I'd like to ask the minister, does he on behalf of this government have a strategy in place in raising the issues of our much needed support for additional funds in the way of infrastructure and healthcare to the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all as you know, I'm not privy to what document the Honourable Member refers to as far as the reports or information that he has before him that has not been tabled in the House.

In respect of a plan or strategy, I think I have said from last year on the fiscal review of the situation of Government of Nunavut, besides what my honourable colleagues all across, around me as far as what they raise on a regular basis with their counterparts federally, what we bring up in federal and territorial meetings on the specific and unique circumstances of Nunavut.

That happens on a regular basis. The fiscal review is a major initiative that Minister Martin has agreed to undertake between our two governments. We are trying to identify the long term fiscal situation of Nunavut. We hope that we will be able to identify certainly the challenges that we face in respect to inadequate infrastructure, obviously the high cost of delivery of our programs because our demographics or because of our young population or our high birth rate.

All those factors Mr. Speaker, all those factors are taken into consideration as we move forward with the forecast of our programs and how we move forward and the pressures on those programs as a result of these outside indicators. So that is the first step to identify what is there and really for us to have a credible argument, we have to have sound information to substantiate what our claims are.

It is easy for anybody to say that we don't have enough money. Show us. Prove it to us. That is basically where we are at and what we are trying to document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that the government is finally looking at putting this information together. I hope work has been ongoing since day one because I know it has been an issue and concern. That is exactly what we needed to do to the federal government, I know from comments that I've made over the years.

Mr. Speaker I know that Nunavut alone faces many challenges as the minister indicated. Even though we are unique within ourselves, I think also a lot of similar challenges are faced in the other two territories.

I was just wondering I would like to ask the minister, since two or three heads are better than one, if there is any kind of tri-territorial approach being looked at on behalf of all three territories to lobby the federal government on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all Mr. Speaker I think I should clarify the record for the member. This isn't something that is finally being done. As members know I announced it last year as part of the budget address. We had undergone two years of operations as a government and we had to get a track record, a history of where our expenditures are and what has taken place and what the fiscal pressures are. It is really timely I think that it started in the third year and we are trying to put together that information in as timely a fashion as we can.

In respect to the question that the member asked about working with the other two jurisdictions of territories, I speak with both finance ministers on a fairly regular basis. Not just prior to our FTP meetings depending on what the matter is, depending on circumstances in our jurisdictions, in the Yukon for example I think the formula financing agreement is more than adequate to their circumstances given they have a developed road system.

In the Northwest Territories as you know there is a significant economic boom. The NWT is leading the country right now for GDP as was reported at the last meeting, through diamond exploration, the development of a new diamond mine is coming on stream, the oil and gas over there. So our situation is different. There are some common issues around the three territories and we do work on those. Our officials meet on a regular basis to resolve and talk about a lot of issues prior to the ministers getting together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 083 – 1(6): Update on Problem Grizzly Bears

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to my favourite minister, Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, as members of this House know, over the last three years I have been very vocal on the issue of Grizzly Bears in my community and the damage they were doing.

In the meantime, I heard from my colleague, Ovide that he had a problem up there and I also heard that they were having a problem up in Kugluktuk and that they were having a problem in Cambridge Bay.

I was pressing the minister at the time if he would initiate some kind of study to see if there is in fact a larger problem with the bears and an increase in them. Could the minister update me on what's happening with this request that I've made numerous times in the last couple of years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in relation to the grizzly bears and the research that has been requested, we have approved the research funds to proceed in these affected areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. McLean. Supplementary.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, the Hamlet Council in Baker Lake had to call a temporary state of emergency, as we're well aware of, because there were wandering bands of bears in the community causing a lot of damage.

So the community had to destroy the problem bears and they were disposed of quite quickly. It's nice to hear that the minister finally responded to the community's request and I applaud him for listening to the community.

On this survey that he's graciously agreed to fund, is Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit going to be used in this study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes it will be.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This minister is quite easy to direct questions to. He's precise; he gives me the answers I want. He's not like other ministers in this House.

>> *Laughter*

Can the minister, so I don't burn up too much question period, tell me when he expects this survey to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could get back to my colleague there on the timeframes on the survey, the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 084 – 1(6): Chesterfield Inlet Fish Plant – Date of Operation

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been waiting for a long time. In regards to one of our favourite ministers, the Minister of Sustainable Development, I asked him previous questions about the fishing industry in Chesterfield Inlet.

The fishing plant in Rankin Inlet can only take so many fish and they tend to fill up quickly. The minister met with other premiers, they travelled to other places, talked about trade and the minister also stated before that the Kivalliq Meat and Fish plant had an agreement with the other provinces to be able to sell northern food.

Can the minister tell me if the fishing quotas in Chesterfield Inlet which are not caught up to their full quotas in that community, will they be able to operate that fish plant this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your question is understandable. Our premier went overseas on this matter and there was a signed agreement regarding fishing industries in Berlin. We will find out more about this on trade missions.

If there is to be a fish plant outside of Rankin Inlet perhaps there will be more selling and buying of fish. We are aware of this and we want to see an improved fishing industry in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are we going to find out? Because of course the fishing season starts in August. Are you going to inform us before the commercial fishing season starts? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we don't want to just respond by saying that it is going to be a study. But as a new government, we are probably going to have to do a study before we start any commercial fishing or hunting.

It is going to be an ongoing review. Of course we will be responding to your questions in the future. It is going to bring new sources of revenue to the Nunavut territory. We would not only be concentrating on Chesterfield Inlet. We will be looking at other communities such as Igloolik, or Cape Dorset, or any of the Nunavut communities. We are going to do all we can to boost the economy through commercial fishing and other ventures.

The government is all for supporting the communities and I think that I will have a more thorough response for you before August. In the upcoming months we will be giving you updates on what is happening on this issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not looking for a new quota in Chesterfield Inlet. We have made repeated requests because we already have a quota set for Chesterfield Inlet. When are we going to be able to fill the quota so that we can sell our fish to the Rankin Inlet Meat and Fish plant and also other countries?

The Rankin Inlet Meat and Fish plant, are they going to be able to buy the full quota that was made available to Chesterfield Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If Rankin Inlet was able to buy the whole quota, they would do so. We will only be able to do that if we are able to finish the whole quota for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the previous Minister of Sustainable Development for giving that quota to Chesterfield Inlet, and also to have proper freezer facilities.

We are aware that the freezers in Rankin Inlet are way too small and because of that, Chesterfield Inlet cannot finish their whole quota. There is a domino effect there; if they don't have the capacity in Rankin Inlet then Chesterfield Inlet can't finish their full quota. Do you anticipate getting proper facilities in Rankin Inlet so Chesterfield Inlet can fill their quota? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure we can look into it. We'll review the whole process and see what we can do about commercial fishing

Nunavut wide. The caribou commercial hunting is going very well and we'd like to see the same thing happen for commercial fishing. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 085 – 1(6): Call Iqaluit for Police Emergencies – Relay System

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. I think all the Nunavut communities have to call Iqaluit if they have an emergency.

If they have to dial the emergency number it has to go through Iqaluit first and then it goes back to the communities. This is a growing concern for the communities. What can we do to rectify this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been using this process for quite a while. It's not only here in Nunavut. All calls have to be answered and if it's an emergency case, usually they get back to the RCMP right away.

I would like to urge the people out there to inform me if that's not happening or if there's a problem with the emergency relay system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Nunavut that we represent today are starting to say that since the creation of Nunavut there have been no solutions to the problems that we faced before.

It's seems like since the creation of Nunavut there are more barriers and challenges that we see today. It seems like there's more challenges now than before. Why is it like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that the operators are now bilingual and of course some of the members cannot speak Inuktitut, but they're getting help when they receive the call through Iqaluit.

It's progress in a way, but if you have any specific problems with this relay system, we'd like you to inform me so that we can look for solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the communities have bilingual RCMP members and there are some Inuit who are taking the RCMP training. Is it possible to re-route those calls to the closer communities instead of to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are twenty four hour operators. They also have the same relay system in Saskatchewan. They have twenty four hour operators, we are on the same system and if there is an emergency the relay goes to the effected community as soon as possible.

If you have any solutions I can have a meeting with you and look for solutions if there are problems out there with the system that we are currently using. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does that mean that the Nunavut residents can voice their concerns to your department if they have problems?

I would like to urge the residents to voice their concerns or problems to your department. Have you made any arrangements for concerns or problems that people may come to you with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I've changed. Somebody's home and there are no lights on.

Speaker: Bear with me Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question but yes if there was, Mr. Premier if you care to respond to the comment or question that was put forward.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost forgot what the question was. We are very receptive to any solutions and ideas. If there are any specific problems employee related we're more than open.

Only if we are told the problems and concerns of the people can we start looking for solutions to the problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 086 – 1(6): Clarify Budget Address – 2.8 Million for New Teaching Positions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance.

I'd like to ask him a question in relation to comment he made during his budget address and I'll quote from it, it under Education where it's indicated, "as a result of the increase in enrolments our schools will receive an additional 2.8 million for new teaching positions."

Mr. Speaker, we heard yesterday in Committee of the Whole from the Minister of Education he indicated that the 2.8 million dollars wasn't all going to new teaching positions.

I'd like to just ask the Minister of Finance if he could clarify his comments in his budget address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the perspective of global education teaching positions, I understand that in the teaching formulas that education uses there are aboriginal language specialists and other support individuals that are classified as teaching positions.

I'm not the expert on education formula matters, that's why we have a Minister of Education that brings forward the estimates for the Department of Education and clarifies those types of more integral or specific education issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to find out from the Minister of Education first to ensure about that as was indicated in the Finance Minister's budget address was new teaching positions. I was hoping to be really happy to see new teaching positions in Nunavut.

I would like to ask the minister, the way that it is written in his comments in his budget address alludes to the fact that there is going to be 2.8 million dollars for new teaching positions but in fact that doesn't seem to be the case.

I'd like to ask the minister, it is confusion and comments like that where people get excited and miscommunication goes out there to the public and to the communities and the schools. I would like to ask the minister for more clarity like this in comments in the budget address or statements they make will be undertaken in the future so things like this won't be misinterpreted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member does make a valid point. There is no intent to have it misinterpreted. Like I said it is based on education funding, enrolment funding formulas that they use and like I indicated that there are classroom support positions there. There are aboriginal language specialists,

school community counsellor specialists. So I don't know all the classifications or what are deemed as teaching positions within the Department of Education.

I am sure the Minister of Education will be able to identify that in the ongoing budget review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 12 – 1(6): Names of Persons with Unmarked Graves in Churchill

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document. First off I would like to thank Jean Simailak, and David Simailak for doing research and bringing the names to my constituency office of the graves that are not marked or unmarked or partially marked in Churchill, Manitoba.

And also I would like to take this time to tell my colleagues in here I think there may be some of their constituents in these 12 pages. And also the public that if they need some sort of information that they may find names in here that may affect them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 6. In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 02 - 1(6), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we start I would like unanimous consent to go back to Orders of the Day, item 5. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you my colleagues for the unanimous consent. I would like to recognise George Tanuyak, the Mayor of Chesterfield Inlet in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognise one of my constituents. He's also NTI's Vice-President of finance; Paul Kaludjak is in the gallery. Welcome.

>> *Applause*

Also the individual that was just recognised, we used to go to school in Chesterfield Inlet starting from 1959. I saw him as elderly but he still hasn't changed and he seems young so I would like to recognise him also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Before we proceed into Committee of the Whole we'll take a short break and we'll go into the member's lounge for coffee and bannock.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 3.13 p.m. and resumed at 3.38 p.m.*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Yesterday we were reviewing the Department of Education. I will allow Minister Peter Kilabuk to go first.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are ready to go down to the witness table along with my officials. Then I can read my opening comments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister. We'll deal with Bill 6 and Main Estimates. Do members agree we continue with the review of the Main Estimates and Department of Education? Do members agree the Minister of Education can proceed to the witness table? Do members agree to allow witnesses to enter the chambers?

Thank you. Minister of Education please introduce your witnesses. Mr. Minister.

Bill 6 – Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Legislature. I had these officials here yesterday and they will be here with me again. To my left is Tom Rich the Deputy Minister and to my right is Bob Loehr the Budget Development Manager. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I would like to remind members that you have 10 minutes to speak. You can ask your questions in those 10 minutes. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we start, I want to respond to the concerns of the Member for Iqaluit Centre. He mentioned the schools here in Iqaluit. The teacher-pupil ratio fluctuates especially in the beginning of the school year.

With the schools in Iqaluit there is no teacher-pupil ratio of thirty or more to one. At Nakasuk School, there is a teacher-pupil ratio of twenty-five to one. Some have twenty students in one classroom.

At Joamie School, the highest rate of teacher-pupil ratio is twenty-three. We have the highest rate of teacher-pupil ratio of thirty-three to one, but the staff had rectified the problem in the beginning of the year. The teacher-pupil ratio went down to twenty-three to one.

In Aqsarniit School, the highest teacher-pupil ratio was twenty-six to one, but the other classrooms that are close by, the teacher-pupil ratio average is twenty-three to one.

The member stated also that they sometimes provide their own curriculum at the Aqsarniit School. We went to go see the school and I can say I think that there are only seven percent of the students that are being instructed on the side with the independent curriculum.

At the beginning of the school year was the highest teacher-pupil ratio. Some of the problems occurred from students not attending school due to their problem but they have been assisted by the staff of the school.

The operation of the school has improved quite a bit. In view of the other schools, our problem is not as bad.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister. We were on page 9-5 yesterday and that is where we will start from. That is where we left off yesterday. Are there any general comments or questions to page 9-5? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We heard through CBC Radio, they used Kugluktuk as an example, the Chairperson of the DEA in Kugluktuk, he made an announcement on the radio that if there were 235 students, 100 of these students would have Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. If the mothers were drinking while pregnant, and here we are not talking about a lot of drinks, the foetus would develop FAS and the children would only be diagnosed when they went to school.

In the past, the education authorities, approximately ten years ago, used to talk about the students who have very short attention spans. They finally found out that these problem children are, in reality they were FAS children because they had been affected when their mothers were drinking during their pregnancies. The foetus has no choice as they are tied to the mother.

So, my question is Mr. Chairman, if you will be working with Department of Health and Social Services on that because the education authorities have to talk with the parents in regards to this problem. If we are going to have a good education system the parents will have to be informed that the consequences of drinking while pregnant are that they will have FAS children who are affected their whole lives. Is there a strategy or plan that has been developed to nip this problem in the bud?

The parents should be informed and cautioned. Once it is evident that an individual is pregnant, they should be informed of the dangers associated with alcohol drinking and that it is dangerous to the foetus. So I am wondering if there is funding geared to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood his question correctly, within his comments he asked if we have any plans or funding in regards to mothers who are pregnant and at risk.

First of all, I would like to inform you that they are teachers, not health care professionals. They are not qualified to give these tests if they are not doctors or medical practitioners. These students have to be diagnosed by paediatricians or by medical personnel. So these are the medical professionals that would have to diagnose these children with FAS.

I am not sure of the limitations within the law that relate to tests in school for these personal matters. I would like to inform the member that we have been working with the Department of Health and Social Services and also the Standing Committee members from the west. We have been working with them on making the information available on FAS to the public. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am trying to say is, as a parent, there is a parent-teacher day where the parent talks to the teacher regarding the student and the teacher talks to the parent about his child.

I am wondering if this is part of informing the parent of how alcohol could be dangerous to the woman who is pregnant. If they are informed that drinking while pregnant could lead to their children having learning disabilities. Just to prepare them and as an example,

I know that cigarette smoking is bad for your health. How do I know that, because I have used it?

Even if my children don't smoke, I would inform them that cigarette smoking is bad for their health. Ten years ago we didn't know even if you are non-Inuk or an Inuk that the consequences of drinking, even moderately while pregnant leads to FAE and ultimately FAS affected children.

So I was wondering if they can inform these parents during the teacher parent days, either through using the DEAs or the principals, to inform the parents about the dangers of drinking during pregnancy. We have to prepare all of our people for the future and this is part of the transferral of knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in regards to the member's question, we recognize the fact that it affects the children in school. Yes, we're working with the Department of Health and Social Services and yes, they recognize the problem. And we would want make the information readily available to the parents during parent-teacher days.

We can inform the communities about this issue as something to be available to the parents during the parent teacher days. Perhaps this can lead to more open dialogue about the issue so that there will be a clearer understanding about this preventable problem and its effect on people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything else? Any general comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I didn't catch all of the minister's report to my opening comments yesterday but one of them had indicated about the teacher-pupil ratio here in Iqaluit and that it was fixed.

I'd like to ask him and the staff, I'd like to ask how it was fixed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following what I stated earlier, perhaps the interpretation wasn't in the right context. In my opening statements, I talked about the pupil-teacher ratio problem in Joamie School where they had the problem of having 33 students in one classroom, it was rectified and it went down to 23 students. This problem not only affects the students, it also puts a heavy burden on the teachers. This was to alleviate the situation in that class. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mean, regardless of the numbers, I'd just like to know, he said it wasn't fixed, it was corrected. I'd like to ask him how it was corrected? That was my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The teachers got together and looked at how many students were in that one classroom and reviewed the whole school's situation and resolved it so that the average student-teacher ratio would be at 23:1. This was the correction that was made by the staff at that school. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if he could be a little more specific on that. Like was there, did they just re-divide the students. Did they move students from one grade to another grade or how did they, you know you can't just move kids from one grade to another grade. There are only so many classes of a certain grade.

So I'd like to ask him if he could be a little more specific on how they resolved or corrected, so called corrected the problem in Iqaluit not just Joamie School. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Unfortunately, I don't have the full details as to the breakdowns or how the solution was found but I can assure the member that the teachers and principals, by working together, corrected the high number of students from one class. But I'm more than willing to provide additional information regarding how this problem was corrected at this particular school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know there were, and I'm not speaking specifically for Joamie School but schools in general in Iqaluit and if memory serves me correct Mr. Chairman, I remember discussing this very same issue with members of the District Education Authority here in Iqaluit.

They had concerns about the size of their classrooms. They were told by department officials that it's not a problem, that it's been fixed. When I asked how, I was informed that it was just a matter of sticking in some teacher's assistants.

I don't know what the exact term is for it, teacher's aids or something like that. If that was the case, I'd like to ask the minister to check and see if this is one of the ways in

which this was resolved or not. Because if that is the case, you're still not, the teacher's assistants still have to follow the instruction of a teacher, the one teacher that's in there.

So basically it adds more work to the teacher that's in the classroom of having to provide instruction and guidance they have to be under the supervision of the teacher that's in the classroom at all times. So I just want to make sure that that wasn't one of the ways in which the problem was rectified.

Mr. Chairman, I said earlier in this House, on the fact that it's our system, and again it's the system that we inherited and I'm not blaming the minister, but the system that we inherited and the way that it's funded and everything else, isn't working.

As long as we continue to use excuses and jargon, I think was the term I used in my statement, by saying it's not a problem, things aren't going to get any better. Just on this response on this particular issue, I think the PTR is a major concern throughout Nunavut and unless it's something that is addressed, and viewed as a concern by the Department of Education and the minister, things are just going to stay the same.

The same isn't good enough, Mr. Chairman, we need to improve on it so our kids can achieve all that they can and not end up getting a substandard level of education as a result of a system that sets them up to do that.

Again it's no fault of the kids and it's no fault of the teachers. There needs to be fundamental changes to the system. I look to the minister and the department for some innovation to try and make these things happen instead of just saying we've corrected that problem, it's fixed.

That's what I'd like to see from our government, from our Department of Education, look at some innovation and look at fixing and solving some of these problems. As long as we keep saying it's solved, it's fixed, no problem. Take a look at those test results as one example, 50 percent of the kids going into grade 10 dropping out as another example.

There's something wrong with the system and we need to change it. If there are limited resources out there, then we have to find ways to become more streamlined and more effective so that the delivery of education in the schools gets the resources that it needs to be done adequately. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Throughout all of the comments, I didn't hear a question but I noted his concerns.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Do you want to continue? Mr. Tootoo. Thank you. Comments. If there are none on 9-5, we'll move on to 9-6 after 9-5. Any comments? If there are no comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just looking at the explanation under directorate, it recommends goals, objectives and standards of education to the minister. I'd like to ask within this section of the department, does the Department of Education have a plan to look at improving the standard of education, objectives to meet that and improve the standard of education throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The educational standards work that we did during the Bathurst Mandate forms part of the plan that is to be used for about twenty years, that is an example, that we wanted our children to graduate school fully bilingual. We also have a shorter term plan of ten years so that we can have a workforce with Inuktitut being the working language in the year 2020.

The mandate that we were given during the Bathurst Mandate, we are encouraged to work with organizations in the planning stages, such as the regional Inuit associations so that we can work to standardise education in Nunavut. Yes, we have plans to improve our educational standards within the education system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's nice to hear that we have plans. I'm wondering if the minister could share those plans with us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Which plan is he referring to? Is it the educational system strategy or the work that we are doing with the Inuit and other organizations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. We are under directorate. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make it really clear that the plans that the department has to improving the standards of education in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to be able to work closer with different organizations such as District Education Authorities in communities, so the educational standards in each community can be improved.

We are working on updating our ten year plan and the work is continuing and when it is finished it will be tabled in the House. If I have left anything out, my deputy will include

them in his response to the question of the strategy within the Department of Education. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rich did you wish to add to that?

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the particular areas that we'll be working on are to work specifically, as the minister has said with District Education Authorities and communities to do school improvement plans.

It's part of the way to ensure that DEAs are more directly involved and in the discussion paper that was released earlier this year on roles and responsibilities of DEAs, one of the particular issues was to suggest that we would wish to task DEAs to work with their school staff to identify specific goals for each school. To use those goals then to develop plans that will address the sort of issues that the member has raised.

Issues such as graduation, school retention, to look at particular curriculum areas, for instance, as you mentioned mathematics. We are also working with a group of teachers to develop support for mathematics education to address the math skills in the classroom. That will suggest strategies not only for students but also for teachers to improve the teaching of mathematics in the classroom.

We're working also through the professional development opportunities to look at how to better support teachers in terms of the entire curriculum and finally we're working particularly in the area of Inuktitut instruction to develop the overall approach to language instruction and to better support that through curriculum materials.

In any plan to improve instruction there are three key areas. Teachers are the first area and high quality teachers who are comfortable and ready to work with the curriculum. The second area is the curriculum itself and we've mentioned the 10 year curriculum plan that's being developed. We will release shortly. And the third area is resources to support the curriculum and we're working on all of those areas to improve instruction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to thank Mr. Rich for his response and maybe just to clarify, the curriculum I believe, I understand that we follow the Alberta curriculum and we have a lot of very good teachers out there.

So, the third area is resources. In the Alberta curriculum, to show how good it is they've scored top in some of those national tests, not only in math but in other areas they were ranked right up there and we're using the same curriculum and we're down at the bottom.

I don't know if it's the curriculum and I don't, I know there are a lot of good teachers out there in the area of delivery of the English stream, everything should be the same. The only thing missing I guess is the resources.

I'd like to hear or have the department or the minister provide us maybe call it a wish list. What do they feel they need as far as resources to see the adequate resources to make and have the levels increase so that we can have a higher standard of education in Nunavut?

You know we have a good curriculum. Alberta's doing great with it. There is no reason why we should be doing any worse than them. I would just like to ask the minister if, I don't expect it this week or next week, but if that is something he could commit to providing to this Assembly, to the Members of this House.

Okay, if this is what we want to achieve, this is what it's going to cost us. And if we can't then at least have an idea of what it is we need and strive to find ways in which to achieve it.

Also, when I talk about the devolution of responsibility and authority to DEAs and I mentioned in my comments earlier about becoming more streamlined, more effective, and more efficient. Some ways to identify where resources can be reallocated to the schools, to the classrooms where they're needed, as a result of things like that. That is just a request to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't really hear a definite question, but Minister Kilabuk, if you want to respond to what Mr. Tootoo was saying.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plans in front of us, these ones that are presently available, I will be able to give the plans to each member. I will be able to give some information as to where we are in the plans to my colleagues and how they are being dealt with by my department.

But I will want to know which subject you're talking about. I think that you have to recognize that some of the projects in the plans deal with long term matters, such as the ten year plan for example, it takes a long time to plan it. Also for students to complete their education and to have both languages within the twenty-year plan takes time. I will be able to give to each of the members the ten-year plan. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, do you want to continue?

Mr. Tootoo: I heard the minister asking what area in the education system, school system, K to 12. That's what I'm looking at trying to see, what we need. We have the teachers, but maybe we don't have enough of them. Maybe we don't have the infrastructure. Maybe we don't have the money to put into it to provide the adequate materials and supplies and text books and curriculum and development that is needed and that shouldn't be a problem in the English stream because we're using the Alberta curriculum. But in the Inuktitut stream.

As I said in my opening comments yesterday, we have to ensure that whether a child is in the Inuktitut stream or the English stream, they should be able to cross over and be at the same level.

Unfortunately, I don't believe that's the case right now and again, the proper curriculum development so that when a child goes from one to the other, they should be at the same level. We need to look at what resources does the department feel they need in order to make that happen so that we do have a higher standard of education being delivered here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the teaching materials and their availability in Nunavut, this is our first priority. We recognize that we are short of these materials and that we have to produce materials for Nunavut schools according to the communities' wishes.

Not just for creating education materials but also curriculum issues, we reviewed the curriculum in the communities to include Inuit traditional knowledge. We looked at each school. In Cape Dorset for example, we worked with the elders and today there are more and more elders involved. Especially in Arviat, in the education headquarters in Arviat, they are working hard to create teaching materials and a relevant curriculum. There are issues such as creating entirely new curriculum materials. The communities are taking over the education.

The member mentioned the standardization of the courses that the students are taking in English and Inuktitut, how much are they taking in either language. I agree with the member that the teaching materials should be created and if they can ever keep up with the demand, whether it be in Inuktitut or English.

We want to see each student gaining knowledge in each of the languages, English and Inuktitut. This is a true indication of the health of our educational system. This way they will have equality between the English and the Inuktitut stream and the only way we can do that is to have the curriculum up to par whether it's in English or Inuktitut. Unfortunately, this is still not up to speed in Nunavut, especially with all of the expectations from the communities. This is a priority in my department and we will continue to work hard at achieving our goals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo. Any further comments? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 9-6, it's very well outlined here, the administrative mandate includes strategic planning, development of legislation, policy, budget coordination in the directorate and also human resources development systems.

I would like to ask the minister about what kinds of plans have been created. When I was in Arctic Bay about two weeks ago, they didn't know what kinds of programs were planned for their community, or how many teachers they were going to be able to take on.

How long does it take to plan for those things and when are they planned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I would like to ask the member whether she's talking about the DEA, teachers or the principals. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is under the directorate, it's speaking about human resources development and good planning or planning coordination. All of that stuff is under this directorate.

My question is, I was in one of my communities and they still did not know what kind of programs they will be delivering and they still did not know what kind of staff they will be hiring. What kind of planning does this division do? How do they plan for the schools in the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked her which specific plans she was referring to but I didn't hear her give me a specific request. If she was talking about the school principals or the planning process at the community level, then I could respond.

But, the school principals, if she were to ask, who plans for the human resource section, the number of teachers they will require. The principals have been informed beforehand to prepare the plans for the upcoming school year. We prepare the initial budget figures based on the previous year and these figures will soon be updated using the proposals and planning that were put together by the community, not until afterwards do we start the final budget processing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): In regards to the Department of Education, how much proper planning can you do when there's a shortage of staff housing at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. In regards to the operational aspects of the schools, and the funding that is allocated to them, usually the schools plan for exactly the kinds of resources they will need for the upcoming school year.

We're all well aware that the staff housing is the responsibility of another department within the Government of Nunavut. The plans for the teachers are still underway and it is impossible at this time to state what is required.

If staff housing is required it's that department and staff responsible for housing that deals with that issue.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I'm making sense. I'm not talking about housing. My question, as Mr. Rich said, in English, that they're looking for high quality teachers. These high quality teachers can have a profound effect on students, as we are told, but if there is no staff housing in some of the communities, as is the case, then the Department of Education usually hires couples who are both teachers or a couple of friendly teachers who can share a house.

So how can you get high quality teachers within Nunavut if we have a shortage of housing? I'm not talking about housing. My question is, there is not enough staff housing available at present, so how is the Department of Education meeting these standards when we're talking about high quality teachers and how good are these teachers when we have to have staff compatible enough to share houses or when we have to hire couples. I may not be getting through here.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. In respect to your question, you are saying you're not talking about housing but you keep mentioning it a couple of times in a sentence. Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know where she's coming from but we can look at this question from different perspectives and respond to it correspondingly. If we look at the previous years, there were a lot of teachers who were married and who shared a house. If we look at today, there still are successful married teachers in the community.

But I would like to inform the member that we hire very capable teachers and we don't hire them just on the basis of their being married and therefore being able to share a house. We try at all times to hire the highest quality teachers and we hire them based on their skills and capabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you. On page 9-6 I would like to ask a question in regards to purchased services. There has been a significant increase in these figures. What type of services are we purchasing with these increases?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the increase under the purchased services figures is that the purchases and other services provided have increased.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): I don't understand what else are you purchasing that leads to the increase? Did you buy pliers, saws, wood, papers, what are you purchasing? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have our finance person respond to your question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Loehr.

Mr. Loehr: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we do the budget for a division or a branch we first determine our salary dollars and then if there's, based on positions and when we do our salary calculations we have to determine whether there is sufficient funds in salaries first and then if there is any money left over we allocate for various other O&M dollars, like purchased services and transportation, travel.

In this case there was a reduction in the salary dollars required, so it was moved into purchased services to allow for occasional items that we may end up purchasing. It hasn't been specifically allocated to any one item at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Loehr. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am trying to ask, purchased services there are an increase not decrease that is what I am trying to ask. Are you expecting to buy more, or is this purchased services, is that for salary or is that to buy items? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What happens is that first Compensation and Benefits are calculated and what is left over goes to the purchased services. I will have Mr. Loehr give you a briefing on how it works.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Loehr.

Mr. Loehr: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically we price out our salaries and retain the funds in the Directorate for their programs and planning.

When the salaries went up from 600 thousand to 614, we had an increase for any new funding. We started with 600 thousand last year; we increased for any new increments of fifty-three. Then we reduced it by 39 thousand because the pay scales were lower this year than last year for the staffing in the Directorate.

Therefore, the 39 thousand reduction was transferred to Travel and Transportation in the amount of 17 thousand and purchased services in the amount of 22, for a total of 39 thousand to offset that reduction.

Specifically, those purchased services are retained in the Directorate, but they have not been allocated to specific purposes. Yes, they are not specifically allocated. They will be spent for purchased services as they come along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: You need for 2002-2003, according to your statement here, you need eight thousand bucks. You have a reduction of salaries from the top there. You really don't need 25 thousand dollars for purchased services, but to keep the balance of 776 thousand dollars, you put it there.

For the purpose of good budgeting and good government, would it not have been better to transfer part of the purchased services extra budget to school services like 9-18.

To improve the school subs and the elders' participation in schools, etc. etc. instead of having it under the directorate. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect to the finances that are being alluded to under the directorate, it's managed by the office and under the direction of the deputy minister. If we wanted to we could move it on to the other pages.

If we look at the adjustments last year and in response to your question, there is one item that is not included and I am referring to it because it relates to the affected adjustments as compared to the previous year salary amounts, if we look at these amounts in respect to the question, yes they are included.

The operational requirements of the office allow us a little leeway because there's about 25 thousand dollars extra and we could transfer it to other priorities within our department once they are identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you. I hope it will be transferred elsewhere to where it's really needed because I think most of us worked in the local level, regional level with the GNWT, the Federal Government.

As civil servants in different divisions, what I call the March mad dash, that when you have a potential surplus in your budget, as you said, ordering up extra tires and extra skidoos, boogie wheels for renewable resources etc. etc. Especially public works where they're making payments for that and sometimes that 28 thousand dollars may be used for something you really don't need because what you're trying to fight for is not 28 thousand dollars, but, what you're trying to fight for is to make sure that at the end, gives you another 776 thousand dollars next year to protect that.

If you under spend it, you might not get the full amount next year because the executive might say you don't need it. I hope next time when you're making a budget that you justify it by transferring it to something that you really need it like 9-18.

I thinking I'm barking up the wrong tree, Mr. Chairman. I think I should be asking the Minister of Finance on that one. But still, sometimes unjustified allocations, for example, these purchased services, the finance person just stated that we don't really need it but we got to put it somewhere in this page.

I hope there will be a more innovative way of allocating your limited resources where they are really needed so that we will be able to say good for you. You got it right on. Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The adjustments from last year total about 17-25 thousand dollars from last year and after we report progress today, I will direct my staff to put this amount of money to where it's most needed. I will do that as soon as we report progress today. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I don't have anybody else on my list. I want the members to know that when we are dealing with the details of expenditures, we are going page by page. We are on Education Branch summary, 9-6, Directorate, any comments? If there are none. Total operations and maintenance, 776 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page 9-7. Education. Branch Summary. Policy and Planning. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that page 2001-2002, 413 thousand estimated. It seems it hasn't been used as far as the estimates go. It seems okay but I am concerned about the decrease. It seems you used the lower portion of it. You should have used 413 thousand dollars. Why was that not used and what was it used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. We are in the main estimates for 2002-2003. We are page 9-7. What are you referring to Mr. Havioyak?

Mr. Havioyak: On page 9-7 under grants and contribution last year's main estimates were 413 thousand dollars but after revision you only used 562 thousand dollars. Was there some cancelled program or there weren't enough applicants to apply for this grant. Why did it go down from the main estimates? Koana.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you look under grants and contribution there is 352 thousand dollars and above it is compensation and benefits 1 million 271 thousand dollars. It is just to correct those changes that need to be made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Koana. I am referring to 9-8 because they are the same number as what you have on here on 9-7 on the detail I guess. It says there library services. What library services? You first estimated it was 413 thousand dollars for that year but you only used 352 thousand dollars. I think that is the same thing when you are talking about grants and contributions. I am just trying to get a picture.

In the main estimates you asked for 413 thousand dollars but only used 352 thousand dollars. I am wondering if there is a drop of some type of assistance to those libraries. What kinds of things did you drop, if the number went down by, I'm just estimating here, 40-50 thousand dollars?

I'm just wondering why the number went down. Maybe there was a cut on some of the things that were provided to the libraries. I don't know. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I spoke earlier about the decrease. Half of a position was moved, one position was moved or half of a position was moved, not deleted but moved. Under grants and contributions some of the money was transferred over to compensation and benefits for half of a PY.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I think I understand the answer. So you made it a more permanent position I guess when you did that. I hope you don't mind when I keep referring to 9-8 because it's the same thing as the grants and contributions.

If I can, I just want to ask the minister just for clarification, you say you support library operations for each region. When I look at regions, to me, the operations of each region, it says in my mind, Cambridge Bay is our regional office, it seems like that money is going to the regional office rather than to the communities in the region.

I'm just trying to get a picture because when you look at the paragraph on page 9-7, the public library services, I'm sure that's for each community. When I go into the detailed part of it, when you look at the region, it makes me think that the money is going to the regional headquarters instead of to the community.

I just want to make sure I understand this. I know I brought this up at one point but again for the record, to clarify and let me understand this, is this for each community in all regions? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contribution is for the public libraries in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Do you want to continue, Mr. Havioyak? Anyone else? We're on 9-7. Education Branch Summary. Policy and Planning. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 10 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. I will move on to 9-9, since 9-8 is a part of the previous page. Education Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Any comments? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, under corporate services, compensation and benefits, under 2001/2002, it was 1 million 76 thousand dollars and the 2002/2002 main estimates is 1 million 333 thousand dollars.

What was the increased percentage of staff? How many staff would that benefit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase is due to increases for staff due to the new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees' Union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak. Are you done?

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm done. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2001/2002, the department's corporate services division was expanded to include a capital planning position and for 2002/2003, it has been expanded again to include a position for school operations.

What advantages are expected from creating this new position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increases for capital, we have staff dealing with capital estimates and planning. This is part of the increase, and under education the concerns that were brought to our attention and the changes that need to be done is due to increase.

And, once they had been worked on this thoroughly it had made a lot of progress. Supplies that had to be shipped in were planned, this was part of the increase. What was going to be happening to the schools, once we talked with the DEAs and the communities, this also contributed to the increase. As well as, the land and the size of the land was also a contributing factor. The issue of where the money was going to be coming from for these, how it would be split up, has also made significant progress.

So, these are the reasons for the increase and we have an individual dealing with these areas, one individual and there have been a lot of improvements and if we were to have something else worked on the cost would certainly increase. So I'll have my DM add to my comments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Rich can you give a further explanation.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In particular, the school operations financial support position that you mentioned, is there to better deal with school funding issues. We heard the concerns of DEAs and others about getting timely financial information. We also know that there is a large amount of financial information that is being dealt with at the school operations level, the three school operations level. So that person will have a specific responsibility to work with regional school operations to produce more timely financial information for use by regional school operations for the benefit of DEAs and to make sure the government has timely financial information about a large section of the education budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq. What are the procedures in place in the government when you create a new position in the department? Do you need approval from Cabinet or something or do positions just pop up and you put them in. What is the procedure to create a position? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all the first thing will be to advertise the position and once the position is open the funding request will be given to FMB. There will be information about the employee's responsibilities. We're not just creating positions we are filling what is needed in schools.

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

Ms. Williams: In Directorate and Corporate Services and other divisions in the headquarters level, I think there are some new PYs in there. Hopefully we'll see the new PYs at the community level. I want to make sure that will happen because government should not be serving itself, it should be serving the communities and especially the schools. So I just wanted to mention that. Hopefully there will be a very positive impact on the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: In this case and the creation of other positions, the benefits would definitely outweigh any negative impacts this would have with the position being created. Now I also want to try and emphasise the importance of creating certain positions within our department to allow more...rather to help the department to provide more benefits to the communities, the schools and also community members.

So in weighing the pros and cons on such positions, those things are considered as part of the process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost every division has increased in travel. I would like to ask the minister about travel and transportation that has been increased by 78 thousand dollars. Why are they expecting to travel more and maybe clarify that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For travel and transportation for this main estimate there's a slight increase but I would like to elaborate to you that the adjustment for compensation and benefits also was increased and due to that, the staff that travel for school services, and for the contract services and also in line with travel and transportation to support the staff in their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Williams. Thank you. Anything else? Education Branch Summary. Corporate Services. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 5 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Next page 9-10. Education Branch Summary. Income Support. Any questions on this? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): On page 9-10, about 300 thousand is added. What was the reason for the increase? Is it for the higher cost of living or the population increase? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I'm sorry Mr. Chairman. For the 300 thousand, I have no answer for now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We're on 9-10. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The total operations and maintenance for 2001/2002 was 1 million 865 thousand dollars, for 2002/2003, it is now 2 million 186 thousand.

I'm asking what this 300 thousand dollar increase is for. Is it more positions or the population increase in Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify this approximately 300 thousand dollar increase, 286 thousand is for our office. We want to be able to provide more training to income support workers. This is geared for training because we want to be able to train more income support workers. Also 186 thousand dollars is for elders, this is due to the increase in numbers. We are also requesting new funding of 186 thousand to deal with these funding shortfalls.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Are you finished? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am totally lost. What page is the assistance for the income support recipients figures, what page are they on again? Are they not on 9-10?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we go on to 9-16, they will be included within the Employment and Career Services section. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if you will start working on that...I have asked the Minister responsible for elders previously, having deliberated this thought, the elders who are now sixty years old and over, they have never been in the workforce and they have never been on income support, because they were surviving through trapping and selling furs and all that. Some of them were working part-time previously.

But they were never given any pensions. For example, my good friend from Resolute Bay, Mr. Kalluk, when he was working for the Power Corporation, he would be laid off in the springtime for a whole month, and in the fall time, he would be rehired again and for twenty years that occurred. He could not receive any pension from that, due to this practice.

There are quite a few individuals like that who used to work and be laid off, and they weren't eligible for a pension, this seems like a calculated plot to deprive them of their pensions by their employers, so they would not have to pay the premiums. Nowadays they get their elders' pension from the federal government, and I think that they also get a pension from NTI of a paltry 100 dollars.

When these pensions are not enough to cover their means and necessities, especially when they are supporting a lot of relatives, they are given additional funding from income support. They live below the poverty line and they have to survive in the community with these limited funds.

I was wondering if the Minister responsible for Income Support has considered rather than having the elders go through income support, if there could be some other less demeaning source of extra funds. We take an individuals' self-esteem when we put them on welfare. They will not be looking for jobs as they are "retired". They are not looking for additional career training, and we are still putting them under income support. We are taking away their pride of being a self-sufficient Inuk.

I was wondering even though the money will be coming from Income Support, rather than give them this income support, call it supplementary pensions, I don't know how to say it in Inuktitut, but I was wondering if the elders could receive a supplementary pension to be able to live above the poverty line. I was wondering if you have ever considered that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is one of the reasons why we are requesting this additional funding. For example, in 2001-2002, in supplementary benefits for individuals aged 65 years and older, there were 531 individuals and they received 135 dollars per month in extra benefits.

In line with the federal pension plan that the elders are eligible for, the supplementary pension is made available to all the elders who are 65 years and older and that's still continuing today.

We will try to keep the elders above the poverty line with a Supplementary Pension in regards to my colleague's question about this issue.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that the income support recipients are asked to give their cheques to the store and they purchase groceries. And the elders who are 65 years and over, since they only get 135 per month, for example, here in Iqaluit, do you send the cheque out to the elders under their names? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to his question, we're waiting for our income support official to come here and that individual can respond adequately. But first of all I would like to clarify; I don't want to have any misunderstandings in relation to my earlier comments.

The increase is to keep up with the forced growth of the elders. It's not a supplementary pension. It's to keep up with the population. But in respect to your question, I cannot respond to it. I am not familiar with the details involved in this process. I will ask my officials. My officials are waiting to come here to the witness table to respond to these income support questions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Let me get some order here. We're now on income support. So please get the appropriate official to the witness table so that your officials can respond to the members here. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm sure the officials are on their way down. I want the members to receive a good response in regards to income support. Our director was unable to be here but there is another co-worker that this individual works with presently available.

If it's okay with you Mr. Chairman, I would like to invite the official to the chambers.

Chairperson (interpretation): In order to proceed properly let's take a five minute break and after five minutes come back to the chamber. Thank you.

>> *Committee recessed at 5.08 p.m. and resumed at 5.19 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): We now have a quorum. We're still on the same page. I would first like the minister to introduce his officials. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Their last names are a little bit different from the previous officials I had. To my right is our Senior Income Support Policy Analyst Mark MacKay. Our income support director could not be here so he's replacing that individual. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome Mr. MacKay. Mr. Arvaluk, you can ask your questions again so that they'll be able to respond.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These figures are only dealing with the compensation and benefits package, so we're just talking about income support staff at this time and I was wondering, I think it's 9-16, I think that's only part of fees and payments. It talks about fees and payments, here.

The 22 million 600 thousand dollars on 9 – 16 is used for income support. I would like to deal with 9-16 at the same time we're dealing with 9-10 if that's okay with you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, I will ask the members. This income support page is for the workers and also there's employment and career services so if we can follow along that line of thinking. Is it okay if we do it the way Mr. Arvaluk suggested?

Yes we will do so, there's agreement. Thank you.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to ask a question. We would like to deal with 9-10 and complete it. For example, I think we call it a pension (ittuqsiutitaat) for the elders, whether they be female or male, the federal pension plan, I think it's 608 dollars that they receive per month and 100 dollars from NTI.

As Nunavut residents, according to Canadian Federal Statutes, if an individual is living alone in a house here in Nunavut, whether it is a house or elders' facility, what's the minimum allowable pension amount that the elder is eligible for? I'd like to get that clarified first.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are we talking about the total or are we just talking about the Nunavut Government's pension plan.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You would be under the poverty line, if you only made so much annually. For example, there's 608 dollars, just an example, and 100 dollars from NTI and if you totalled that up it's 708 dollars.

Is 708 dollars under the poverty line or is it over if we're talking about one individual. Is the poverty line up to a maximum of one thousand dollars, 800 dollars or what is considered the poverty line?

Chairperson (interpretation): Please say thank you so our technicians will know which buttons to push. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have our income support person respond to your question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McKay.

Mr. McKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand of the question, you were saying that 708 dollars is what's provided to a single person and you were asking if that person is above or below the poverty line in Nunavut.

First of all at this point, in this office for income support, we don't measure what the poverty line is. We basically establish what needs are. So for a single person for instance in Iqaluit it would be based on a food need, a housing need, an electricity need and some clothing needs and some other benefits. So for an average single person that need is somewhere between 500 and 700 dollars per month.

That's primarily because housing is established at a very minimum amount of 32 dollars a month or less and if it is for seniors or elders it is free. In the food allowance in Iqaluit again as an example it is 259 dollars a month and clothing benefits and power benefits. The income that comes from us there are certain amounts of these that are exempt. The NTI benefits are exempt, the pensions count as unearned income. So whatever is left over would be the top up that would be provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a variety of formulas. But in that case the top up still comes from Income Support for the elderly who never received income support before the prices went down. Some of the elders are still hunting and they are still trying to have the livelihood out on the land.

Is there a study with CLEY and the Income Support division to find a better or more dignified way of assisting the elders? For example Canada Pension is one and NTI pension is the other. Rather than having a person called an Income Support recipient or whatever the government term maybe in the government jargon. Is there another dignified way that it can be handled? For example, a fixed amount that you can give in a form of a cheque rather than a voucher to an elderly person. Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first would like to make a clarification so that we'll know what we are talking about. The Income Support recipients or the pension benefits the elders get, don't go through this process, they go through the supplemental process which is in the amount of 135 dollars that we mentioned earlier. These are just to keep up with inflation and forced growth.

The 186 thousand dollars is here in our estimates. That is to supplement the benefits the elders get. I would like everyone to understand that they don't go through here. They're from another pot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I don't quite understand it. It doesn't go through the 22 million 600 thousand dollars that Mr. MacKay mentioned in regards to this supplemental benefit? Are you saying it doesn't come out of the 22 million dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will have to approve these main estimates line by line. I do not want to cause any further confusion in regards to these figures. There is 186 thousand dollars that I mentioned which is the forced growth increase under 9-10 and then there are the employment and career services which are under 9-16. To further explain it in 9-10, the elders' benefits go to 135 every month. That's where the supplement comes in.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I understand that. I'm only referring to 9-10 in your preamble. The Income Support program provides financial security for those in need, as well as incentives and support for those receiving assistance to become more self-reliant and to have productive choices according to their health, abilities and efforts, education, training, work opportunities etc.

But there is nothing in this program, especially in the preamble, to have special consideration to promote something that is more dignified for the elderly, in your preamble. We are going to continue to group them with other income support recipients if the Canada Pension and NTI one hundred dollars is not sufficient.

My question here is would you put in the preamble an innovative way of recognizing the elders that they are not in fact in income support because they don't want to go to school or they don't want to get training or they are not looking for jobs.

They have no choice. They're elders now. We could recognize it in CLEY. Can we recognize it in page 9-10? That's all I'm asking. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. That is your last question. I will go back to you after I let the other members have their say. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the preamble, we could fix up the wording so that we could recognize what you're saying. I think it's doable. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk, your last question.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that there is housing that has to be considered as Mr. McKay mentioned earlier. You have to look at the utilities, the electricity, the water services, but what I'm trying to say is that even with those things to factor in we should look at the elders in particular who were never in the workforce in their whole lives.

They never contributed to the pension plan. How can we recognize those individuals, not through income support? Can we not look at some sort of a plan for the elders specifically? We cannot put a line item here but possibly what you can do is work with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth so that they can get additional benefits.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the review that was done on income support previous to this it wasn't mentioned but according to Mr. Arvaluk's comments, if an individual has never participated in the workforce or contributed to the pension plan, if you're 60-64 years of age, they receive 175 dollars monthly. I just want to include that as information.

We're talking about giving additional financial support to the elders so I will have to talk to my colleagues to see what we can do. Possibly through discussions with the Cabinet members we could very likely review it and come up with something but I will have to talk to my colleagues before I make any decisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 9-10, on the preamble I guess you can call it, the last sentence you have, after saying to make productive choices according to their health, ability and effort and these choices include community healing, education, training and so on. But anyway, I just want to refer to the community healing.

I guess I just want to give you an example. I said this too last year, and I want to say it again. Where my community works with another community, on the healing side of it for example, it's very hard to do that without funding available to go to another community.

I'm talking about a group here, not individuals, although you have here individuals. We work with groups and from what I see, it's been very effective in a way although it's a group thing, but individuals improve their way of living, the way they behave, their day to day lives after the community meeting with another community and working together and sharing their experiences and how they can heal themselves as an individual.

In this area, I guess there is funding available to go to another community as a group chartering from one place to another to do exactly that when we say community healing. Maybe it's not wrong but maybe it's not in this, maybe elsewhere. I just want to make sure that's how I understand it in this page. Koanaqtit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr Havioyak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very glad that the communities took that initiative to work on the community healing and we're all for it as a government.

As Mr. Havioyak stated, (interpretation ends) like those groups, and to echo his comments, it is the individuals that benefit from such activities. So we do encourage communities and groups to do what they can within their means to help benefit the individuals in the community.

Having said that, it is not something that we fund with the funds that we have identified on this page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Uqaqti. We are in the same boat here; we are talking about community healing all of us in this House.

Community healing like I said, in my community one of the things that they do annually for the last ten years they do their own fundraising, but they struggle to do it, because they can't get to another community to share their information, or get somebody to come to the community to share their experiences in the areas of community healing.

I would like to see something in this area where we can make some funds available for this type of assistance to the communities so they can work towards community healing. When you talk about community healing, it might be a local program, local community healing. But when you invite someone from another community or go to that community, when you are sharing these experiences that you or as a group learn, you get better in life. I have seen that.

I wish we could find somewhere where we could address this. Maybe I am hoping that I could see something in the pages that I have here. If not, I would like to try and address that in this budget if it can be.

I am using my community as an example; I know that they did a little bit of fundraising. From one community to another they estimated that the total costs would be 20 thousand dollars annually, this is for my community I am talking about. Maybe other communities might be looking at that type of community healing.

Twenty thousand yes is hard to find. I am just saying that we have to address this. I can give you an example where at least ten elders and youth went to the Deline community last year by charter but they still struggled to get that money, they wished they sent about twenty. I want you to be aware that they will be coming forward again to this type of healing if we are going to address that.

Most of those people that are going to the community healing again, maybe seventy or eighty percent of them are Income Support recipients. So let us take a good serious look at this and see what we could come up with. Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq. I am glad that our department does take part in working with other departments to develop community healing approaches. For instance, Justice, Education and Health & Social Services worked with a community to access crime prevention funding from the federal government.

I don't want to build expectations from the communities that all Income Support programs will have duplicate roles and responsibilities as Health & Social Services. Our role in wanting to assist communities with their healing programs, we are more than willing to provide information to them that will help the groups and communities reach their goals.

So Mr. Chairman, I don't want to build unrealistic expectations because of our appearance here in the Committee of the Whole. This is an area that our department does not lead in. I want to try and keep the issues at hand separate as they are with our roles and other department's role in mental health programs and delivery.

However, like I said I am glad that my department contributes to some development of community healing approaches. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. In regards to Mr. Havioyak's comments under 9-10 and in the preamble, the reason why Mr. Havioyak is asking those questions is because it is mentioned in there. Mr. Havioyak go ahead.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I just want to see more. This is not a question it is a comment. I just want to say that the elders and youth have always struggled to have programs in place for community healing.

For example if we can work with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Department of Health & Social Services and if you work together as departments and perhaps put funding together and work for this goal. And that is what I like to see if it is at all possible. When you talk about community healing why is it that when we talk about it we don't have funding put aside.

Perhaps if we use the three departments and put funding from each department together into one pot, perhaps that would help. This is not a question. I just want to make a comment because we need to work together. As we know the Minister of CLEY is here and this is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to assure the member that those comments are being noted. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: A very short question on Income Support. The individuals receive monthly, I might have missed it somewhere earlier, the individuals receive between 500 to 700 dollars a month. I am wondering how you arrived with those numbers. It seems, maybe I should leave it at that for now and I'll go to another question. How did you arrive at the 500 to 700 dollar amount? Maybe I misunderstood it earlier on. Koanaqutit.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I apologise Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that this question he is raising is under 9-16 or can you clarify that Mr. Chairman?

Chairperson (interpretation): We'll complete 9-10 and it is a priority and then we will move on to 9-16 before your officials leave. Thank you. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under 9-16 and 9-10, I thought we were going to deal with those two pages together. That was because Mr. Arvaluk asked about one specific budget item on 9-16 and for assent to deal with that line and the members agreed to it.

I thought that is what we agreed to do. When Mr. Arvaluk asked about the 22 million dollars under 9-16 and the figures in 9-10, I wanted to ask why they're on separate pages. Could you clarify why that is on a separate page? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. You've just asked that question. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Rich will clarify why these two are on separate pages. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 9-10 deals with the headquarters, the central office functions and that's the policy function and program development function for income support operations.

By and large, that's not the part of the department that directly gives out the income support cheques. Page 9-16 deals with the field offices, the employment and career services offices and those are the offices that directly deliver the income support programs and also the employment and career counselling programs.

So they provide the direct income support and other related programs. That's the only reason for the split. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I wanted to raise that question while the income support worker was here or the director. How well do headquarters, the income support workers and housing associations work together? He also alluded to the housing issue that payments have to be made for the recipients' housing.

Do they work closely together when they try to deal with payments that need to be made to housing? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologise while the income support director is here, Mr. McKay is here, I'll get him to elaborate or respond to that question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McKay.

Mr. McKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Workers at the community level work very closely with as many other agencies as they are able to fit within their day. One clearly is the local housing authorities in trying to ensure that the payments for social housing are made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this question will come up again when we deal with the Housing Corporation Minister and his budget estimates. The Housing Corporation Minister stated that they would be looking into this and this fall the minister made a statement about the housing rent scale and that it would be worked

on. When queried, the minister responded that way. Has your department worked with the Housing Corporation on the rent scale? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the income support review that is being done, we've looked at the matter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The funding for Income Support, the 22 million 600 thousand dollars has increased by a bit. In the communities throughout Nunavut, the cost of living is quite high, food and clothing prices are very high.

Is this increase due to the cost of living increasing in our communities? What is the reason for this increase, is it due to the eligible population increasing or what is the reason? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase on page 9-16 under Income Support, as I stated earlier, the 22 million is being increased due to the recommendation to increase the exemption of earned income for recipients, especially those who have just started a new job. This never used to be the case, but it will be used now.

Presently if a potential client has made some income, the cut-off level is at 150 dollars and we are going to request an increase to 200 dollars for an individual and an upper limit of 400 dollars for families after the review. These are the changes that we will be recommending. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 9-10 and 9-16, page 9-10 is up to 2 million dollars, perhaps it has not existed before this year. For example, before income support was put under education, you have a Main Estimate figure for 2002 – 2003 of 2 million 186 thousand dollars budgeted for this aspect. In respect to the headquarters' staff and their ability to deal with these issues as well as the communities' staff, it states that income support programs provide financial security and this program starts to enable individuals to make productive choices according to their health.

These choices include healing, education, and some of these programs weren't included here in the previous year, when it was only social assistance, so has the workload increased as a result of these programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the question from the member, I don't have the information in front of me and my officials are looking into the answer to the member's question. But we would like to note there are some people that do more work and get pre-employment training for their job and they have been working but I don't have the numbers on hand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has to be better planning as there is over 2 million dollars for Income Support headquarters on 9-10. I would like to see this used for training and other beneficial programs for the community workers. I think we have to watch that 2 million closely to see if that 2 million dollars is distributed to Income Support people who need it so that they can try to be self-reliant. That is a good reason for this program.

This is what I expect out of these funds. For them to take training for jobs and the question that I have is that if they could have more Income Support recipients receive more training to get into the workforce, that is probably the reason why there is over 2 million dollars allotted for that.

I am not talking about a City like Iqaluit. I am talking about the smaller communities that don't have employment and no place for employment. What objectives are they attempting to reach? I have not seen anything in here that deals with Income Support recipients getting more training or to do carvings or for them to go hunting or other traditional activities. I know that the Inuit can survive by using traditional knowledge and values like hunting, carving, caribou hunting and fishing, although it still costs some money.

If they are encouraging the Income Support recipients they should be encouraging them to go out hunting rather just staying at home to receive income support. There are some real hunters out there who are providing the community with fresh country foods. If you no longer have any hunters with traditional skills providing this food, the government would have to spend many more millions supplying chicken and steaks to the Inuit.

They're talking about wage and land based wage opportunities. I see this as a very miniscule part of the pie. I say this because we cannot just say that they have 2 million and that's that. I just want to encourage the department to do more to train and make sure the Income Support recipients can do more hunting for the community.

If we look at Iqaluit, it does not cost a lot here, but if we look at Grise Fiord then there could be a lot of money spent to replace the food from the land. Each community has slightly different costs in the cost of living. And how often or what percent is it increased by, is it yearly or every three years or what. What process is followed in determining the increases in the levels for income support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes I'm sorry, but I should say thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps my official did not quite understand what the member asked. So, if the member could ask the question again.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. It was just a comment but she had a question at the end of her sentence so I'll let her ask it again. Thank you.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we look at Iqaluit and Grise Fjord and the basic needs of the individuals that are allowable, let's say for example an Iqaluit person gets 200 dollars for food; the Grise Fjord scale is different. I think that's the case. Every community is probably a little different based on the prices of food or clothing, the cost of living in that community.

My question is, based on that, how often do you increase the social assistance budget; is it twice a year, every six months according to the cost of living in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a concern for many people. We have heard it in this House and from the communities. So what we did was, hearing those things, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs headed a study on the price of food in the communities.

The income support money has not increased so what we have to do is get back to that study and see what things have to be increased like what does the food or clothing cost in different communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, my understanding of that is they will increase once the household survey is done, is completed.

My experience, having done this program for 14 years in the past, it used to increase every year to two years according to the cost of living. So I'm just trying to understand how it's being done today.

It seems like every time we do this survey, this is when it will happen, every five years, every fifteen years. How often? Do we know? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since 1998, we've been using the same system and it has not changed. There have never been any changes made since 1998.

We are waiting for the survey on the price of food. After seeing the results, I'll be able to identify if there's going to be an increase or changes made according to the survey.
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Do you want to continue? At this time I have no more names on my list for questions. We're on page 9-10. Education. Branch Summary. Income Support. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 186 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going on to page 9-16, yes there were quite a few questions in regards to that, so I want the members to ask their questions while the official responsible for income support is here.

Once we are done with 9-16, we'll go onto page 9-11 if that's okay with the members. Now go on to 9-16. Education. Branch Summary. Employment and Career Services. We're on that page now.

Are there any general comments? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would like to ask my question about the support officers in three offices; Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay. How many positions do you have or how many staff do you have in those three divisions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well let us look at the information Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the figures we have, I can only respond to you after we make changes to the figures here in the three communities where we have our offices. So therefore I can't give the detailed information until I have made some changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Williams would you like continue. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, 9-16, Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students. This is financial assistance we're talking about for the people that are at the college? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Financial Assistance for Students. This is the increase. No matter what community they're in as long as they're in College. That's the increase for financial assistance for the students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Just a question. How does that relate to or differ from 9-11. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I apologize to the House. That shouldn't even be in there. It should have been deleted from page 9-16. The Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students description part should not even be there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We'll have to make that correction in our Main Estimates. We might make information available by mistake so we'll have to amend that and change that. Ms. Williams, would you like to continue. Alright, thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you. Under Adult Education and Post Secondary Services, Student Financial Assistance...I'm sorry Mr. Chairman I'll ask the question later.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I guess the department did not set up the Main Estimates properly so I apologize because it seems like their branch summary is all over the place and we have to go back and forth with the pages so therefore the next time we do the Main Estimates they should be properly done in order. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq. You have these offices responsible for the delivery of Income Support, Early Childhood, Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations and so on.

I am not sure where it is either, but if it is not here we are looking at page 9-11. If I am off topic cut me off and I will address it on another page. What I want to see is on the, I have addressed and made several statements on the mining industry where we need some training where we want to put apprentice and trades and occupations into the community so the young people can take on opportunities.

The opportunities are there to work with the mining companies and these people are on social assistance because they are not trained or skilled workers. We can have so many janitors only in the workplace but we need skilled workers and apprentices. So as you know, and this House knows, I have stated before that the community did a partnership

project where we have mining companies involved, the Arctic College and the community did some fundraising and did the training.

A mining company could go to a community and assist the community to do the training so that they could work in a mining company to get them off income support. Is this where we can say the funding is available to do those kinds of partnership projects. I am not sure what to call it. Programs. Or maybe it is on 9-11. I want to make sure that I am on the right page to address that. Koanaqtit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyok. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: I guess to answer his question as to which page this should be best addressed, I think that would be, I think the member stated 9-11, when we go into the focus areas of Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. For page 9-16. It was part of 9-10. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so that I have an understanding. Financial Assistance for Nunavut students is not supposed to be in 9-6 right? It is going to come out of there 9-6. Also apprenticeship, trades and occupations maybe should not be there because it is also in 9-11. Does that mean the amount of 33 million 642 thousand dollars will change in 9-16. I would just like to get some clarification. If the task that is written up here should not be here, then the amount should be different. Maybe I could get some clarification on how that is going to be handled. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 9-16 as I stated before financial assistance for Nunavut students should not even be there. It is only the description part that shouldn't be there. That was a typo and it was included in there because 9-16 is the support of three offices. For page 9-16 and also for the mission, it states in the mission statement a description of 9-11, so that's the only typo we have so, we had extra sections on page 9-16. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Apprenticeships, trades, occupation and trades education is also on page 9-11, not just financial assistance for students. That's my question if they should be in two places or if they should be in one place. If they should not be on 9-16, the amount should be decreased because the task that needs to be done, the task that is being done in 9-11, should not be in 9-16.

(interpretation) I don't know if I'm making sense or not. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, you're making sense. Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will clarify why they're separate. It's because one is headquarters and the other one is for operations and maintenance. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Would you like to continue? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: My question is, the amount of the dollars, will that change on those two pages. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Deputy Minister Rich clarify that. Thank you.

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

Mr Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I regret this confusion caused by the fact that the one line on financial assistance for Nunavut students was left there. That's the only part that was left there that shouldn't be there. It's because the employment and career services offices have no direct role on the FANS program. That's done through, as the minister said, headquarters.

However, the employment and career services offices do deal with apprenticeship, trades and occupations. They're involved in programs such as the Labour Market Development Agreement Program where we provide training opportunities. They're involved in literacy and career development opportunities through the career services people.

So, that is correct there and none of this, the deletion of financial assistance for Nunavut students has no impact on the financial aspect. It has no impact on funding, not a transfer of funding. Just the phrase was mistakenly left in two places. That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich. Would you like to continue? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to, the question was asked on income support levels and how it's administered and how is it determined how much each client gets.

I've got some questions for myself here. I'm sure other people are probably interested in it. I've asked the same question in the House three consecutive years on has the government initiated a cost of living study on what it costs to live in Nunavut and has

there been an increase based on the cost of living in Nunavut. I don't think there has been one in the last three years unless I missed it.

You said that you're doing a survey now, or there's a survey being done. When do you hope to have this survey in front of the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps first of all, as I mentioned before, there's a survey being done in regards to the price of food or the cost of living. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for that survey.

I myself don't know their completion date is so I cannot tell you when it will be completed. I don't want to guess the date but it's that department that's responsible for announcing and tabling the results of the survey. So I am not in a position to respond to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean if you are going to be asking about that, yes the Department of Education will have to make some changes to their description but go ahead with your question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask the Minister responsible when the survey is going to get out. If you are not the minister responsible I'll ask the Premier on when the results of this survey are. I know for one that I don't think Income Support has been increased in any of our communities through no fault of yours.

And I know the prices haven't stayed the same in any of our communities on basic food items. I think they go up every year by 2 or 3 percent. So our income support people who depend on it and I've seen the statistics that it affects 50 percent of the people in Nunavut. I will be asking some questions while we are here, because you have your expert with you. What does a single adult living in Nunavut get from Income Support per year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While he is here we would like to take this opportunity so I will ask him to respond. However, to the first comment, yes it is true that it has been three years where there has been no increase. We've never had an increase for income support since 1998. If it is okay Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask Mr. Mackay to respond. Thank you.

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

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First the rates across Nunavut as you've already discussed are different. There are some basic food scale rates that an individual may be eligible for. At the moment we have 5 different rates based on the cost of living

that was established in 1998 or earlier. There are also clothing allowances which are an extended benefit.

There are also fuel costs and housing costs which we consider basic benefits and extended benefits can include furniture once a year if the person is eligible. Emergency assistance if they require it, sometimes for tuition for shorter term programs such as one semester or shorter. There is an age allowance. There is disabled allowance. Things like that.

So for a single person that we are talking about if he had no other income to report, no earned or unearned income, it would be in the neighbourhood if they were living in public housing approximately 350 to 400 dollars. That would cover their housing and power paid for and their food and if they are a longer term person, or a disabled or aged person where you are not required to do a productive choice, you would be getting an additional 175 on top of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. MacKay. I have a note here. We will have 5 minute break. Mr. McLean you can come back to this after the 5 minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 6.29 p.m. and resumed at 6.39 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, back to your question Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're doing a good job today and I want to commend you for putting up with us. Keep up the good work.

The Social Assistance Program is really complicated and I've had numerous people in my office trying to figure out how it works. I don't know how it works but when I'm in there I call the Social Assistance lady that issues it out. She tries to explain it me in a nice simple way.

So the question I'm going to ask is, so get ready to jot them down, it's one question but it's got three issues here. I want to know what a single adult living in Nunavut receives for social assistance for food a month, average. I'm not going to hold to the dollar.

I want to know what a single person with one dependant receives a month for food allowance and what a family of four, like I'm talking two adults and two dependant children receive a month for a food allowance. And like I say, I know you probably have different rates but I'm just asking for the average monthly amounts that they receive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a single person, 275 dollars is average, monthly, for two people, 525 dollars, for one couple with two children, 950 dollars a month.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just asking these questions to get more clarification for myself. It gives me good question period info. The poverty line is set in every country and Canada and I'm not sure if the poverty, it might be an unfair question so I don't know if you can answer it. You probably can't. I don't know who can answer this question.

But what's the poverty line? What's the poverty level in a place like Canada or is there a poverty level in Nunavut for a single person with one dependant and does the minister know what that level is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, I can't respond to this right now.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get that myself some place. Like I said I am just compiling some information. When income support levels are set, is there a national standard that we follow, or is this something that we make up ourselves? Are we following a strict national standard when we're setting income support levels for families in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll pass this to my right to answer this question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. MacKay.

Mr. MacKay: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally the rates and everything else are set in Nunavut itself but they are done by reviewing what goes on elsewhere in Canada to see what kinds of trends there are and things like that. But it's trying to build something for Nunavut itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good answer but building on that there's probably what it takes. Like there's the food guide that was just issued out here in Nunavut and a lot of people still live on country food. That's a fact of life in Nunavut and probably because it's there. It's abundant, people have healthy choices, and there is you know, I don't know what community in Nunavut that people still don't eat a lot of country food and that probably makes up 40 or 50% of their diet which is healthy food.

But, times are changing now where more families are having, there are younger kids and you know the instances of RSV and stuff like that and it seems to be a push for breast feeding by health centres and things like that.

But there is also the high cost of buying Enfalac which seems to be a healthy choice over Carnation milk. Getting back to my other question here is that a lot of people down south don't eat as much country food as the people up north. And like I say it's a good thing that we're, you know that people up north do eat a lot of country food.

But based on what a family receives I can easily say the prices up here are probably 50 percent higher than they are in southern Canada. I think that's a good guess, a guess more than anything. We know the high cost of transportation up here contributes to that. So when you are initiating your review are you going to get the true cost of buying a bag of groceries in Nunavut? I know everyone around this table goes to the store every day or every second day. There is an old cliché of sticker shock when you get out of the store with three bags of groceries it is going to cost you a hundred dollars.

But some single adult living in Baker Lake or Chesterfield Inlet or Gjoa Haven or Clyde River that gets 225 dollars a month, that is 30 days and my colleague told me it is 7 dollars and 81 cents a day to feed a single person in Nunavut. To me that is horrific or down right illegal.

As a territory are we taking care of our constituents by giving them 7 dollars a day to eat. And a family of four receives I think it was 950 dollars a month. And you know I am looking at it again. I am not defending Iqaluit. I think the cost of living in Iqaluit is higher than it is in other places but they are all about the same. And I think you can appreciate it, the minister coming from a community like Pangnirtung that 950 dollars even living here how far would that 950 dollars go for food?

I am not saying that what people buy is frivolous. You know a lot of people still eat a lot of bannock. Bannock is a staple food here. And you know but the luxury items like TV dinners and apples and oranges seem to be like sort of a fringe thing. So when you are doing this food review I am hoping that the consideration is taking place you know, what do we have to give a citizen of Nunavut to eat healthy on a daily basis? Like I said earlier in many places the traditional economy takes care of that. But in order for somebody to go out and harvest country food and I am sure you know what the cost is by the time you pay for your outboard, snowmobile and pack up and you have your naphtha, Coleman stove and rifle and your bullets and your permits and this and this and this. It is probably cheaper to go to Northern or the Co-op than buying these supplies.

So when we are doing that I am hoping that is taken into consideration that you know sure you can go out there and shoot country food. But the cost of going out there and purchasing a snow machine to harvest country food in almost prohibitive in this day and age. And we are talking about getting people off of income support.

I don't think people are on income support because they want to be. They don't want to be on income support. I hear the odd thing, oh yeah, yeah they want to be. I don't believe that. No one has ever come to my office in the last three years and said Glenn I want to be on income support. They come to my office and say Glenn I need a job so that I can buy a snow machine or I want to buy my own house and stuff like that. I think the department is moving in the right direction in regards to having career development officers in town and trying to give them alternate choices. There are Arctic College programs in my community seem to be picking up and they seem to be keying in on the right subjects. We can still go a long way. We can still go a long way.

Like my colleague was reiterating, we need mine training in certain communities in Nunavut and if we do get people trained to work in the mining industry they are going to start generating taxes and income in the communities. That will definitely go into the coffers of the territorial government which will you know help the territory to stand on its own two feet. I have said that many times in the Assembly that we would like to see our territory stand on our own two feet, because we have the potential to stand on our own two feet like Alberta down the road in 40 or 50 years with the mineral resources.

So I just wanted to throw that out there that the less fortunate out there, and when I say less fortunate, somebody who is receiving 225 dollars a month Peter, come on. A single person, you know where they are going to end up when they get that cheque, that initial cheque. They are going over to their parents and if they are on income support or they are pensioners then there is added pressure on them to do this.

So it is just more of a comment than anything else. Like I said in the House later or next week I will be asking whoever is responsible to look at the less fortunate that have to survive on these menial allowances for food and clothing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman that's all I have to say.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear what you're saying Mr. McLean, and our staff are also listening and taking notes. We'll consider what you've said and factor it into our calculations. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Anything else? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If nobody else has any further comments I'd like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Just a minute. I'll give Mr. Alakannuark an opportunity before we report progress.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that it has been taken into consideration because of course the recipients go through a hard time just trying to survive. They don't have much to go by.

If a couple was on welfare and I use that as an example, and one of the couples might be from another community and if that individual was asked to go to another community to see his or her parents, the parents would buy the ticket for the welfare recipient.

Then at the end of the day, when it was time to get that income support cheque, the amount of the ticket would be deducted from their monthly allowance, even when the money used to purchase the ticket was from by the parents who live in another community. This really decreases the amount after the cost is deducted from their incomes for the month. Is there anything we can do about those types of matters, especially where the recipient is not spending their own funds for the trip? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has made more than one statement about welfare recipient's monthly allowances getting deducted when the parents of that individual have bought a ticket.

That has been an ongoing concern by the member who brought it up today. With the study that we're going to be doing, we will take this into consideration. And I just want to assure the member that it will be a part of the review.

I cannot say at this time what we're going to be doing to rectify this matter but the only time I can bring it up again is when the results have been tabled in the House. I just want to clarify as I did in Cambridge Bay that when the time comes, I will be tabling the results at that time, and that these matters are part of the considerations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other item that I want to mention has been brought up in the House already.

It's about the elders aged 70 and over who have never gone into the wage economy. They have existed through subsistence hunting and usually their income comes from the selling of furs and pelts and then at the end of the month they get their pension.

Of course, that monthly pension does not meet their needs but they're not going to complain about the shortfall because usually the elder is not the person who will complain about their discomfort.

But I would like your department to factor that in also, the fact that these Inuit were taught never to belittle their station in life and never to complain about their situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): If nobody complains to us, or voices their concerns to our department, there's not much I can say to respond and I'm not going to guess what the problems are out there.

We encourage all people to submit their concerns where it relates to government. If you have any concerns or problems in regards to income support, we can include that in the study and consider some solutions. I would like to find out what you wish to do as we are nearing the end of the pages. We are more than receptive to hearing the concerns of the people out there Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to know what the wish of the committee is because we've got only a few more pages to go through. I would like to know before we go any further what the wish of the committee is. Thank you. I will give Mr. Nutarak an opportunity at this time.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): On page 9-16, there's 22 million 600 thousand dollars. Is the housing subsidy or housing rental for income support recipients included in this 22 million 600 thousand dollars because one of the officials mentioned that there's a housing subsidy, food and other benefits that are provided? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The housing rentals are included here as long as that house is rented by the recipients. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the rentals, what percentage of that money is used for rental subsidies from out of the 22 million budget? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We could give you an estimate. It's approximately 5 percent of the 22 million that is used for housing assistance but we will have to look into it further in order to give you an accurate number.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Nutarak seems to be pretty anxious to ask these questions.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of this 5 percent out of the 22 million dollar budget, how does that translate to in numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's approximately 1 million dollars, somewhere around there; it may be more or less than that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more other names on my list. Mr. McLean. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All in favour? Opposed? We now have a different format in our procedures for these meetings, before it was non-debatable; nowadays we have to ask for nays and assents.

I don't know why we have to ask for all opposed. We can ask the Speaker to return. Thank you, it looks like we'll have to meet again with the Department of Education. Mr. Minister if you would want to say your closing remarks.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have much to add. If we're going to go ahead tomorrow, we will see you again to conclude my department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I hope you bring all your officials because you've got a lot of programs under your department.

Speaker: Orders of the day. Item 21. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 6 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Nutarak. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Friday May 3, 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
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
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 Friday May 3rd, at 10:00 a.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 7.05 p.m.*

