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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Amittuq)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Minister of Energy, Minister of
Homelessness and Immigration*

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(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
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*Minister of Community
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Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

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(South Baffin)

*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday November 20, 2002

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to call on Ms. Williams to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Members before we proceed with the Orders of the Day I'd like to read a letter that I received from the Commissioner of Nunavut. "I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following Bills during the 6th session of the first Legislative Assembly. Bill 17 and Bill 18." Signed Peter Irniq, Commissioner of Nunavut.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr Okalik

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 074 - 1(6): Minister Kilabuk Absent from House

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the members that Mr. Kilabuk is unable to attend today as he is not feeling well. So he won't be here this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 075 – 1(6): 2002 Mid-Year Statement: Fiscal Update and Introduction of 2003/04 Capital Estimates

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I will update Members and all Nunavummiut on the current fiscal situation of the Government of Nunavut and I will also be introducing the Capital Estimates for the fiscal year 2003-04.

As I have stressed in all my budget speeches, the Government of Nunavut is committed to maintaining a sound fiscal position while trying to maximize the benefits from our limited financial resources.

Nunavut's long-term challenges continue to be immense and we must focus our expenditure efforts on priority areas that best meet the needs of Nunavummiut and the long-term goals of the government as expressed in the Bathurst Mandate.

In order to do this, choices have to be made that are realistic in terms of recognizing any assistance that may be forthcoming from other areas. The responsibility to invest available resources wisely is ours and ours alone.

Our Fiscal Performance and Prospects

Since I tabled the budget in April, Nunavut's short-term fiscal situation has weakened. This circumstance is as a result of two factors. First, revenues from the federal government under our transfer agreement are lower than expected and secondly, our expenditures are higher.

At the time of the budget a small surplus of around \$2 million was forecast for the current fiscal year. This was based on revenues of approximately \$746 million and expenditures of about \$744 million.

Mr. Speaker, now, mainly because of adjustments to the major transfer we receive from the Government of Canada, our revised revenue forecast is anticipated to be about \$729 million.

This drop of \$17 million stems mainly from adjustments to the formula financing grant because of factors beyond our control.

Although the formula financing grant is intended to reflect Nunavut's expenditure needs, growth in this revenue source is determined mainly by factors established outside the territory's control such as GDP growth, spending by provincial and local governments and even the taxing effort of other jurisdictions.

Budgeted expenditures for the current fiscal year are now \$803 million. This figure includes the initiatives in the Supplementary Appropriations introduced and approved this year. The appropriations are provided for:

- the Nunavut Housing Corporation to invest in much needed staff housing throughout Nunavut,
- the Department of Health and Social Services to provide funding for the three health facilities in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit,
- the Department of Community Government and Transportation to complete various water and sewage treatment projects in communities and to complete capital improvements to a number of airports throughout the territory, and
- the Department of Education to replace the Baker Lake Community Learning Centre, as well as to complete a number of school additions and renovations.

It also includes the Supplementary Appropriation that will be considered by the Legislative Assembly during this sitting to deal with specific increases in departmental operating and maintenance budgets. Allowing or further expenditure pressures before the end of this fiscal year, I anticipate an overall operating deficit of \$74 million as compared to the small surplus expected at the start of the fiscal year.

The relatively significant surplus accumulated over the first years of operation for this government has allowed us the opportunity to provide much needed funding to deal with some key capital needs from operating surpluses.

We must now recognize that in coming years our expenditure needs may well out pace the total revenues we will receive from all sources, both internal to the territory and from the federal government. In future years we will not be able to count on accumulated reserves to make up for additional expenditure needs over and above current revenue inflows.

Mr. Speaker, maintaining a sound long-term fiscal position while ensuring that essential programs and services are properly funded will continue to be a challenge for our government.

We will have to work diligently at finding the right balance between what we do and what we can afford to do.

2003-04 Capital Estimates

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I am also tabling the 2003-04 Capital Estimates. As members will remember, this is the second year that we have approved the Capital Estimates in the fall. This helps to ensure that project planning can be finalized and tenders issued on time to enable the timely delivery of project materials for the summer construction period.

For fiscal 2003-04 our government is planning to allocate just over \$143 million for capital projects throughout Nunavut. This is a major increase from the \$70.3 million that was included in the 2002-03 Capital Estimates. This increase is attributable to three factors:

- We increased the base target for capital expenditures from \$70 million to \$75 million;
- We allocated an additional \$22 million from accumulated surpluses to high priority expenditures that departments could not meet within their regular targets; and
- We have included \$46 million for the three major health facilities that are underway in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit.

I will now highlight departmental capital budgets for the upcoming year.

For 2003-04 the Department of Health and Social Services will have the single largest capital budget for the coming fiscal year at over \$56 million.

As I already outlined, this includes \$17 million to start on the new Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, \$13 million for the regional health facility in Rankin Inlet, and \$16 million for the regional health facility in Cambridge Bay.

In addition, the Capital Estimates include funding of \$4 million to start construction of a new health center in Igloolik, \$4.4 million to complete the health center in Pond Inlet, and \$75,000 to start planning and design of a new center at Pangnirtung. These are major undertakings for our Government that will improve the capacity to provide health care to Nunavummiut close to home, and will reduce our dependence on facilities in the south.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, our communities depend upon the capital program of the Department of Community Government and Transportation to address many of their priority needs including waste disposal and water treatment. Total funding in the budget for providing priority infrastructure in communities throughout Nunavut is \$22 million. A further \$5.2 million is allocated for transportation projects including access roads and airport infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, better learning facilities and opportunities are investments that that will yield far reaching returns for Nunavummiut, and to this end, the Department of Education will have the third largest departmental capital budget.

From a total budget of \$24 million for fiscal year 2003-04, the Department will commence new projects in Cape Dorset, Arviat, Whale Cove, Baker Lake and Cambridge Bay, and will complete ongoing projects in Hall Beach, Kugaaruk, Baker Lake, and Resolute Bay. These projects include schools, learning centers, and additional student accommodation for Arctic College.

Mr. Speaker, housing issues also remain a critical challenge for Nunavut. For 2003-04 the Nunavut Housing Corporation will have a capital budget of \$20.3 million. This is a 15% increase over the 2002-03 Capital Estimates, and will enable the Corporation to provide additional public housing in almost every community.

The Department of Public Works and Services will have a capital budget of \$10.7 million. Nearly \$9.7 million of this amount has been budgeted for maintenance and enhancement of bulk fuel storage facilities across Nunavut. Major projects to receive funding include the tank farms in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Kugaaruk.

For 2003-04 the Department of Sustainable Development will manage a capital budget of over \$2.5 million. This will include visitor centers, parks development, and enhancement of facilities for wildlife management.

The Department of Justice will be provided \$1.6 million for capital projects in the coming year. This includes funding for improvement of correctional facilities, and for continued development of a new Justice Center for Nunavut.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will have a capital budget of \$1 million. This amount will be used for contributions to community heritage, youth and elders centres across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate our commitment that we will manage our resources wisely and continue to invest in priority areas that best meet the needs of Nunavummiut. We have been able to make these investments as a direct result of our commitment to sound fiscal management during our first years of operation.

We must continue to weigh our options carefully and make strategic investments. We must continue to plan with caution and make the most of our limited resources. We must ensure that Nunavut finances continue to be managed prudently.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Minister Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 242 - 1(6): Sports Hunting and Polar Bear Quota Studies

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I arise today in support of none decentralized communities economic development opportunities in those communities.

(interpretation ends) I wanted to relate to the tourism sector and support hunting of polar bears for specifically in Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay. As members are aware these three communities host close to thirty polar bear sport hunts every year.

This accounts for significant amounts of money flowing into these communities each year into hands of residents and their families.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, recent news report have suggested that polar bear quotas are being reduced and that studies based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit are being done to develop a better way to determine bear population.

Mr. Speaker, polar bear hunts are important across the territory, but it is especially important in my constituency which has been hit hard by the closures of the Nanisivik and Little Cornwallis Mine.

I am concerned that the memoranda of understanding between hunters and trappers organizations and Government of Nunavut regarding polar bear quotas have not been renewed in some time.

I understand that current memoranda of understanding date from 1996 and deal with Hunters and Trappers Associations from the Government of the NWT. Mr. Speaker the

polar bear hunt allows my constituencies to utilize dog teams in a traditional manner, and to stimulate the economy at the same time.

That is why in answered regarding the polar bear quotas should be avoided. I would like unanimous consent to complete my statement. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the government to maintain open lines of communication with the communities and to take into account the importance of sport hunting to the economy of non-decentralized communities when developing regulations regarding polar bear quotas.

I will be asking questions of the Minister of Sustainable Development at the appropriate time thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 243 - 1(6): Economic Development in Nunavut

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Government of Nunavut, which I have never done previously. I am proud of the Government of Nunavut because they are truly trying to represent the needs and wishes of Nunavummiut in trying to develop economic development.

It is something that we can do better as there are spin-offs when we meet the needs and wishes of the people of Nunavut. As regular members we were told yesterday that the Nunavut Government is a public government.

As regular members, when we try to oppose the comments made by the Government, we have to voice our disagreement. We want to have a close working relationship with the Government and we do voice our disagreement, it seems like it falls on deaf ears.

If the Nunavut Government is truly representing the needs and wishes of the people of Nunavut, they are truly doing that, then the people of Nunavut should be given the opportunity for economic growth and other ways of growing.

We were elected to be the Nunavut Government so that our culture and language would be more visible and promoted. If we are going to start awarding contracts outside of Nunavut, of course there would be no economic growth. And we would stay stagnant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 244 - 1(6): Need an All Inuktitut School

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about our young people in the communities who are school drop-outs. Although they would like to continue their education through the Arctic College, they are unable to when the class sizes are filled to capacity. There are no jobs for them and they are not fluent in Inuktitut. They don't know where to go. Even if they wanted to go hunting, they have no equipment.

So those are some of the things that we have to face. There is a real need for an Inuktitut School in Nunavut. There are elders are willing to train them, but they are unable to because of the lack of space. There needs to be an all Inuktitut School and we will continue to educate them in English at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 245- 1(6): Improvement Required in Decentralized Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some comments about the decentralized communities where there are departments being decentralized to the communities.

What I am concerned is that some of the jobs like DPW and other positions that are placed under the Hamlet Council. I think that there should be a review done to see if this whole system is working and if there's a need for improvement.

We're now starting to hear more and more about the issue and it seems like some of the communities are trying to get back the responsibility of the airports back to the government.

At the appropriate time I will be asking for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 246 - 1(6): New Fuel Contract Impact on Kivalliq Requires Roads

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, we had a discussion on the new transportation of fuel in the Keewatin and Baffin area. This was a concern of the members and presently there are transportation companies which transport both fuel and dry goods.

A concern with that, if these two were separated that the companies would, in a non-Nunavut company, should take on the fuel transportation contract that the other companies would bankrupt.

In the Keewatin region, we have the potential for building roads and connecting the communities and I think it's the appropriate time for the Nunavut government to make a decision on whether they should build a docking facility, albeit in Rankin Inlet and build roads to the outlying communities. And that way there will be a transportation link and would be able to transport the fuel and dry goods to those outlined communities.

If those ships would be able to dock in one Keewatin community then that would be a cost savings for the rest of the Keewatin region. I'll be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 247 - 1(6): Tammaatarvik Boarding Home Inadequate

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I had some questions about the Tammaativvik Boarding Home for patients here in the Baffin and I would like to make further comments about the patients that are placed at that boarding home.

Mr. Speaker, the patients need adequate space and I think that's come to an emergency situation. There are all types of patients that are boarded there. They have different sicknesses, there are some mental cases here for psychiatric purposes and I think they should be properly housed, not in a general boarding home.

I'll be asking questions about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 248 - 1(6): Inadequate Size or Aged Infrastructure in Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll ask today to talk about some of the smaller communities in Nunavut. For example, one of the communities that I represent and there's the airport, the gymnasium, and the community halls and popular public places that have been used for many, many years.

Even with the population growth, the fact that these public facilities and even the churches haven't grown along with the size of the community.

We're talking about the community halls, the airports, the churches and other facilities. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to talk about the grants and contributions that are made available by the government.

There are problems, even though there is money available for expansions or for some types of programs that could be done in a community. Usually there is no housing to provide those types of programs and services that are funded. As Members of the

Legislative Assembly we realize that we have a five year plan to build those facilities to meet the needs of those communities, but there are a lot of other communities that now have buildings that are way too small for the population in their community.

I will be asking further questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 249 – 1(6): John Davidson Receives Award

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a comment about what happened last week in Sanikiluaq.

There was an individual who went down to Ottawa to receive an award. I would like to congratulate John Davidson from Sanikiluaq who is the school principal. John has been a long time resident of Sanikiluaq. He first moved there he learned about living off the land. Afterwards, he started collecting and displaying Inuit artefacts and traditional tool and kayaks.

I would like to congratulate John for receiving this award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco

Member's Statement 250 - 1(6): City of Iqaluit Reception

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night members were able to meet in an informal session with the mayor, councillors and some of the senior staff of our Nunavut capital in the City of Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, before some presentation to the members the mayor gave an overview of the many logistic, financial and administrative needs of our capital.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members for attending and also thank the mayor and councillors for Iqaluit for hosting this very informative session last night for the members and for the councillors and the mayor here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 251 – 1(6): Cumberland Resources Feasibility Study

Mr. McLean: Mut'na Uqaqti. I want to read a transcript from one of the newspapers and yes, we should believe something that the newspapers print.

Prospects right for Baker Lake gold mine. Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. A gold mining company operating about 70 kilometres north of Baker Lake is taking its exploration a step further. It means a lot for the community of Baker Lake's Louis Manzel.

Vancouver-based Cumberland Resources has launched a feasibility study to consider opening the Metal Bank Goldmine. The company says the Metal Bank project is Canada's third largest undeveloped goldmine.

Cary Curtis is the Interim President and Chief Executive Officer of the company, made the decision in October. Three million ounces is what we found now and the feasibility study will basically examine how much of those three million ounces is mine-able he says. That would include Mine design, transportation studies, the operating costs, detailed design work, and the Mine building.

The Kivalliq Inuit Association shares the company's excitement about the potential of a mine. Louis Manzel, who works with the KIA Lands Department, says his organization is excited about the mine's potential.

It means a lot for the community of Baker Lake and the rest of the communities in the Kivalliq. He says that the Cumberland Resources feasibility study is looking at \$122 million in investments to the Kivalliq.

We are talking about employment, goods and services, and infrastructure for the whole of the Kivalliq. Cumberland Resources says the 4.5 million feasibility study should be complete in about a year and half.

If the numbers add up, it says the Mine could be operational by late 2006. I want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that I have been standing up here for about three years in a row saying the same thing as my colleague from Kugluktuk, about mine preparation and training. I still want to point a finger at the Government as a whole, saying today that as of today we do not have one person trained in the Mining industry.

We are talking about outside dollars going to other companies that bid on fuel contracts what about this. If we are going to employ a couple of hundred people in the Baker Lake Metal Bank Project, are these people going to come from the South and where do they pay their Income Taxes, in the South.

So the net revenues to Nunavut if we don't hurry up and train some young people in this territory it is all going to go south again. Which is a sad, sad story and a tragedy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4 Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Akesuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of people that were residents of Cape Dorset at one time as Teachers and also the Principal of the High school. They have contributed a lot to the community as the Principal and a Teacher, Selinda Van Horn and David Small. David Small contributed a lot towards a Hockey team in Cape Dorset and I believe they won three consecutive gold as Midgets in the Baffin Island. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no one to recognize in this Gallery but I would like to recognize the people of my constituency, Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I just want to tell them that I would like to assist you with your day to day operations from here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 250 - 1(6): Highway Construction – Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation. I forgot to mention the question that I was going to ask about building roads. I am sure my colleague, Mr. McLean mentioned about the mining companies. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if there has been talks about building road to because there is no gravel in Chesterfield Inlet presently, whether there could be a highway built from Rankin Inlet to Chesterfield Inlet and Baker Lake. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member for Chesterfield Inlet has mentioned this numerous times and I can understand what he's talking about.

Mr. Speaker, this coming January we will be doing a study of the highway that proposed from Manitoba to Kivalliq communities such as Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove and Baker Lake to see whether it could be feasible and that has been in the plans by my department and especially because there is no gravel sources in Chesterfield Inlet.

Just recently, Mr. Speaker, we talked about the gravel sources that should be could be accessed by the people of Chesterfield Inlet. Those are the things that we have had brief discussions on and as well Kivalliq Inuit Association had a meeting with transportation officials from Manitoba to find out what plans they can have in place, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The plans that the Minister is talking about is occurring in January for a highway from Manitoba to the Kivalliq communities will probably take a little while to plan.

My question Mr. Speaker is, whether you will be working with the Federal Government to do a feasibility study on the road to Manitoba, from Manitoba to Kivalliq communities, will you be asking the Federal Government for some funding to for the roads to be built in those communities.

To make sure that the extended from time to time when they start building the roads, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We will be looking into what the Member is asking about and as a Minister of Transportation, I believe that the in any community the wishes of the people should be carried out and especially the roads, access roads in the communities not just in Kivalliq region but in the other communities of Baffin and Kitikmeot.

And even if we don't end up building the road at the same time we will be thinking about doing extensions from them, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think the Members know that the there has been a supply ship that they disturb the marine wildlife, have you had any considerations, say for instance, if there was to be one docking facilities, say for instance, in Rankin Inlet, so that they could just offload over in Rankin Inlet and then by road, take the goods to the other communities in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the GNWT days, this was discussed at times; if they could have one docking facility in the Kivalliq region and to offload there and transport them by road to the other communities.

So, in conjunction with the meetings with the Manitoba government, and the mayors have discussed this before, and we will be doing discussions on these types of things when we're discussing it with the Manitoba government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister and my last question, Mr. Speaker, is when will this be done and how soon will you be dealing with this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money for doing the study is being requested by the KIA from DIAND, and I don't think they have responded yet.

And what KIA has done is to try to get some more funding to do a study on the Kivalliq region and as the Government of Nunavut, we have some money set aside to do a study. As well as the Manitoba government have provided some money to do this highway study in the Kivalliq region from Manitoba as well as DIAND.

I'm not exactly sure at this time, Mr. Speaker, how soon it will take, but there has been some correspondence from various organizations and federal and territorial government in regards to the road access from Manitoba to Kivalliq region.

Perhaps in January, when we do our initial meeting, we will then find out then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 251 – 1(6): Update on Polar Bear Study

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question, Mr. Speaker, is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the memorandum of understanding that was signed in 1996.

I just want to know what status it's at right now because I have heard they will be doing another study, so I would like to know what's happening with that memorandum of understanding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I thank the member for her question.

First of all, what they are doing now is they are doing an agreement at this time, but the delay is there has to be community consultations at the affected communities so that they can include the people in the polar bear quotas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I appreciate the response of the Minister, because the people up there would like to rush that. And I just wondered whether there is going to be a lesser quota for polar bears in those regions in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is going to be community consultations and the people are going to be asked what their thoughts are in regards to polar bear quotas. Perhaps there will be an increase in the polar bear quotas. We will be working with the communities as close as possible to find out from them what their wishes are. I am sure that there is going to be options for them to consider when we do the community consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to hear his response that the communities that will be visited, they will be asked as to what the quota might be. Was there a study done recently done on polar bears?

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I cannot exactly say what year it was but there was a study in one of the communities for sport hunters. That is why sport hunters can go up because of the result of that study.

There will be a further study as to the status of the polar bears after 15 or 20 years count the population of the polar bears. This is a very important statistic. We get a lot of valuable assistance from Polar Bear Biologists. We are not the only region in the world that gets polar bears; we also work with other circumpolar regions and do studies on how many polar bears there are in the world. We have to keep a very close eye on the polar bears. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary today but not the last question on this issue. What kind of impact does the polar bear technical committee, the international committee, have on the polar bear quotas in this region? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. The quota for polar bears in Nunavut is done by the NWMB and by the Department of Sustainable Development. The quotas are set by those two organizations. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 252 - 1(6): Airport Staff Transfer to GN from Hamlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Transportation. The Hamlets are usually given employment opportunities for Public Works, or Health and Social Services. I have heard a rumour that airport operations will be gradually transferred to the Government.

I once worked for the Hamlet and I was working at the Airport, I was paid by the Hamlet, but I had heard a rumour that the airport operations will be handed over to the government.

I want to know what the status is, if this is true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlets are given the funding to operate airports and I believe that in Hall Beach and Resolute Bay, they are looked after by private contractor. But some communities want to be able to run their own airports and that's why they are under the hamlets.

We are not saying that we will run the airports again, but it's up to the individual hamlets that if they wish to give up that responsibility than we are willing to take over. We're not trying to take over them completely. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): If the hamlet council wish to give up the responsibility of the jobs, for housing or for social services, how will their funding be affected? Will it be targeted, for example these funds are targeted to Housing or Social Services?

If they decided to relinquish the responsibility, can they reallocate the funding until that transfer is completed? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlet councils who has the responsibilities of looking after different programs and if they decide that they don't want to look after a particular department and if they had made that

suggestion, as Municipal Government and Transportations we would go negotiate with them and have discussions as to exactly what they wish to give up.

If they didn't want to hold those responsibilities and then we would work with the finances but we would have to do some negotiating and have discussions as to exactly how it would be done because the hamlet council, if they wish to retain the responsibility or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This is my third supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to have my third supplementary. In regards to the arctic airports, they are handled by the hamlets. Have there been any negotiations as to which communities where the responsibilities are being given back to the government? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Just to let you know that you do have one more supplementary. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have gone through that process already. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary. How many private contractors are there because we know that has been done in Rankin Inlet and Resolute Bay, while the majority of arctic airports are being handled by the hamlet councils in the communities?

How many communities have you negotiated with on transportation in regards to transferring the responsibilities for the airport?

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I didn't say Rankin Inlet, I said Hall Beach and Resolute Bay and they're looked after by private contractors. What we call CARS; Community Aerodrome Radio Stations are being handled by some hamlets.

One of the purposes that, one of the reasons was after that September 11th tragedy there was a tighter security on the airlines so we have asked the federal government that we be given more funding but in fact we were given less funding because some hamlet councils didn't want to be held responsible for the operation of the airport.

Mr. Speaker, the hamlet who are responsible for the operation of the airports, its up the individual hamlets whether they want they wish to hold that responsibility, this has been a concern and they have had concerns that they are requesting more funding to run the airports from NavCanada.

So the funding that is given to the hamlet is for the operation of the airports and the request that they be increased for the operation after the September 11th tragedy so they want a better secure system for the operations. Mr. Speaker, I can remember only one community who wish to give back the responsibility to the government. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 253 - 1(6): Capacity at Arctic College

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible who is not present. I don't know who I should direct this question to in regards to adult education in the communities that are way too small.

They don't have adequate spaces for the number of people who wish to go back to school. I wonder how we can improve the Arctic Colleges in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. At this time I can't give him my response but we will be dealing with this further once we do the main estimates to estimates or capital budgets during the committee as a whole and we will be able to give this further, thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand his response but when will I be given the proper response, when should I expect a response for my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. It depends on my colleagues; maybe we will be able to deal with it tomorrow. We deal with Health and Social Services first and the next department we will do is the Department of Education. If we don't do it tomorrow, then we're able to do it in two days but we will be discussing it as a committee as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question that I asked, as an example, when there's a high number of people who want to go back to school and for those adults who haven't completed their education, they are not sure where to turn to.

Will there be any considerations to improving the Arctic College in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Education is very important, as a government, we think of it as very important, and the budget that we use is constantly increasing every year.

And all of the elected officials know that's the case and we will be discussing it more and the capital estimates for Nunavut for Arctic College and maybe during the committee of the whole we'll have more detailed discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Oral Question 254 – 1(6): Explanation of NNI Policy

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to our Premier. Yesterday, when we were discussing fuel we were discussing the NNI policy.

I would like to ask him to clarify exactly what it is and how it's applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NNI policy has been in effect since the year 2000, and we've made the explanation on what it is. It is used for Nunavut and as a government we'd like to see more training available.

We award various contracts and would like to see more benefits going into our communities. But even though that's the case, there's an exempt clause in there that can be applied on the decision of the cabinet members and that exemption clause has been used only once. But it's applied to all the contracts that are given by the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NNI policy, I thought was very important to the people of Nunavut and because of course it was an agreement that was agreed to by the government and NTI, now I find that there's an exemption clause in there that can be applied by the cabinet members. Why is that so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's not applied any time. We have to look at the benefits that are going to be gained by the people of

Nunavut. We all know that the price of fuel is very expensive. We don't have gas up here. Nobody will you buy this fuel from. We have to purchase it.

With that we use the exemption clause on the new fuel transportation contract. We looked at the whole thing and the costs and the benefits. Our questions were how are we going to keep the price down? How much is it going to benefit the people of Nunavut? There are so called Inuit companies but they are based outside of Nunavut.

With all those factored in, we made a decision to apply the exemption clause. If there was a company up here, and especially if it was an Inuk firm, we would have used the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like a response from the Premier about the NNI Policy. Do you have any plans to use the exemption clause again in a big contract that is going to be awarded in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said we look at the benefits for the people of Nunavut. From what I know all other contracts that have been awarded by the Government have been beneficial to the people of Nunavut, except the fuel transportation contract.

We are using Nunavut dollars, and we have to be prudent on how we use it. We also have to see that there are the most benefits to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like your response. My next question again on the NNI Policy is - are we going to see economic growth through the use of the NNI Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is why the NNI Policy was established, so that we would see more benefits apply to the Inuit and to the companies in Nunavut. With that there are the so called Inuit companies that have their headquarters outside of Nunavut. I have talking to them and urging them to come and base their headquarters here so that we would see other spin-offs like tax dollars that are coming in and other benefits.

We have also lowered the tax base so that more companies would base their headquarters in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Oral Question 255 – 1(6): Utilidor Hook-Up Subsidy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, as the member will recall when our sitting was held in Pangnirtung. I asked the minister in regards to utilidor hook-up subsidies for some residence here in Iqaluit in the Uviuq loop area and in other areas that are going to be done in the near future, so that these homeowners won't have to switch up or be forced to switch to hook up their utilidor service from the truck services that they're currently on. And the minister did indicate at that time to the regional director, Department of Finance, to the new group of city officials to try and come with something on it.

Mr. Speaker, last night at the reception at Mr. Picco's so eloquently mentioned member statements that their discussions with some city officials maybe indicated that anything specifically with the new houses in the Uviuq loop and other upcoming stuff haven't been discussed yet between the officials and the departmental officials. I'd like to ask the ministers if you could update me and the members of this house on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to recall my staff saying that they had talked with the staff of the city and I can check that again, but I will make a commitment to have my staff to check with the city and start talking with the city if they haven't done so already.

Sometimes the politicians like us might not be aware of the nitty-gritty things that are happening in terms of talk between officials if that be the case that Mr. Speaker, I will talk to my staff again today.

But I did check back with them and I came back from Pangnirtung, and did a follow-up and I seem to recall one of my staff saying that they did touch base with the city on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in discussing this issue with the city officials last night, they indicated that there have been discussions on the distributions on the funds that were approved for the lower base utilidor subsidies a number of years ago

Those were the only discussions that have take in place in that area, and I just want to clarify to the minister so she can ensure that the proper message goes to the department.

You know, what I'm looking for is a commitment for the department to work with the city to come up with some funding other than the money that was allocated a few years ago for the lower base utilidor subsidies and this for new areas and homeowners that weren't included in that initial subsidy allocation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I already made a commitment for my officials to work with the city. The bottom line is it's the city and they're in power to take on some responsibility and they may have been hidden subsidies given to the homeowners in the past. But we will certainly help the city and assist them where we can as soon as possible in this utilidor connections to the homeowners. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's response and that they're looking at it but the homeowners that I mentioned and I mentioned in Pangnirtung that had said that they've approached the city and they're being forced to hook-up to utilidor and they have to bear the full cost.

In some cases it's over 20 thousand dollars to hook up to utilidor. That's just an amount that some people simply can't afford to absorb. It was identified as an issue and is something that residents had need support in doing in the past within the lower base area and this is something that, they're just concerned because they've been told by the city that they won't be able to get any subsidies because they're not getting any subsidy funding from the territorial government.

So, that's what they're looking for, they're looking to be treated the same as the other people that lived on the other side of the road that are getting their subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question other than being mediator between the owner and the city.

I've already made a commitment that we will address this in finding a solution for the home owners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 256 – 1(6): Capacity Problems at Tammaatarvik Boarding Home

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I mentioned in my Member's Statements that I would be posing some questions to the Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services.

I think it's become urgent with the medical patients who come down here for medical appointments. They go through a lot of problems and I want to know when we're going to rectify this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday in the house, we're in the process right now of looking at trying to establish the occupancy rate of our boarding home.

In this case, the Tammaatarvik does seem to be full on different occasions and that may be based on specialty clinics being held at certain periods of time. For example, if the visiting Cardiologist is in Iqaluit and doing a cardio clinic, and patients come in from all the surrounding communities and from Iqaluit itself, and that means that more people are in the community and having to be housed at the boarding home.

After that clinic is over, three or four days later, maybe there's only half the beds being used or a quarter of the beds being used. So we need to be able to evaluate and see what's on the ground. And to see indeed if there's an expansion or extra beds needed or do we have to look at the leasing of a new facility.

Mr. Speaker, that process is under way within the department itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I'm asking this question is, could the minister, and I'm not sure how to phrase it, what about the people who are down here for psychiatric purposes.

They are housed in the same boarding home as the general patients. At times we hear about people who are running away from the psychiatric patients. Is it possible to house these cases in a different facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't that long ago that the good people of Iqaluit housed everyone who came into Iqaluit from every community outside of Iqaluit in the Baffin region.

It's only been in the last few years that we've had a boarding home in town. So, Mr. Speaker, we have made some progress. What I would suggest to the member, and I said it yesterday again, and I agree with him, there is a serious issue around people with psychiatric illness that are down for treatment here in the Iqaluit from outside of the community.

Mr. Speaker, we hope to be able to facilitate some of those days at the 24/7, 24 hour 7 day a week psychiatric facility that we hope to have open within the next ten to twenty days. That is the optimum right now for opening of that facility.

As I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, that will be the first psychiatric facility in Nunavut. I think that that is very important to point out. It is part of the mental health strategy that was approved in this House last spring, and we are following up on that.

That will alleviate the pressure that the Member talks about. I agree again with him that in cases where there is a danger from certain patients that has to be communicated to the staff and where possible we try to segregate those patients from the general population.

However, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to note that patients, whether they are mentally ill, or physically ill, all deserve the same treatment and the same standard of care. That is what we are trying to accomplish with the first psychiatric facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was not my question. My question was could we get a facility for psychiatric patients on an emergency basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have the availability of a room at the Hospital today that is used for psychiatric patients. That room, Mr. Speaker, is a padded room where someone cannot hurt themselves.

Mr. Speaker, at times we have had to place people for various reasons in the Hospital. In the Hospital when they stay in that room, they are given 24 hour, 7 day a week coverage. In most cases the stay is very minimal. So there is room on an emergency basis for patients if they are posing a threat to themselves and or to the general public.

However, Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, within two weeks we will have a facility that will be able to house some of these patients that need help. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, each patient is evaluated to make sure that when they are sent out of their home community if they are a threat of a danger to other patients, then we try to segregate them from the general population at the home. That can be facilitated through various ways.

However, sometimes, Mr. Speaker, we are not able to do that and I believe that that is what the Member is referring to, and I believe that at that instance, we would have available again very shortly a 24 hour. The 7 day facility that will be able to house those patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for your response. Mr. Speaker, I know that the Hospital has a special room for serious cases. I am talking about the lesser cases that do not need hospitalization or the need of that special room. The Tammaatarvik is possibly fine, but it does create a problem when there is a psychiatric case up there. Could we get a facility for emergency purposes? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when a patient is sent down for psychiatric care, in most cases, 99% of the time, Mr. Speaker, they are escorted. Part of the problem of the escort at that time the responsibility is to help facilitate the stay of that patient.

In some cases, Mr. Speaker, where the patient is a danger, or may bother other patients, then we try to segregate them from the general population at the home. And when we say that we mean another location.

So Mr. Speaker, the Member is asking me, is there a facility available, not at the present time, within two weeks we will have one so I guess the answer is the same as I had said earlier Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 257 – 1(6): Mining and Training Strategy

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the Minister of Sustainable Development gave his Minister's Statement, I was a little shocked, and my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development when does he expect to put forward a formal Mining Strategy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Sustainable Development. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. What we are doing, we're working on a strategy for that, and we are working with the Department of Education at this time.

And I would like to work with the Department of Education so at this time I cannot respond to the Member but we are doing our best to work with the Department of Education, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I made reference in this house one other time about trying to move back and I went MP in regards to some other issues and it seems to be the same way with this Mining Strategy and the urgency of it, and you know after 3, almost 4 years, you'd think this government would be mature enough to bring something forward and this is my humble opinion.

But the second part of my question is, when he is starting to finalize this agreement, will he bring in the partners, Education, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated who have a say in the Mining Industry because a lot of mineral potentials they garner wildlife so can the Minister agree that maybe when he forms his partnership to finalize the Mining Strategy, that he will bring everybody in and I don't want the Minister just rely on the government to do this.

There are lots of other partners and even the Mining Company so can the Minister commit to that, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand the Member's question and we will be working with Inuit organizations from Nunavut and a week and half ago, we meet with Miramar and talked with them about mining, working on the mine and training for the jobs on the mine either in Baker Lake or in Kitikmeot region.

So what we will be doing is meeting with those people to see if we can have a strategy for training the people who would like to be working in the mines. Yes Mr. Speaker, we will work with those people various organizations and the mining companies, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. When he does get around formalizing that if he includes Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, will he commit to meeting with Cumberland Resources on maybe getting some input on Mine Training Strategy also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes Mr. Speaker. When we have a Mining Symposium in Toronto, Cumberland Resources will be present and I speak with them to see if they could have a meeting with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Oral Question 258 – 1(6): Firearm Registration Office - Iqaluit

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, can the Premier update to the status of the Fire Arms Office in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, and from the information that I have, that this position was reopened after a long absence. From what I know and from what has been told to me that is all I can say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Premier. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the deadline to register firearms is January 2003. So, registering your firearms is that true? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, according to the law, all firearms will have to be registered with the Federal Government Firearms Registration but what we have stated to them is we have not, we are not ready to do that at this time in Nunavut.

It's not just the people of Nunavut that are in this position but are also some provinces in Canada because I had a meeting with some of the ministers and that is the case with them as well and we have asked for the legislation to be deferred or for it to be, for the firearms registrations to be deferred for a while. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the premier inform them about Nunavummiut that the office was closed here in Iqaluit for a while because of that, I think its obvious that especially in the small communities they are not used to filling out registration forms and they don't have any assistance in filling out the registration forms.

So can the premier tell us if the Iqaluit office is doing everything it can to help unilingual Inuit outside of Iqaluit most specifically filling out registration forms that are in English only, to see whether they can have some assistance in the community of Taloyoak and other communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. We have informed the Federal Government that there are a lot of people in Nunavut communities that have not had a chance to fill out registration forms yet but what we are doing at the same time is with NTI to try to have a court challenge in regards to registration of firearms.

So, what we are doing is going to the Supreme Court this coming month and so we're doing everything that we can to try to help the people of Nunavut but that the registration forms and all the paper work is being done by the Federal Government but we are doing our best to help out the people of Nunavummiut because I realize that we cannot do it right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I thank the Premier for his response.

Mr. Speaker, people who have not filled out the registration forms, by January of 2003, what are the consequences for those people, who have not filled out the forms by January of 2003?

I think that they should be protected. I wonder if the Premier can assure us that those people that have not completed the registration forms by January 2003, will be protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, because of those people that will not have their registration completed by January 2003, we have had some meetings in regards to this fire arms registration and that's why we're trying to delay the law.

We have delayed it quite a few times and we would like to do it once again and we have written letters to the federal minister. And like I said before the end of December, the court challenge is resuming.

We will wait to hear what the results will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. The members will note that question period is now over. Moving on to item 7. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 012 – 1(6): Minister’s Statement 72-1(6) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 34 (5), I move, seconded by the Honourable from Baker Lake, that Minister’s Statement number 72-1 (6) be moved to Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried. Minister's Statement number 72-1 (6) is deferred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 7: Written Questions**Written Question 002 – 1(6): Medical Records for Miners from Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a serious written question. I was approached by a widow in Baker Lake. Between 1959 and 1964, her husband worked in the North Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine, under ground.

After coming out of that mine, he experienced some very serious illnesses and ultimately passed away at the young age of 38 years old. At the time the hospital in Winnipeg said it was leukemia.

So my written question to the Honourable Ed Picco, Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services, today is, does the Department of Health have any records on miners working at the North Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine in the 50s and 60s underground?

And part two, can the minister inform me if there has been any cases of ex-miners working in the Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine of any higher cancer rates and number two, could the minister investigate if these ex-miners, if there were any diagnosed with any other related illnesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. McLean. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 10: Petitions**Petition 005 – 1(6): Swimming Pool – Repulse Bay**

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from my constituents from the Hamlet of Repulse Bay. This petition contains 365 signatures of residents who want to see a swimming pool for the community.

Mr. Speaker, I completely support my constituents and they also have the support of the Chesterfield and Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports to Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Report 05 - 1(6): Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Worker’s Compensation Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Clerk. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 13, an Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services and that the Bill is ready for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. In accordance with Rule 68(5) Bill 13 will be placed on the order paper on Friday, November 22, 2002.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1, 2002-2003 - Notice

Bill 19 – Budget Measures Implementation Act - Notice

Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act - Notice

Bill 26 – Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, November 22, 2002, I should move that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2002 – 2003. Bill 19, Budget Measure Implementation Act. Bill 25, an Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act and Bill 26, Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the Assembly waive the two day notice requirement for the First Reading of Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2003 – 2004 for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng. we’re still on Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll now request the Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement for first reading of Bill 18, Appropriation Act Capital 2003 – 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 18 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2003-2004 – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 18, Appropriation Act Capital 2003, 2004 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 18 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 18 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2003-2004 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 18, Appropriation Act, Capital, 2003/2004, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose for this bill is to seek legislative approval for the Capital requirements for the Government of Nunavut, to allow the delivery of capital projects for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. The motion is in order, to the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion has been carried. Bill 18 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

Minister's Statement 72-1 (6) and Bill 18 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. And before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we'll take a short break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15.21 p.m. and resumed at 15.53 p.m.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will reconvene with Committee of the Whole in regards to Minister's Statement 72-1(6). Bill 18. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all we'd like to start with Bill 18, with Department Health & Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does the committee agree that we'll deal with Capital Estimates of the Department of Health & Social Services 2003 – 2004? Minister Picco do you have opening remarks?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will ask my officials to join me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco. Do you have opening remarks? Do you understand? Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would ask my officials to join me here at this table the discussion is on the Capital Estimates 2003 – 2004 with the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): For the record, as the chairperson, what we usually do, is Minister Picco, we start with your opening remarks before your witnesses join you.

We will also hear from the chairperson of the standing committee before your witnesses can join you at the table. If you have any opening remarks, you can now proceed Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly for the opportunity to present the 2003/2004 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Before I begin, I would like to introduce the members of my staff who are with me today in the gallery. They are Mr. Keith Best, the Acting Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. As well, later we'll be joined by Mr. Donald Maychruk who is the Director of Finance.

The Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the delivery of a wide range of health and social services across Nunavut. We recognise Mr. Chairman, such a responsibility requires health facilities that are well equipped and provide for the needs of Nunavummiut.

It is our intention over the next ten years to renovate or replace the majority of health facilities built prior to 1985 to better meet the changing needs of our communities. Included in the capital estimates is funding for the completion of a health facility in Pond Inlet and funding to start construction of the Igloolik Health Centre.

Funding has also been included for the renovation of the Taloyoak Health Centre. Identified in this years capital estimates are the costs associated with the three major health facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

The hospital project is generally on schedule with construction expected to start in early 2003 with completion and occupancy in 2005, at the latest early 2006. The Kivalliq Health facility has seen a number of significant events take place, including foundation work with piling set in the ground.

Mr. Chairman, the transfer of the project is the responsibility of the Government of Nunavut is well under way. Major construction on this project will start in 2003, and the project is still on schedule to be completed in 2004.

The Kitikmeot Health facility is generally on schedule, the completion and occupancy in June of 2004.

Also, identified in this year's capital estimates, is the capital leasing arrangements for the replacement of St. Theresa's Residential Care facilities. Extra words should be given to member James Arvaluk, who's worked diligently on this file with the developer.

The department has signed two agreements. One for the design of the facility and the second agreement for their foundation work for the Chesterfield facility. Final drawings have been receive and are currently being renewed by our public works. Once the department has received a sign off, from the public works, negotiations on a capital lease will begin.

They're expected, Mr. Chairman, that that project will be completed in 2004. As members are aware, in addition to these major capital projects, we are also proceeding with the expansion of the Telehealth Network into more of our communities through the use of matching federal funds.

The equipment has now been installed in all the communities identified as Telehealth sites, with training to be completed at all sites by the week of December 2nd of this year. I believe Mr. Chairman, that Telehealth Technology will start to bring increased services to our communities and lessen our dependence on health services from the south. That's a very important point, Mr. Chairman.

Also, Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services, will be very active during the next few years and the guidance and support of all members is appreciated.

I look forward Mr. Chairman, to discussing our capital estimates for 2003/2004 with you and the members of this house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. At this time you can ask your witnesses to join you at the table.

Sergeant-at-Arms can you escort the witnesses please. Minister Picco, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Ed Picco: Qujannamiik, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me on my immediate left is Mr. Donald Maychruk, the Director of Finance for the Department of Health and Social Services. And on my immediate right is Dr. Keith Best, the Acting Deputy Minister of Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Does the Chairperson of the Standing Committee have any opening comments? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee of Health and Education, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to make some introductory remarks as we begin deliberations on the 2003-2004 Capital Budget. The Department of Health and Social Services the Capital Estimates for 2003-2004 show that the Department of Health and Social Services has a budget of nearly 60 million dollars, representing over 41% of the Government's overall Capital Budget.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee recognized that an overwhelming proportion of the Budget is directed towards the development of three new regional Health facilities.

In previous discussions with the Minister, Members have requested information on the financial arrangements for these new facilities. Recognizing that the projected costs will have implications for the Government's future financial position.

However, Mr. Chairman, while the Committee was pleased to receive more information in this area, Members remained somewhat concerned with the planning process. Although the overall costs are now being projected for these three facilities, there is no matching information describing what kinds of services are going to be offered in each of the facilities.

In addition, it is not clear whether there will be transient boarding facilities for individuals from outlying communities who will come in to receive these services.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee feels that if such financial projections are to be meaningful, they must be based on a realistic picture of what is to be provided. The Committee urges the Minister to keep all Members up-to-date on the Program Planning Process at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Chairman the Committee is pleased to note that the Department continues to invest in replacing or upgrading Community Health Centres this coming fiscal year.

The status of our facilities not only affects the ability to deliver programs to a rapidly growing population but may also affect our ability to recruit the trained professionals. We need to staff them.

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee have on many occasions expressed the view that group homes, shelters, or similar facilities will be more effective by being located within communities where individuals receive services can be closer to their families.

The committee understands that the department has been looking into the issue of whether there are gaps in the continuing of care services for the elderly, behaviourally disturbed children, persons with psychiatric disorders, as well as people with physical disabilities with the exception of the group home project in Chesterfield Inlet the committee knows that there are no capital projects identified for continuing of care in other communities.

Members encourage the minister to look into the various options of establishing smaller service centres into the communities of need.

During the Pangnirtung session, members will recall the rigorous discussion regarding the plans for community based limited detoxification facility. The committee was interested to note that this project does not appear in the capital estimates despite the fact that apply process has been obvious of being initiated.

Mr. Chairman, the committee understands that even with the construction of the three new regional health facilities, we will still be relying on hospitals and other service centres outside of our jurisdictions for certain specialized procedures.

Members have consistently raised concerns with the boarding facilities provided for individuals who must travel to locations such as Yellowknife in order to receive the services. Members look forward to receiving an update on the results of the Department's recent request for proposal for boarding home services in Yellowknife.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I would anticipate that individual members will have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. On the Capital Estimates 2003 – 2004. Does everybody have a copy of this page 10-4. Before questions are put to the Minister I will give everybody to give remarks that we will be able to go back and ask questions later. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome the Minister and his officials to the witness table, I'd like to also welcome Inuapik who is here, and I used to work with her husband at the hospital.

Every time if we had, first Mr. Sageeatok and I, around 1973, we use to try and hide even Mrs. Sageeatok probably remembers.

First of all I like to state that we are very happy about getting a new hospital and I will be asking questions after when they were given estimates, what they were anticipating, what kind of services they're anticipating and the populations in different regions.

I have stated this before that the new facility in Iqaluit, that they will have to be a chapel in there, and along with the chapel there will have to be a separate birthing area, so I will be raising questions in regards to that.

There definitely needs to be a chapel because many hospitals down south have chapels that serve a great service to people and many local church people hold prayer services at the hospital. I will be raising questions to that area.

As well, somebody else mentioned from the Standing Committee the group home for people with physical disabilities, if the services will be in place because not too often we get reports in regards to those. One of the on-going issues is psychiatric patients who go to Tammaatarvik and there is no proper facilities for them because at Tammaatarvik there's people patients who require different treatments that stay in one home and we anticipate to hear what services they will be providing. I will be raising questions in regards to those, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Williams. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am in agreement with the opening remarks with the Chairperson of the Standing Committee.

I'm also in agreement with the request that has been made by the Inuit or the needs that have been identified by the Inuit will be provided under that facility and ever since the creation of Nunavut we have been working on the group home in Chesterfield Inlet.

That has been an on-going issue also and I will be raising questions as to, as you stated lease, so we have to plan way in advance so we might want to hear some details on that and looking at the capital estimates, the services that will be provided are very reassuring and very positive to see in this because they are being addressed in this capital estimates according to the capital estimates so right now I don't have opposition, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're very useful. And to Minister Picco and his officials. Welcome to the assembly. I know you're task, when you're dealing with Health and Social Services, and the public, it's a humungous responsibility that we put on you and it gets very difficult and we certainly appreciate that you serve the people.

I'd like to thank you for that. Even though that might be the case, at the same the three new facilities that are going to be constructed, I'm sure that we all appreciate it and I certainly appreciate the fact that we'll get new facilities. It's getting very clear and we're hearing more details when the completion dates will be. It's materializing and we see that within Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, one of the ongoing concerns that I've had as well as my constituents is that there are not facilities to assist Nunavummiut because a lot of times, our parents have to be sent out of town if they have to be helped or assisted. For, the Inuit this is a big burden to the people especially when their children have to go outside of Nunavut to be cared for.

Because we long for each other, especially to our children, be they daughters or sons. We have all feel that they are still our babies in our hearts and the children who are sent away, their parents feel the same way. A lot of times, they encounter problems because of that yearning feeling that they have when their children are taken away from Nunavut.

For example in Gjoa Haven, I know my community well; I usually give an example of the situations that have occurred in my community. And I'm sure it's like that in every other community outside of Gjoa Haven.

One of the sons from Gjoa Haven is down in Ontario and the father and the sister get a chance to visit and I'd like to thank the department that were able to assist. But when they're visited, it's very beneficial but then again they have to leave them again in a few days after a brief visit.

So I will be asking more questions in regards to that. Especially where we have to send patients outside of Nunavut. See if they can be serviced within Nunavut. So I will be asking questions in regards to that.

Also, in regards to the patients at Tammaatarvik, the patients who have to stay there, and also in Kitikmeot, the boarding home, in some cases an Elderly person has to go to Yellowknife. The Kitikmeot people have to go to Yellowknife, if it's a serious condition then they are sent down to Edmonton and they are provided with a boarding home. They are looked after very well and I'd like to thank the department again for providing such services that are adequate in Edmonton for the residents of Kitikmeot but when they go to the Yellowknife boarding home, Lena Pederson Boarding Home, and that person is quite elderly and the department knows that person, that individual.

Under Capital Estimates, correct me if I'm wrong. I don't know if it's there. If it's included in here I probably won't be asking questions but if not then I'll raise questions about the boarding homes, whether they're going for a care or to deliver, those homes should be more welcoming and more homier to the patients that are going to the boarding home from the different communities.

I'll raise more questions at a later time.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly. I would first like to thank the minister because of course there is going to be the three regional health centres that are going to be built in the regions but I have an ongoing concern about staffing those new hospitals or health centres.

But in Cambridge Bay they definitely will have to be a boarding home built. We want to have the patients as comfortable as possible and I can recall a time when the patients use to be billeted out. Those were patients who were there during the last part of their pregnancy and for delivery and they do need comfort and a proper place to stay while they are there and someone had stated earlier, the boarding home here, I know, is way too small.

Two years ago I had surgery here and I experienced the discomforts. I had just gotten out, I was just in the hospital being admitted and there was an Elder who I was rooming with and I think it was a psychiatric patient that I was rooming with. It wasn't that I was scared of him. I just felt that I was being in the same room with somebody who needed psychiatric care and I think that your department will definitely have to think about that if you're going to be building boarding homes along side with those health centres and hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I have no other names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it will be safe to say that the department is probably one of the toughest departments with a great deal of challenges that it faces and so health facilities throughout the territory some of the more older and along with the some of the schools there is some that are older facilities in the communities have been there the longest and one of the things that the minister had indicated in his opening comments, his plan over the next ten years to address some of the older facilities that were built prior to 1985. I would imagine that there is quite a few of them.

As well, the Minister had indicated the hospital here is on schedule and construction is supposed to start early next year. One of the things that the Chairman indicated is how that has been going over the last number of years. I have asked those here in this House. I surely look forward seeing some of it come through to actually being built.

One of the questions is if the Department has a study or a report or a plan on what types of services that will be offered in this facility. We have heard a lot of talk in this House over the last little while on psychiatric facilities within Nunavut here and within the Hospital.

A lot of times, people require those services and the Minister was even talking about it here in the House. The hospital rooms are outdated facilities now and are not meant to be used for that purpose.

I look forward to asking the Minister some questions on what are some of the functional reviews that they did on the facility and what exactly is going to be offered in there.

One of the other things that I may ask and I don't know if the Minister will be able to answer it, or if they are looking at going into capital leases for the health facilities. At the end of the day are they going to be facilities that are owned by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Government of Nunavut, or are they going to be owned by the developer.

Another area the Minister has indicated is that a lot of these facilities are coming on line and in his comments he talks about matching Federal funding to assist in his Department in developing these facilities. I am asking for the progress made in that.

Also these new facilities coming on line, granted this is not the Main Estimates, but surely as the Chairperson had indicated, in the planning process they should have some rough estimates for what it is going to cost to maintain these facilities. And also the plans that the department has for coming up with those resources.

We all know that the Department has overextended the amount allocated over the last three years and just for the simple reason this is not getting the resources that it needs. These are going to be added items there and what the impact that will have. Other than that, Mr. Chairman, those are my general comments. We will probably have more questions when we go through the Capital Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. At this time, I have no other names on my list. Before we go into the Capital Estimates we will now open up the floor for questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer back to my general comments in regards to the Baffin hospital that will be located here in Iqaluit. Is there going to be a chapel built in the hospital? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the requests by the standing committee of health about a year ago was to ensure that we did have a dedicated room for religious purposes and that is the case.

In the new facility there will be a dedicated multi-purpose room which will be used for a chapel. So that's the answer you'll get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased. He stated that there will be a room, a multi-purpose room, but I was thinking more of a chapel and I would like to know exactly how big that chapel would be.

A lot people from Iqaluit go up to the hospital and people from all over Baffin. Have you consulted with the city council on the location or the building of the hospital?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, from the beginning of the project, I've been involved in it as an MLA for Iqaluit since 1995 for the last seven and a half years.

On several occasions I have had an opportunity to discuss with the different councils. I think there are just three mayors that have been working on this project, four maybe. So the council has been kept up to date to transfer into the land and indeed most recently the pricing of some of the lots with the council have ongoing discussions.

And I want to say for the record again, Mr. Chairperson that I've been very pleased with the proactive and cooperative approach to city council and the elected council and mayors have taken in regards to this project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, very much for your very precise responses. And again, I would like to make reference to the comments that I made in regards to the price of the three hospitals: \$17 million in the Baffin, \$16 million in Kitikmeot, how did you arrive at those figures?

Looking at the Kitikmeot, they have approximately half the number of community and half the number of people, how did you arrive at these almost similar figures for the Baffin and the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the numbers that are given there are spread over, are spread over the number of years. So for example, in the Qikiqtani case, the larger facility is, it costs more money. I believe we're budgeting 17 for the first year.

In the other two facilities cases, they are smaller facilities and the total cost is basically covered in the first and second year for the program which are indicated in the capital plan and the substantiation sheets that are in the house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: We will try and ask it in English. My question is that the amount allocated to the Baffin and Kitikmeot region are almost the same but the population and the number of communities are very different, possibly half that are in Kitikmeot.

I'm asking: How did you arrive to this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Some of determining the total cost of regions in the capital project in the five year plan for the Baffin facility for example, is \$45 million 900 thousand. But in this detail that we're presenting today and in the capital estimates presented in the house, it's based on the yearly amount.

In that case, the three hospital facilities, the extended care facility in Rankin Inlet as well as in Cambridge Bay and the facility here in Iqaluit. Indeed, if you look at the total costs in the five year, you'll notice that the larger facilities with the larger population base in Baffin, is considerably more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did understand that answer very well however, how much of \$46 million dollars, did this money all come from this government or is there funding that came from? Let's say, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation or other agencies like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the amount shown under Appendix C, under Health and Social Services, 99 in the budget presented by the Minister of Finance, are monies that proposed to be spent by the Government of Nunavut.

Those do not include any monies by QC or the other development corporation, which they're using to secure loans and so on to help facilitate the construction of the facility. The amount show in the budget, there's a budgeted amount that has been allocated by the Government of Nunavut.

I believe if you follow on Appendix C 23, in the book, you will note the five year Capital Plan demonstrates that amount, what the budget is and then what the planned amounts are in the preceding year. So, I guess that's what would be the reference to the public.

I hope that clarifies the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are patients who are under the care of the Health and Social Services for extended care. How many patients from Nunavut do we have who are in outside institutions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, when you look at the number of adult patients, we believe there are about 12, there are about a dozen patients outside of the territory. There are also some children, youth that are in extended care facilities outside of the territory.

But the number of adults in extended care outside of the territory is approximately 12. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to the patients who out patients or home care patients. Usually the parents are sent down to see their children.

How much money does it cost for the transportation and other expenses to send these parents to see their children? How much does it cost in a year for those parents to go see their children? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Puqiqnak. We're trying to keep to the Capital Estimates at hand. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, you're correct, on the Capital Budget, I don't have the O&M figures but what I can say to the member. The member is correct.

One of the things that we have, with the cooperation of the Standing Committee on Health is try to repatriate and continue to keep as many children as we can in Nunavut. So for example, Mr. Chairman, that is why we've been working cooperatively with the Chesterfield Development Corporation to continue the good work and repatriate home keep those patients within Nunavut.

I don't have the dollar value on how much money is spent to send parents outside of Nunavut to visit with children who are in extended care. In many cases though, those children of extended care, are usually severely handicapped, mentally handicapped, physically handicapped and so on.

We can provide that number to the member but we're on the capital budget, that's why we don't have that with us. So, I would commit that information to the member over a couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know Mr. Chairman, whenever I'm out of place or if I'm not talking about the Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, in Kitikmeot Region, the Lena Pederson Home in Yellowknife, we felt that as Kitikmeot residents it should be replaced and when they built that health facility in Cambridge Bay and I'm pretty sure they will continue to go to Yellowknife.

I have a feeling that we will still be using the Lena Pederson Boarding Home in Yellowknife, even after Cambridge Bay health facility is built.

Can the minister let us know, when the replacement of that Lena Pederson Boarding Home will be in the Capital Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the situation on the Lena Pederson Home has been controversial the last few years with members, several times in the committee, as well as in the house.

We have investigated the opportunities presented by looking for a newer facility or to accommodate more patients and so on. But currently, in the Lena Pederson Home, the home is in the long term lease situation and to extricate the government from that lease would cost a considerable amount of money.

Therefore and thus we are looking at other opportunities that may present themselves in an RFP that we hope to put out over the next 4 to 5 weeks, to see if there is an opportunity for increased accommodations pay within Yellowknife for our hospital patients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned about the contract or RFP. What kind of facility are you talking about? Are you talking about a building that is in existence, or are you talking about a new one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're looking at the opportunity in the RFP. I don't want the public forms, too much of what we're saying before we actually advertise it.

What we would intend to do Mr. Chairman, is to look for the opportunity for maybe increased space for some of the patients. Some of the concerns we have with the current facility, it seems, from some of the concerns that have been brought forward by the community, when I recently met with some of the mayors as well as the leadership, in Cambridge Bay, concerns about the home.

So, we would try in the RFP, to look at, if there is an opportunity for increased accommodation availability in Yellowknife. At the same time, because of the conditions surrounding the lease that are in place at the Lena Pierson home, it would be very difficult for us to extricate ourselves from the lease without costing the government a lot of money. Therefore the idea coming forward with the RFP in the next few weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go page by page at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The member has indicated he would like to go page by page at this time. Page 10-4. 10-4. 10-5. Is everyone on that page?

Health and Social Services, Branch Summary, Directorate. It's part of 10-6, so, details of capital. Baffin Region, total Baffin Region, 25 thousand 620. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this covers the cost of replacing the hospital here in Iqaluit. And maybe, just for the rest, the minister had indicated in his opening comments that he believes work was going to start this fall already.

I just want to get an update, what's exactly where things are at with the hospital there now and what we can see start to happen over the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the chronological sequence of the events for the facility, we would expect by early December of this year, we'd have schematic design for the facility completed.

The design and development will continue up until April 2003. We hope that by March 2003, the tenders for the site work and foundation of the hospital would be prepared. And then Mr. Chairman, we would say that the site foundation work at the site would start by September 2003, with the hospital completed, the interior by 2005 and occupancy very soon within that time frame Mr. Chairman.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned in my opening comments, the Chair of the standing committee, we're like, six or eight months away from work being done on the facility.

Can the minister indicate what function will be held in that facility? One of the things that was mentioned earlier by Ms. Williams, was having a chapel in there but another issue that was raised here in the house this week was the issue of having some type of facility for psychiatric patients and I'm just wondering if the minister could indicate if they had a functional, I know they had a functional review done for the facility.

If you think you could update us as to what exactly is going to be going on in this new facility and what's going to be happening with the old facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the new facility will be an acute care hospital with 35, that's correct Mr. Chairman, 35 in patient beds. It will have diagnostic treatment services, an operating room, we'll also have specialty rooms, laboratory diagnostic imaging, respiratory therapy, rehabilitative therapy. No, Mr. Chairman, it'll continue.

It'll have day surgery, a pharmacy, ambulatory care services, administrative services, a support services and as one of the members asked earlier, there will be a respiratory as well as a morgue in the hospital as well as a chapel facility.

The old facility Mr. Chairman, the existing hospital, after the new facility is completed, there are plans for a linkage between both facilities which will entail a walkway, pedestrian walkway which then would lend the old facility through out patients as well as some of the administrative services to the hospital, doctor's clinic and so on. So the continue of the newer facility and the older facility under the functional program is such that the integrity of the functional program is not depended on either or, or. And that's why Mr. Chairman, it's very important that the new facility will move forward.

On the boarding services, because there are more services available again we are looking at the opportunity for increased accommodations for boarding services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the minister brought it up, I'll just mention that they're looking at the need for more boarding facilities and that's something that I don't believe is in the five year plan.

I was just wondering if the minister could indicate if that is something that we're going to be see coming into the Capital Planning Process as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the auspices of the Non Insured Health Benefits Program, delivered by the Federal Government, the hospital contract a ward by the Government of Nunavut facilitated by the Minister by the Government of Nunavut and the reciprocal building that is in place for those programs would mean that they are not capital projects of the Government of Nunavut.

So, for example, the new facility under construction in Winnipeg, although it will be leased by the Government of Nunavut, through out hospital boarding program, it is not a capital project of the Government of Nunavut. Therefore it does not appear in the Capital Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A pretty thorough answer, therefore I don't have to follow-up on it unless I have another question.

Mr. Chairman, as I indicated on my opening comments and I know that something this government's been pursuing in relations to the health facilities is, this facility here is overall is about close to 50 million dollars for the work here.

Can the minister indicate if they're going to be getting any other funding for this facility? I know you been looking for federal contributions and a matching level I think, it's 50, 50 is actually a figure that the minister himself has reported to the Federal Government.

I am just wondering if he's had any luck in pursuing that and if not when does he anticipate in receiving that help. And if we are not going to get it, what is the impact that will have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I said to Patricia Bell from CBC recently on the funding arrangement for the Hospital facility. I think that it is very important to note that this Government, the Premier, the Finance Minister and myself has been in Ottawa several times specifically on the funding for the hospital facilities.

I have made appearances about National Commissions on Health, including Senator Michael Kirby's Standing Committee Hearings to the Senate in Edmonton Alberta. As

well as Commissioner Romanow, who actually had an opportunity to come here to Nunavut and follow us into Pangnirtung, to see our situation.

We would hope, Mr. Chairman, that the current infrastructure program under the Federal Government, although it has a 20 million dollar cap, we would believe that the Government of Nunavut needs an extra bit of help.

And I would suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, that based on the healthcare needs, the infrastructure and so on, many of the other jurisdictions in this country talked about a level playing field. The Government of Nunavut just wants to get into the game. We are tired of hanging around the bleachers, we need some extra help. These projects are about 80 million dollars as the Member spoke about earlier.

We have tried to do these facilities the very best way that we could, through our own Capital Planning Process. That is why we see them in the Capital Planning Process today on the condition and with the recommendation of the Auditor General of Canada, as well as the Standing Committee.

We would hope at the end of the day, with the continued lobbying efforts by the Finance Minister, and the Premier, and yours truly, that there will be some significant contributions at some point, come to us for these facilities.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that with Commissioner Romanow's Report, the National Report that will be tabled by Mr. Romanow to the Prime Minister early next week, I believe on Thursday in the House of Commons, there will be significant mention of Nunavut's needs, infrastructures needs, Northern, remote and rural areas of the country.

We would hope coming from Mr. Romanow's Commission Report that indeed in the February or March Budget of the Federal Government there may be an indication at that time of some help to the Government of Nunavut with these much needed facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister did a great job at answering most of my question, maybe my question was a little bit too long for him to answer part of what happened to the funding that did come through. If the Minister could indicate the potential impact could have on these facilities and this Government, if the funding did not come through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, at one point Mr. McLean had indicated to me that he was not Nostradamus and that he could not tell the future. I would suggest to you that I also cannot tell the future. I would suggest to you that if the Federal funds to help us with these facilities is not forthcoming, then that will put the Government of Nunavut in a difficult position to choose between other programs and services.

At the same time the Finance Minister has made it perfectly clear today in the tabling of the Capital Budget Estimates, which we are accounting for the costs of these facilities, as recommended by this Standing Committee and the Members of this House as well as the Auditor General of Canada. We have budgeted for them.

At the same time the Premier has made it perfectly clear that if there is an opportunity to buy out these facilities completely, then that is what we would do and with the monies that are there, we would be able to do that.

The Member is correct though, that if the Federal help with the monetary transfer towards these facilities is not forthcoming, then that will put us in a difficult situation. I guess we will have to deal with that situation when we get there.

At the present time, the Finance Minister has done an able job of calculating and putting the contributions needed in the budget and therefore and thus, Mr. Chairman, they are budgeted for at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I wasn't looking to ask the minister if he could see into the future although some times, the way the minister answers questions you think that he might be able to. He kind of alluded to my next question that I wanted to ask him.

I guess, going back to that, if this stuff isn't forthcoming, this funding from the Federal Government, is that there is a contingency in place so that we know what the impacts are going to be on us as a government.

As the minister indicated, then we're going to have to make some tough choices on programs and services and other things. For the benefit of all of us, the sooner we know the potential of what those impacts could be, the better.

I would like to ask the minister providing something, in conjunction with the quite capable minister of Finance or just from his department itself to provide us with some different scenarios and options to look at so that at least we can, as members of this legislative assembly, take a look and understand what possible impact decisions we're making today could be done. So, looking at different scenarios I'd just like him if he could try and provide that information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, we were discussing the usage of Paxil which is a drug used to treat some people with depression and so on in most psychiatric cases.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, that we don't need the usage of Paxil in this case because the depression is not there. What this house would in conjunction with the Finance Minister and the Cabinet, as well as with the members in the Standing Committee on Health, was to look at opportunities for contingency if and when the need arrives.

At the present time the budgeted amounts are in place and I appreciate what the member is saying, is that indeed, if it comes to the point where a fiscal situation develops, is there going to be a contingency in place.

And that would be developed in conjunction with the members as well as the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. We're under Capital Estimates. So if we could try and stay with the subject here. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought we were approving amounts now that could have future impacts and we need to know all the information to be able to make an informed decision. That's what I'm looking at.

Contrary to Mr. Picco's commentary, if you listen to Minister Ng's statement today, we're looking at a 74 million dollar deficit this year. Those times where we're really going to have to take a hard look at if the money is going to be there to go on with all of these facilities. Those plans can really be planned, and made now, when we're running out of time and money.

For those reasons, I asked those questions Mr. Chairman.

I alluded earlier that the minister could foretell the future when he alluded to my next question and that was one question I had, was, at the end of the day, when these facilities are constructed, are they going to continue to be leased facilities or are they going to be owned by the govt? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: We are proceeding and have been over the last few years to make the plans for the lease to purchase option with the development corporations in the Kitikmeot and the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation for the Iqaluit facility.

At the same time, the Premier has maintained all, is that any agreement that is signed off by the Government of Nunavut is that the Government of Nunavut has the option for a buy back of the facility at any given time during that leasing period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Donald welcome to the house. I think the Kugluktuk residents were wishing you were here. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any, looking at these leases, is there any limits or a minimum or a maximum limit of cost of doing it as a lease as opposed to a purchase, like, what a premium for using the lease rather than building it? Is there a minimum or maximum amount that they're looking at? Because I was looking at having to pay extra as a result of whatever option is pursued. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Standard accounting practices are used when we put forward the numbers that are being put forward towards the house today in the Capital Estimates for 2003 – 2004.

Any time that you move toward a lease agreement, there is a premium to be paid for that because another group is financing the costs. That's the cost of doing business; we expect that that would be factored into the lease agreement when they're finally negotiated and finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Qikiqtani General Hospital, it's close to \$50 million dollars. Do you expect, and I know you're non profit, and we can't see into the future, and my good friend Nostradamus is not around anymore so you can't confide in him, but if there is going to be cost over runs and you know, we might all be on Paxil and anti-depressants and if you're not on it you might have a tendency to jump in front of street car.

But this \$46 million is it a reasonable cost estimate on this facility and you know if you're out by 30%, sometimes Capital Projects are out by 20 or 30%. That's a significant amount of dollars.

Can you answer that question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that the numbers given are pretty firm. They have been inflated and escalated based on continued dollars expressed at the time of the beginning envelop which was put forward.

For example, in 1997, 1998 the envelope at that time was the total of \$25 million dollars in standard 1997, 1998 building costs. Here in Iqaluit alone we know that the building costs have increased from about \$120 dollars a square foot. \$175 dollars a square foot. So we had to build those contingencies in there. We would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, that the \$50 million figure does take into account some of those contingencies that we just spoke about and would be an accurate reflection of those costs.

However, things occur during construction and so on, that may, outside the boundaries, outside the scope of what you budget for and so we have those set in factor according to the amounts presented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You got furniture and equipment 1.1 and then future years 5.7. Technology is changing and with the degree of services that you just explained earlier that you're going provide in that facility, is this a realistic cost on furniture equipment for that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct, one of the concerns that we have right now for example, is that in the old hostel facility, we're not able to go out and get the proper surgical beds, like the gurney and so on because it can't fit in the hallways of the current old facility.

So, if you're going to build a new facility, you need to upgrade at the same time, the equipment and have the very best monitoring equipment available. Those prices continue to rise and so on.

We would suggest to you right now, Mr. Chairman, that it's the 2002. And shortly it will be the year 2003. When this facility is ready to be moved into, and with the equipment in a two or three year time frame, you need to be able to factor in the inflation rates and so on and then pre-determine and pro-rate those amounts into actual cost effective continuum.

When you approach that factoring, that equation, it gives you assessed needs which is presented here. So those dollar values are reflective of inflationary factions. As well as any cost contingencies that may developed over a period of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good answer. And I would expect a very good answer on close to \$55 million dollars worth of taxpayers' money going into facilities.

Like I said earlier, I'd be horrified and terrified if the cost over hits 10 or 15 % because then we're up to \$65 million dollars in a facility. My question, and it's really not related to a capital question. How much does the minister feel he'll save by building this facility and repatriating X number of dollars to this region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to make it perfectly clear to Mr. McLean, and to the member and the public at large, that this government indeed is going to look at the costs of these facilities and so forth, it takes it very serious.

And we are trying to make sure that we get the best value for the dollar that is being spent. After saying that, at no time, has the building construction of a new facility, whether it be in Rankin Inlet or Cambridge Bay or here in Iqaluit, been about saving money for the government.

It's about providing a better service in the 2002 and onward. For example, this facility here was built in 1962 for a population in the community of about 1000 and in the region, about 1500.

It is more than ten times that size today Mr. Chairman. We haven't figured in what the cost savings would be. We would suggest that we know there will be savings but there will also be increased labour costs and so on. At the same time, as move forward in the year 2002, 2005, 2006, is it acceptable to be sending every patient out?

As we've heard from the members in this house many times, the answer is not. We can treat people closer to home and in Nunavut, money spent in Nunavut is better than having to spend money south. That's the contingency that is in place for these facilities Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're answering the question the way that I want to hear them. So, yes in fact, when I say that we're going to save money, which seems to be an issue in this government all the time. The magnitude of the amount of money that we're going to spend on this facility in Iqaluit, and I like I say, it's no small figure.

So I'm hoping, and you've got a very capable department, that when you're building and running these facilities, that there's going to be some cost savings than sending people south. Or what's the point in building them?

Will we be able to afford them down the road? You know, you can build a palace, but will we be able to afford to run it or is it just going to be people getting off a plane here and getting a slip and then going on to Montreal and Ottawa.

So I take it, and I'm taking your answer back to me, that yes, this facility is going to be able to provide functions that are not be provided there now and then a lot more people won't have to go that are going south now. Is that correct, Mr. Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have figured out and looked at some of the approximate cost in savings and reductions and I find to point out that that's not the prime mandate or motive to put these facilities in place.

However, with annual increases and the operating costs of millions of dollars, we would expect about \$12 million to be the annual increase in operating costs for all three facilities.

We also suggest Mr. Chairman that the approximate annual cost and reduction would be about \$11.6 million that would be about \$4.4 million in Rankin, around approximately the same in Cambridge Bay, and another on the list in Iqaluit with the services that are being offered today will still be offered in the new facility for the total savings of 11.6. We would expect that the net change in operating these facilities would be about \$1 million in more costs based on the savings, less the expansionary numbers that we just gave.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman that that's pretty good value for the money and as Mr. McLean has said we have tried to repatriate patients. We have tried to do more services here, like we're doing right now in his hometown of Baker Lake, where we've opened up an elders' hospital so that elders in Baker would not have to be sent outside of their home community.

And that's the whole intent Mr. Chairman of the three regional facilities. There's one in Iqaluit, in Rankin and Cambridge Bay, as they help deliver patients here closer to home. And if that results in the savings then that's fantastic but the same time we know that those costs and the savings that are factored in will be an added bonus to the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For every action we have a reaction. When there's new facilities being built, there's a little issue, the tiny issue of staffing it and every community in Nunavut has a certain degree of professionalism and employees that can walk into certain jobs and off the street and do them.

How many additional people do you feel you will have to bring into Iqaluit to staff this facility once it's up and running? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, over the last three years, we have been pandemic shortage of medical professions across Canada especially across in the area of the nursing.

It has been unfortunate for example over the last several months to witness some of the situations that keep evolving at Stanton Hospital and services in Yellowknife where there has been problems in the west with closures and so on.

In Nunavut we have stabilized our workforce; we have put incentives in place. As the members know, two years ago I introduced a Naujaat report, which was recruitment and retention issues and supported by my cabinet colleagues, we have finally solidified and kept our nursing programs in place. And we're actually in a position right now, where we're at some of the best staffing that would be at finesse.

One of the concerns being raised by members and in public at large is how will we staff these new hospitals?

Mr. Chairman, it is very important to point out that it is easier to staff a hospital then it is to staff a community health centre. When you're trying to put licensed practical nurses who do the dispensing, who do investigative work, who do laboratory work, and so on in a community health centre; those specialized skills are very hard to recruit.

Hospital nurses are easier to recruit for because there's a different set of skills that are involved. So we don't see that as a major problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You've done a wonderful job Mr. Picco and you should be praised for your work on retaining and hiring health care professionals in Nunavut. I think you're second to none out of the three territories with what you had to work with. But will you please answer my questions. How many additional people are you going to have to bring in to staff that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought excellent answer would have thrown him off but it didn't.

I don't have the number of extra PYs. That's one of the things that we're working on right now, Mr. Chairman, but we will get that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And like I said, if my old friend Nostradamus was around, he'd do a projection for you on the staff that you're going to need to run this important facility for Nunavut.

I don't want to make a joke of it but, the issue that I'm trying to get to here, Mr. Minister, is that if you have to bring an additional 40 or 50 people in, from the south, specialists or whatever, the biggest issue that we've got now in Iqaluit and other communities is housing.

So here we go and build this beautiful facility and then we're going to staff it. So the jobs go out but housing is not provided. And my other colleague, Mr. Tootoo, brought up the other issue of the transient centre which is another thing.

I know you're a busy man and you're really working hard in your department to see that things are done right. Have you thought about the issue of providing staff houses for these staff that you may have to bring in? If you don't have staff housing, then you won't be able to bring them in, and then you'll have the facility on the top of the hill there, the Taj Mahall that you won't be able staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the premier told me yesterday morning that if the facility goes up and when, that I have to make sure that there's proper housing there. That indeed has to be part of the planning cycle.

I said to the premier yesterday that in deed he was correct and that if this facility is going to go forward, we need to be proactive and make sure that staff housing is available. And that's why the government has put in place under the able auspices of the Housing Minister, some of these extra incentives for condominiums and so on, so that we'll have those opportunities.

At the same time, we believe the number of new employees for the facility, professionals that are, Mr. Chairman, will probably be close to a dozen, between 12 and 14 new PYs that are not available right now in the facility in Iqaluit.

We should be able to accommodate them. At the same as the premier indicated, we need to make sure that when the facility is completed, that in three or four years, when it's finally up and running by 2005/2006, that the housing will be there.

That's something that the department's looking into right now in conjunction with other departments in government that are associated with the staff housing issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be more my last comment than a question. Don't get me wrong, I'm not against this facility in Iqaluit. I was up there once for an appointment and I was really disgusted with the state of that facility and I think it should have been replaced years ago when you were a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Yellowknife and there was money set aside at that time for that facility.

For some reason it never got spent and I don't know why. I listened to it all the time about why it wasn't built. On the up side of it I really support this facility and I think that everybody in Nunavut does also.

Hopefully when this facility is built, some young people in Nunavut will go to that facility and see how nice it is and then maybe take a keen interest in the health profession in Nunavut. And I hope they do.

I commend your efforts in trying to get nurses in Nunavut, to take the course and become nurses and I hope you continue that on in the future. Like I say, with the new \$55 to 65 million dollar facility, in Iqaluit for the region, I'm hoping that this will help a lot of people with their medical needs.

I'd like to thank you for your answers. As usual, they're always honest, and straight forward and short. And that's all the comments I have Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Those were excellent questions and comments. When we had the NWT Legislative Assembly, there were a lot of projects that we wanted to see that never materialized to date. We now have to work extremely hard for those to become a reality. Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's important for the record again to note and we have had a lot of new people especially for the example moving to Iqaluit.

In 1995, when I was elected to the 13th Assembly of the Northwest Territories, shortly there after Paul Martin cut the gross expenditure base the Government of Northwest Territories in Yellowknife by \$62 million dollars.

By 1997, Mr. Chairman, the Government of the Northwest Territories was in a deficit situation and that's when the Government looked at some severe cost cutting measures including the elimination of VTA's when they tried to sell off staff housing and so on. It was a different fiscal time.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, for the record, it's important to point out in 1988 when the health care was transferred from the Federal Government to the Government of the Northwest Territories, there was a commitment Mr. Chairman, to renovate the Iqaluit facility and built a new facility in Inuvik.

The Deputy Minister of the day was Mr. Bob Cousil from the Federal Government and he signed on in 1989 saying that he wanted to build a facility in Iqaluit and not renovate it.

Money was put aside for that through the Federal formula financing money to come through, those monies were in the gross expenditure bases.

The Government to consolidate a revenue fund and ended up as Mr. Ng. pointed out before because he was the health minister and I could tell you, Mr. Ng bent over backwards. He carried on, carried forward, Mr. Chairman as the health minister to try to put that facility in place and he was not successful and that's why this Minister wants to be successful where Mr. Ng. failed at that time, through no fault of his own because he did try as best he could.

So, with that Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the members comment and say in all seriousness that it has been very frustrating being a resident of Iqaluit, a person who uses the health care system and seeing delays continue and continue. I would hope that the money reflected in the budget right now, that we can move forward and this time next spring and see actual construction take place on the lot including the clean-up of the environmental spill that's there and continue what needs to be done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Please respond as briefly as you can into the point. There are a lot of people who would like to ask questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know if I'm asking questions outside of the Capital Estimates, Mr. Chairman.

In Cambridge Bay, there is a proposal to build a health facility. How many rooms is this facility to have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): At this point we're on the Capital Estimates, Qikiqtaaluk Region. You can pose that question when we do to the Kitikmeot Region. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Okay I'll wait then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was looking at the Baffin, Qikiqtaaluk Capital here and if you refer it kind of ties into the Capital Plan back in Appendixes. I'm just wondering, is there something that I don't see in here, is something that, you know, this government committed to doing this year in Pangnirtung was limited detoxification centres in the communities and there is no place. I was expecting the way it was announced and that they were going to be doing that, something in the Capital Plan for them so I was wondering if the minister could let us know where those facilities are going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, detox is a program delivered by the Department of Health & Social Services. It is not a physical facility, and therefore and thus, the money would be in the O and M budget for a detox centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there are sometimes specialized programs and I guess maybe that is where the term limited came in. There is this program that with no place to operate out of. Where is the Department planning on operating these programs out of? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, when we talk about detox, we talk about withdrawal management, that is from suffering withdrawal when you are doing the detoxification process. That is the program. It has to be in a physical facility. That does not mean necessarily that we have to build a new facility to do it in.

What we have indicated, Mr. Chairman is that a detox programs will be run and set up in one of our small non-decentralized communities. And part of the reason why we are investigating that, for example, in your home community, there is a facility, there is a program being run, there is space for unlimited detox. Your community, Mr. Chairman, is a non-decentralized, have not community. You have already approached myself and the Premier several weeks ago asking us to look at your community.

So if the facility is already there in your community, then we can run a detox program. So we don't necessarily need a Capital Budget to build something when we deliver the program or O&M for detox, we would try to use a facility that is already in place.

As the Premier had indicated, Mr. Chairman, that would be in a non-decentralized community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for clarifying that. The way it was presented in the past it seemed like there was going to be a facility built in a non-decentralized community to provide these programs and apparently that is not going to be the case. It is going to be using apparently overabundance of facilities that they have in these communities to offer the programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear a question there, Mr. Chairman. The comment is trying to be a bit facetious. I would suggest to the Member that no one, the Premier never said that we were building a facility. And I certainly have never said in

the House or in public that the Department of Health and Social Services was building a facility. What we said was that we were going to deliver a detox program. That is what we have stated. We said we would do that in a decentralized community.

For example, Mr. Chairman, if we went out and leased a building for that program, it could be a new building being constructed. For example, Mr. Chairman, in the Rankin facility and the Cambridge Bay facility there are dedicated beds for limited detox in those facilities for withdrawal management. That is part of detox. We have talked about that before, Mr. Chairman, when you look at detoxification, and so on.

There are two ways with treating addictions. One is withdrawal, it is when someone physically is addicted to a substance or alcohol and they have withdrawal management, you need a dedicated facility and 24/7 coverage. If you are counselling someone, to help them with issues around addiction, that is a different type of coverage that you can do very well in most of our communities which have Community Wellness Centres, or through the Health Centre itself.

I hope that help clarify the point made by the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Pond Inlet, \$4.4 million dollars. I would like further information on whether this for the replacement of the Health Centre or for equipment and other purposes. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The budget for the facility in Pond Inlet is \$8.995 million dollars which includes new equipment as well as the total construction costs of the new health center. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2003/2004, in the Capital Estimates, it's \$4.4 and there were monies expended last year and my question is in regards to \$4.4 million dollars.

Exactly what is that going to be used for? Is it for the equipment, furniture, or for the construction of the health facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the capital planning process, you usually do them over a two year period on a larger project like this. So the monies in the 2003/2004, \$4.445 million dollars includes the finishing construction of the facility, so the facility is complete.

As the member has indicated, it also includes money for new equipment and so on for the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Any other questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): As you stated, it included equipment and so on. So what are we replacing? Are we replacing all the beds and extra equipment and everything else? Are we going to have brand new equipment in this building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: On a regular basis Mr. Chairman, we endeavour to replace equipment in a facility. The member is correct. In this case, we would be replacing the standard equipment that you would find in the health centre.

For example, examination beds, the furniture for the centre itself, X-Ray equipment for example and so on. So those types of logistic equipment would be replaced as well as some new equipment would be purchased for the lab and so on to facilitate the new centre.

There wouldn't be much point of moving into a brand new building and having old equipment and old furniture. That's the idea of the total budget, so that we have the very best situation for Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I have no other names on my list. We don't have a quorum. We don't have a quorum.

Thank you. We were at Health and Social Services. Branch Summary, 10-6, Detail of Capital, Baffin Region. Total Capital Baffin Region, 25 million 620 thousand dollars. Agreed?
10-7, Detail of Capital, Kivalliq Region, \$13 million 425 thousand dollars. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask a question regarding the Repulse Bay Health Center. Is that for the arctic patrol drawings of the health centre or is it for the replacement of the health centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This building in Repulse was built about 17 years ago. And it's a barn style facility and I can say to you, I've been there several times now, that the facility is just not acceptable.

It's probably one of the worse ones I've been in. There are leaks in the roof and so on. The resident situation is not acceptable for the nurses there. The money, and the member is correct, the money is for the design, as well as the money that is there to design the money for the new residence for the nurses, so they won't be in the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you also going to be replacing the health centre in Repulse Bay? It's way too small. Do you have any plans to replace the health centre in Repulse Bay?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. In the 5 year capital plan, \$6.7 million dollars has been budgeted for the replacement of the health centre and that will begin in earnest in 2005/2006 and be completed by 2007/2008.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, that if we had the funds available, I would move this project further up in the capital plan, closer to now, that and the project in Pangnirtung. Both of them need to be done but we don't have the resources to do it.

This is one of the priorities of the department and hopefully in over the coming years, if there's an opportunity, we will move it up in the Capital Plan. But this needs a lot of work to keep it up to code also, extensive repairs and renovations need to spent on to keep it operating over the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Rankin Inlet, the Kivalliq Health Centre, furniture and equipment, \$15 million dollars. I took a drive by the location the last time I was in Rankin Inlet and it doesn't look by the appearance of the piles, that it's a very large facility.

What functions are going to be provided in the Rankin Inlet facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the two medical facilities, the health centre as well as the facility in Cambridge Bay will have some of the similar functions that we have in Iqaluit except that you would not have the surgical functions that are being carried out.

You will have specialty clinics. We'll do some of the dental surgery. We will be able to offer an expanded range of services that are not now currently available. For example, we will be able to increase the number of births and so on.

You will have 10 in patient beds where we would be able to bring people to Rankin Inlet instead of having to medivac them to Churchill or Winnipeg. So there will be quite a few other abilities of the extended care facility in Rankin Inlet. As well as in Cambridge Bay.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know when I use the word cost savings to you; you get defensive when it comes to health care. But one of our staff escalating costs in Nunavut today is health care and it seems like it's out of control.

We have to be critical of these costs because when they rise fast, there are other programs that have to suffer. I was talking to the mayor of Churchill two years ago. Mike Spence is a friend of mine, and yours. He was saying 85% of the usage at the Churchill health centre is Kivalliq residents.

Do you expect to be a significant reduction of use in that health facility, once new Rankin Inlet Health Facility is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to point out that we have been joined today at this very moment by many of the senior NIC, the Nurses in Charge in our health centres here in the Baffin Region.

See behind Mr. McLean, and they listen to him intently on the virtues of having a new facility in both the Keewatin and Baffin Region and the Kitikmeot Region of Nunavut. Very quickly to answer Mr. McLean's question, I do not like the verbiage out of control spending.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, as pointed out by the Auditor General of Canada herself that there be expenditure base as the Government of Nunavut Department of Health & Social Services was not sufficient and therefore and thus the extra money that was put into that program last year.

But the member has made one good point Mr. Chairman, as you said earlier. Mr. Chairman, at one point you said that the gross expenditure base on a gross domestic product of GDP, Mr. Chairman, when you said that about the Department of Nunavut, Health expenditures at 17% of the Government of Nunavut is not sustainable and you are correct Mr. Chairman.

The 17% that the GDP, right now being spent by the Government of Nunavut on Health Care is the most of any jurisdiction in Canada. We've spent three times as more Mr.

Chairman, as any other jurisdiction on Health Care for GDP and in that context Mr. McLean is correct when he says that is unsustainable, he is correct. There is no way we can sustain that amount of expenditure over a period of time.

Yes, your right, Mr. Chairman, you read that GDP amount in the National Health Magazine as well as being audited by other firms. Thank you Mr. Ng and thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. If you could perhaps shorten your answers and make them to the point. Thank you. Anybody else? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I'm glad you said that to him; make them short and to the point. But I wish he would answer my question. Like you know, he could come over to my house tonight if he's lonely and talk to me about you know, all this type of stuff and he's more than welcome but you know when I'm in the house here, I'm asking a question and if he's going to be you know, usage and stuff like that, I wish he would answer the question like you know, I know the minister is not caught short for talking to me and I do brush him off sometimes when he sees me around the building and you know I won't listen to him but you know I wish he would answer my question when I ask him. That's all I'm asking as a politician, that's suppose to keep him accountable that he answer my question when I ask him. I'm not asking him personal stuff, I'm just asking him you know.

The question was, when this new Rankin Inlet facility is built, does he expect that the usage of the Churchill Hospital will drop off? Because currently 85% of the people that use the Churchill facility are from the Kivalliq.

Have you done any kind of cost estimates or are we still going to be using the Churchill facility as much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the answer to question as yet and we've seen a drop off as we speak right now with the birthing program for example. The answer very shortly is and simply is yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. That's the way it should be. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You're a very good Chairperson of doing this for me. I'd like to thank you for your help and getting me the answers out of Mr. Picco that I'm looking for and like I say I fully support Mr. Picco's initiatives to build these facilities in the three regions. I really do.

Now, the other question and you know it is related to capital. On the Rankin Inlet facility you told me they're going to be providing different functions and processes. My question is, when you build a facility like that, and you're going to provide extra services and

stuff, can you give me an estimate of how many new jobs will be created for the residents of Rankin Inlet, and I'm talking about janitors, I'm talking about lab technicians, I'm talking about assistants, nursing assistants, and all kinds of new opportunities that the people in Rankin Inlet are going to have when this new facility opens? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the short answer is that there would be an increase in PYs in Rankin Inlet. We would expect that the increase in PYs would be through helping attract some nurses as well as care taking staff and so on.

We don't have a firm estimate. At this time we would expect there would be at least 8 to 12 FTEs in Rankin Inlet. The direct result of this facility that would probably come directly from Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. And I'm not nailing you down on the certain numbers but a dozen new positions created for Rankin Inlet and like I say, I fully support this facility in the Kivalliq.

People in the Kivalliq have been waiting over 20 years for this facility and I have to commend you as the minister for finally bringing it to the residents of the Kivalliq because I know in my community there's an undue amount of stress when Elders have to travel from Baker Lake down to Winnipeg for a simple physiotherapy or simple check up.

And the cost on this government is horrendous when you have to send somebody down for a half hour appointment that is minor. A return ticket for two people is close to 5 or 6 thousand dollars, so I'm hoping that this new facility will provide those functions that aren't currently being provided for in Rankin Inlet now.

I commend the minister for showing his leadership and his vision to these facilities off the ground eventually.

But my final question to the minister, Mr. Chairman, is, has he thought about if he has to bring in outside professionals, the staff housing issue again, because like, every other community in Nunavut, Rankin Inlet has a housing shortage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the premier recently appointed the minister in charge of immigration for the Government of Nunavut also. In that vein the idea would be to be able to expedite the hiring of people over-seas if needed,

especially the medical profession like we've done with the good work with some of the Australian nurses that have brought forward, which has worked out very well for us.

On the residency side itself, Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One last question. This will be my final question, Mr. Chairman.

Is that the recurring issue of a transient centre in Rankin Inlet, for the residents of Arviat, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, Baker Lake, Repulse Bay and Coral Harbour, that got a travel facility to use it, will you have an up and running good transient centre in place by the time this facility is up and running? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes, the plan was to have a facility in place by the time the Rankin Inlet facility is open.

We would hope in the new year to go to an RFP for the expression of interest for boarding home availability not only Rankin Inlet but also in Cambridge Bay for both of those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to apologise for my delay as I was having meetings in Yellowknife.

Perhaps you're on 10-6? I would like to ask a question in regards to the health facility in Cambridge Bay. Oh, okay, I will ask a question once we get there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We're on 10-7, 13 million \$425 thousand dollars. Agreed? Turning to page 10-8. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I apologize perhaps I was in a rush here. I would like to ask a question in regards to the Health facility in Cambridge Bay. Where the residents of the Kitikmeot will have the use of the facility, I want to raise a concern that was brought up from my constituents in Kugluktuk.

Would we have a facility such as a boarding home, once this Health facility is up and running in Cambridge Bay. I would suggest that both facilities be built at the same time, because there is always a concern where patients that go to a Health facility do not always have a place to stay. I wonder if this would be in the five year Capital Plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the plan would be to have a boarding home in Cambridge Bay. And the plan would also be, Mr. Chairman, to facilitate that through an RFP, around the same time that we would be doing an RFP in Rankin Inlet.

It is not in the Capital Budget, Mr. Chairman, because that is facilitated through the NIHB Program and reciprocated through accounts receivable and accounts payable by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister for your comments, because there is always a concern on that and it is good to see that it is in the plans. While we are on the subject of the Kitikmeot region, Mr. Chairman, I would ask some issues on the five year plan, because there are some issues that are not in there that I want to question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are some programs that we have not been able to bring forward on the Capital Plan based on the costs to table the dollar availability. The dollar values that are available to us as a Department. That is something that we actively encourage discussions on. We are already dealing with this at the present time. I hope to answer the Member's question.

I do would like to welcome the Member back to Iqaluit. He has been missed the last couple of days at the Assembly with his usual excellent oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. In the Five Year Capital Plan, I would like to ask another question in terms of we know that the communities in Nunavut are growing and increasing. We are aware that our children or our young people get into trouble and have to be put in group homes in the communities.

In cases where the young people are sent away from their communities, that is a concern because it does not seem to help the young person overcome their problems. Once you have a young person who is trouble in the community they should be put in a place in their own community where they have relatives and friends that they can help deal with them with their problems.

I would like to see this in the 5 year plan in terms of placing group homes in the communities. It's been 2 or 3 years since I've been questioning this and I would like to see the young people stay in their communities when they're in trouble.

I am aware that the minister wants to work on this in terms of the concerns that we have in the Hamlet of Kugluktuk.

I would like to see this concern in terms of placing health facilities and group homes in the community or even the region so that the young people are closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of the tough decisions that we have to make as a government and that future governments will have to make. Right now, we've tried to bring on line the three health facilities as well as the community health centres that we're trying to replace and quite a few of them are quite old.

We'd also like bring on Elder care facilities, long term Elder care facilities like we've just opened recently in Baker Lake by renovating an under utilized building and we would also like to be able to bring on some more group homes, so again, it depends on the capital dollars that are out there. There are so many needs in each department in the government and government in general and health, the need is there for centres or hospitals as well as the group homes and all the care facilities so, again it's based on what's available at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I can refer to appendix C-24. For example, 2005 – 2006, the programs are not included. There is a lot of planning which is good.

I would like to see in the near future just what the basic needs are in terms of our 5 year capital plan and when they're not put in the plans it just seems that the problems seem to increase and the programs are further away in terms of years as to when those facilities would be revisited.

How soon can we see those issues that are in the 5 year capital plan that are put in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We're under detail of Capital. You're question is a very good question but maybe you can touch more on this tomorrow because at this time we're dealing with detail of Capital. Once we reach that stage then you can raise the question again. Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I will raise that once it arises perhaps tomorrow. It's already in the 5 year capital plan. I'll let the minister respond.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if you follow the Capital Plan, and continue up to 2007/2008, there is a percentage with each department budgeted for, that we bring forward in the capital planning process and, before 2007/2008, when you look at the total for Health and Social Services under that page, for example, that it's \$3.9 million dollars.

That is the cap at that time. What I am prepared to do though, Mr. Chairman, and I just spoke to both of my colleagues there, is to look at the Capital Plan and to see where there is an opportunity for some of the programs that they're talking about that we also know that's needed.

For example, I'm trying to replace the health centre. At the same time there are needs for group homes and extended care facilities for Elders. And how do I get those facilities in the Capital Plan? So, that's something that we're working on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Is that it? Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the facilities that will be built in the Kitikmeot, I have concerns so that, in Kitikmeot Region, the 5 outlined communities will use the new health facility that will be built in Cambridge Bay, there will be Gjoa Haven and we all know that they'll definitely need a transient centre or boarding home.

As the minister, you said that you're looking for somebody to contract those services to. There'll be lots of patients that will use lots of those services at the hospital in Kitikmeot. There will definitely be a need for a boarding home and we can honestly say that there'll definitely be a need for a boarding home.

Not just a small facility but a boarding home large enough to be able to accommodate the number of patients that have to travel there. We'll definitely need a bigger boarder home. Can the minister assure us that there will definitely be a boarding home for the patients to use. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are two opportunities there. One is through an RFP process for Cambridge Bay. And the other one is under the capital budget you will notice that the Nunavut Arctic College is putting in 2.2 million dollars in Cambridge Bay for a new Nunavut Arctic College student accommodation.

Is there an opportunity to see if that could also accommodation hospital patients? Is there a way of revamping that program and including it?

For example, Mr. Chairman, here in Iqaluit, the former student residence for the high school is used as the boarding home. So, there are a couple of opportunities. One way or the other, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that there will be a boarding home or facilities for boarding patients in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet before the facility is complete or the facility opens in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Is that it? Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask the same question. The facility in Cambridge Bay, how many beds or how many rooms will there be? Does the minister know that information? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: That is correct Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco, I didn't hear your response. Can you respond to his question?

Hon. Ed Picco: The answer is yes, the number is 10 beds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is going to be 10 beds and considering the size of the population in Kitikmeot and looking at the boarding home the present boarding home in Yellowknife, then there won't be enough room for everybody, for the people of Kitikmeot for the population.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we put the RFP out, what we were trying to determine before hand is the number of patients that would be staying for example in the facility. When we say 10 beds, for example, Mr. Chairman, there maybe five patients from Cambridge Bay staying in the facility.

That means they're not coming from outside of community and therefore and thus we wouldn't need to board them. So, those types of contingencies would be put in place before the RFP was issued. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The list of names that I have - we're on 10-8. Details of Capital. Kitikmeot, \$16 million, 745 thousand. Do you agree? Total Capital Assets. \$55 million, 790 thousand dollars. Do you agree? Turn the page. Information Item. 10-9. Does everybody agree? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: A short question on this Mr. Chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. On the Chesterfield Inlet Residential Care Facility, the Capital Lease, the capital lease facility. Is that it? Do we see any future costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the total cost, what we believe will be the construction cost of the facility there in the lease amounts. The O&M cost on the facilities is a separate amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Close night. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I'm a little slow tonight. So we're not going to see any future costs in this Capital, not the O&M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the best estimate that we have right now. I can't say that there won't be increases \$50 dollars or \$100 dollars or \$1000 dollars.

I would suggest to you, it is in the ballpark, that is the best estimate that we have available to us and we will be contingent on that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Chesterfield Inlet residential care facility. Is that it? Is that the funding for that group home?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that money is to build a new facility in Chesterfield Inlet to take care of redundancy in the old St. Theresa's Hospital that was given over by the Catholic Diocese in the Keewatin. That's the monies that have been delayed in this House over the last couple of years and the commitment made by the Premier that Chesterfield being an un-decentralized smaller community, that's the major amount of employment to that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this question was raised already, but to raise it again, there was an indication or somebody said that for those with physical disabilities, there should be a home for them.

The minister stated that there will be on in about two weeks. Is there already an existing building that is ready to be used for people with psychiatric problems?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak, I don't fully understand your question. Could you please clarify it?

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're looking at the estimates on capital to build buildings. The minister indicated before when there was a question that in about two weeks there will be one open that will available for patients. Is there already an existing building that is ready to be used here in Iqaluit? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Any more? Thank you. To go back to 10-9. Do you agree?

Go back to 10-4. Do you agree? Hold on. Department summary. Total Capital Expenditures, \$55 million 790 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Do you agree that we have completed the Department of Health and Social Services Capital Estimates?

At this time I would like to thank Minister Picco and his officials. You have very capable staff. You're the only one who has been responding and they apparently advise you very well. I guess.

If you would like to make closing remarks, you welcome to Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly, I would like to thank the staff with me. I would like to also add, we have fun some times teasing each other and so on, but it is a very serious problem and we're representing the people. I would hope that in two weeks when the new psychiatric facility opens up, sincerely, Mr. Chairman, that it will alleviate some of the concerns we have right here in Iqaluit. Thank you, and Thank you to the committee and thank you to the listening audience and out there in TV. land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Thank you, to yourself and your officials. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I would like to move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to report progress. Agreed? Opposed? Could we can get the speaker here.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 18, 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: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Education and Health, tomorrow morning at 9:00 in the Nanuq Room.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, November 21st.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabled Documents
14. Notice of Motion
15. Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 21

18. Second Reading Bills

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

- Bill 18
- Minister's Statement 72-1 (6)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn, members are reminded that tomorrow at 11:00 a.m., there will be a meeting here in the chamber of all members.

This house stands adjourned until Thursday, November 21st, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18.22 p.m.*

