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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

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Elders and Youth*

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(Amittuq)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

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(Iqaluit East)
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Minister of Energy, Minister of
Homelessness and Immigration*

Hon. Manitoq Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)
*Minister of Community
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(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)
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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Sustainable
Development*

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance; Minister Responsible for
the Nunavut Housing
Corporation; Government House
Leader*

Donald Haviyok
(Kugluktuk)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday November 22, 2002

Members Present:

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Hon. Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, 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. Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker said the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr Akesuk

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 080 - 1(6): C-Band Public Benefits Bandwidth

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning colleagues, Mr. Premier.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to announce that the Government of Nunavut's application for access to free satellite bandwidth was supported by Industry Canada.

Nunavut now has access to 15 megahertz of bandwidth at no charge. This bandwidth will be available for internet access, video conferencing and data communications for the life of the satellite up to 15 years.

Most of us do not have the sense of what 15 megahertz of bandwidth means so I will briefly outline how this will change the way our people, businesses, organizations are able to communicate with each other and the world.

Currently only 13 of our 26 communities can get the internet without dialing long distance Mr. Speaker. The mayor of Grise Fiord spends \$4 thousand per month on long distance charges just to access his email and the internet.

In Iqaluit internet connection costs only about \$50 dollars per month because there are two local internet service providers. No one needs to pay long distance charges to access the internet.

For communities that don't have a local provider the internet is just too expensive to us. My department is working with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to establish demonstration projects that use some of the bandwidth to support small businesses and build community capacity building in the information technology sector.

Nunavut communities will be invited to submit proposals and five demonstration projects will be selected. This means that more Nunavummiut and businesses will be able to access more services like accounting, lawyers from a distance, be able to open bank accounts over the internet, be able to provide translation services from their homes, ensure that artisans will be able to sell their art to a global market and ensure that Nunavummiut will find out more about what kind of programs exist to support their development plans.

The free bandwidth will also be used to support Education and Health applications by more than tripling the amount of bandwidth available for students and health workers especially in communities outside of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

The bandwidth will be used to expand Education opportunities in all of our communities from our youngest students in kindergartens to the adults accessing University programs from their community.

Mr. Speaker, the increased bandwidth to all our communities means that students wishing to take a specialized program can start to take them from home.

Mr. Speaker, this new bandwidth will also support Health Services. Right now X-Rays taken in Cape Dorset must be mailed resulting in several days delay before a patient knows the results. Using digital X-Rays that are transmitted by email, a nurse can have a reply right away. This will greatly improve the quality of care we can provide in our communities.

Over time I expect that the public bandwidth will support a broader range of internet and data communication activities particularly in cultural and justice applications.

I would like to recognize the commitment of my cabinet colleagues particularly in Education, Health & Social Services, Finance and Public Works and Services in producing this proposal and implementing the project.

The Federal Government identified this solid working relationship as a key indicator of the Government of Nunavut's commitment towards effective use of C-band public benefits bandwidth.

The projects made possible by the free bandwidth award that I have detailed today presents the first phase of continuing improvements in the development of the knowledge economy and the yields that can be expected.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying that this award has a value to Nunavummiut of almost \$2 million per year, totalling \$29 million over the life of the satellite.

The investment of the Government of Nunavut to use the bandwidth is about \$200 thousand per year. It represents the first step to ensuring that all Nunavummiut have an opportunity to fully participate in our knowledge economy that will drive the 21st century. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Ms. Thompson

Minister's Statement 081 - 1(6): Fire Prevention Week Contest Winners

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Good morning, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the achievement of 12 creative and artistic Nunavummiut.

Fire prevention week took place during October. The contest was an important component of raising awareness in the home of the need to prepare for fire emergencies. The Nunavut Office of the Fire Marshal held a colouring design and essay contest for students in each grade school level.

As one of the judges of the several hundred entries submitted I can tell you there were some difficult decisions to make when it came time to select the winners. The first, second and third place winners in each grade group were as follows: in the kindergarten to grade three category these were the winners, first place was Victoria Lahey of Igloodik, kindergarten. Second place, Shelley Angalik of Rankin Inlet, grade two. Third place was Salomonie Ashoona of Cape Dorset, grade three.

In the grade four to grade six category, Geoffrey Burke, first place, Iqaluit, grade six. Second place, Michelle Amarok, Chesterfield Inlet, grade four. Third place, Gwen Karlik for Kugaaruk, grade five.

In the seven to grade nine category, first place, Roberta Deon from Coral Harbour, grade eight, second place, Lindsay Anayak, Taloyoak, grade seven, third place Tatty Qaugak, Cambridge Bay, grade seven.

Grade nine to twelve, first place Karen Nutarak, Pond Inlet, second place, Clifford Koplomik, Cambridge Bay, third place, Patrick Sangoya, Pond Inlet.

First place winners were awarded \$100 dollars, second prize, \$75 dollars and third prize \$50 dollars.

I would like to extend my congratulations to each winner and all participants. I would also like to thank the Department of Education and the classroom teachers who supported

this activity within Nunavut. I am also proud that my Department has sponsored this campaign for young people within Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, these achievements show that throughout Nunavut we have a very talented youth population. The skill and talent of each entry along with the high participation rate is something that we should all take pride in.

Once again, I'd like to thank the youth and congratulate them on that. Thank you.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 082 - 1(6): Division of Cultural Assets

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr, Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth recently completed two years of negotiations concerning the division of the Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre's Museum archives collections between the Governments of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

As a result of these negotiations the Government of Nunavut is now the legal owner of thousands of museum, historic, ethnographic and art objects, and extensive archival collections that include public and private records, and approximately 15 thousand archival photographs.

Mr. Speaker, these collections are a priceless legacy and a reminder of the enduring strength and vitality of Nunavut's culture and heritage. Arrangements are being made Mr, Speaker, for the continued storage and care of the collections at the Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre in Yellowknife.

I look forward to the day Mr. Speaker, when we are able to establish a home for these collections in Nunavut. They are presently stored at the Prince of Whales Northern Heritage Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 083 – 1(6): National Addictions Awareness Week

Hon. Ed. Picco: Ullaakkut Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this past Saturday I attended a special evening here in Iqaluit to join people who had gathered to recognise National Addictions Awareness Week here in Nunavut.

The third week of November has been set aside each year since 1987 to promote activities that raise awareness of addiction and how they affect people throughout Canada.

“Keep the Circle Strong” is the theme for the week. Mr. Speaker, this was adopted in Kugluktuk in 1988 to symbolize the constant forward movement of the circle of life for all people and all nations encouraging balance and harmony.

There are a number of activities going on in Nunavut communities this week. Here in Iqaluit for instance, activities have included an open house at the Wellness Centre, a display at the Youth Centre, a radio phone in show and the annual National Addictions Awareness Week Walk and the closing circle.

Now Mr. Speaker, a special note today, here at the Legislative Assembly I would ask that you and the members and the staff of the Assembly join me this afternoon when indeed the closing circle will be held around 4 o'clock after a walk from the Wellness Centre.

I would encourage everyone to participate in this important annual event. Qujannamiik Uqaqi.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 084 – 1(6): Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House today of the following appointments to the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors. Fiona Buchan-Cory of Cambridge Bay, Sharon Shults, of Rankin Inlet, Bob Leonard of Arviat, Lora Kowmik of Rankin Inlet, Johnny Kublu, of Igloolik, and Brian McLeod of Iqaluit.

Elizabeth Lyall of Taloyoak is completing her term which ends in June 2003. The student representative will be named once he or she has been approved by the Nunavut Arctic College Student Council.

Mr. Speaker, these individuals bring a broad range of experience to the board. I am confident that they will be able to provide effective direction and advice to the president and senior managers of Nunavut Arctic College over the next few years.

There involvement will assist the college in meeting the training needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akasuk

Minister's Statement 085 – 1(6): Kivalliq Arctic Food Awards

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the Department of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Sustainable Development I rise today to congratulate Kivalliq Arctic Foods on the awards they recently received from the First People's Business Association at the Mishtapew Gala in Quebec City earlier this month.

Kivalliq Arctic Foods received a first place award for international marketing and export development. They were also the runner up for two other awards for job creation and product and market development. Mr. Speaker, the First People's Business Association has approximately two thousand members and Kivalliq Arctic Foods competed against eight hundred other companies to win the national award.

(interpretation ends) Kivalliq Arctic Foods is one of nine community based businesses supported by the Nunavut Development Corporation and it continues to excel in the processing and sales of caribou products. Annual sales are projected to exceed \$1.2 million.

Mr. Speaker, Kivalliq Arctic Foods are certified to sell their products across Canada, in the European Union and last month they obtained the privilege to export products to the United States. At that time Dr. Douglas Parks of the US Food Safety and Inspections Services said Kivalliq Arctic Foods in Rankin Inlet plant was "the best plant he has visited to date."

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating manager Brian Schindel, his staff at Kivalliq Arctic Foods, and the Nunavut Business Development Corporation, for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 267 - 1(6): Gratitude to Members for Attending Graduation Ceremony**

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to show my appreciation for the following people. I'd like to say that today is Friday and first of all, on November 15th, the following Ministers went to Clyde River:

Peter Kilabuk, Paul Okalik and Peter Kattuk and my constituency really appreciated their visit and they were very proud to have a graduation on the 16th of November. There was a renovation addition to the school and the people really appreciated that.

I would like to thank the Minister and his staff but at this time I'd like to go on to another topic, today is Friday.

A lot times we hear different things, especially I might say things that might offend other members. And a lot of times I say they're not telling the truth and I'm sure it hurts them.

But I want you be aware Mr. Speaker, if I was told that I wasn't telling the truth, it would make me look very low that I would want to hide under the bed. So I want you to be aware of that.

To my colleagues and my friends, and I also like to indicate I'm quite shy when people talk about me whether I'm here or anywhere. A lot of times if we're feeling really good and then something unexpected happens and it puts me down so even though colleagues and even with my friends, I go through difficult times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark

Member's Statement 268 – 1(6): Polar Bear Statistics

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker we hear that the population of polar bear is decreasing using the studies that they do and the statistics show that they are declining within Nunavut. As Inuit we feel that the population is not decreasing.

In the past they used to go polar bear hunting by dog teams. Mr. Speaker in this day and age they come to our communities in the fall. They are actually in between houses and just recently in Kugaaruk a polar bear was caught. At the appropriate time I will be raising questions regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 269 – 1(6): NTI Annual General Meeting in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in one of my constituencies Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated held their Annual General Meeting in Gjoa Haven on November 05th to the 07th.

There were representatives from 26 communities from all of the Nunavut communities and they held their meeting and during that time they were over 40 people who came to the community from the outside communities.

But I apologize Mr. Speaker, I don't know the exact number of people that were invited and also Benjamin Arreak attended that meeting who became the Bishop. And along with Andrew Attagutaluk who became the Anglican bishop. So it became evident at that time that Inuit people can become leaders. So we were quite proud of those two individuals who were in that meeting and during the annual general meeting, they had recognition. They recognized people and individuals.

The first one that was recognized and was not able to be there, Jordan Tootoo was recognized as a good role model for Nunavut youth. So we were quite proud of him because he used to help his fellow Inuit people, Jordan Tootoo. And also they acknowledged the elder, Gideon Qitsualik, from Gjoa Haven because he has been a member of the municipal council for so long.

They gave money to a local resident of Gjoa Haven, \$500, and also the Nunavut performers, the dancers, were given some funds. Also one of the young people who has a physical handicap was given some money.

So on behalf of the community, we would like to thank them and also would like to congratulate Cathy Towtongie for being elected as president of NTI because the meeting went very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 270 – 1(6): Gratitude to Dr. Hasem Korbasy

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say a few comments in regards to an individual from Kugluktuk. For several years Kugluktuk has benefited from having a dental service provided by a resident in Kitikmeot.

And as well he has volunteered to help our youth and elders in the community and donates to local organizations in our community of Kugluktuk. The residents of Kugluktuk are very appreciative about this individual and that is why I am saying that.

We will not forget Mr. Hasem Korbasy and he has a business in Kugluktuk as the Kugluktuk dental clinic provider. Having said that, I would like to say that we appreciate Mr. Hasem Korbasy as well as his wife and family and we hope that he will continue to do well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 271 – 1(6): Good Nutrition and Healthy Babies Funded in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to express my support for a program in my home community of Baker Lake that makes a positive difference in the healthy future of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that good nutrition, a healthy lifestyle, and breast feeding results in healthy babies and healthy mothers. The Baker Lake prenatal nutrition project has been up and running for the past seven and a half years.

It includes nutritional education for mothers and infants and prenatal classes. They provide cooking classes and opportunities for pregnant women, mothers, and elders to get together.

Over 500 participants have been involved in this project over the years and I must say that many families in Baker Lake are better off because of it.

Up to now, Mr. Speaker, the project has been lucky enough to have space in Baker Lake's hospice building, which is the old Nursing Station. Even though the building is old and drafty and could use some major renovations, the project Coordinators are grateful to have the space to operate, and I hope that they continue to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this program is funded by Health Canada and sponsored by the Baker Lake Hospice Society. I fully support the activities and intentions of this Program and I heartily encourage other communities in Nunavut, if they have not already done so, to look at setting up a Pre-Natal Nutrition Program. The health of our children is one of the keys to healthy communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 272 – 1(6): Population Rising in Igloolik and Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to my two constituent communities. Today we have a higher population than all the constituencies in other communities. Today Igloolik's and Hall Beach's population put together, there are about 2, 300 in those two communities. For that reason we need to have good representation to service each community properly as in the larger centres they need to service their people.

What I am trying to say, Mr. Speaker, in the summer and the fall, it almost becomes impossible during the summer and fall because Igloolik is an island. It would be ideal to get a road built between Hall Beach and Igloolik. It is possible, because in some areas it is very easy to build a bridge and there is a lot of gravel there. It would not be too expensive. It would also benefit the Inuit hunters and the families visiting each other from one community to another.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we can get a barge that can transport vehicles and people from one community to the other community. So therefore, I will be making more comments in regards to this sometime in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 273 – 1(6): Gratitude of Individuals

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank and to say how proud I am of my constituents. I would like to inform the Members that I now have my CA, Susan Salluviniq was my CA in Resolute Bay, it is Karen Inutiq now. I would like to thank Karen for being in Resolute Bay. Also I do have a new CA in Arctic Bay, Leah May. I also would like to thank her and the rest of the people.

Also I would like to thank the Minister, although I waited for him to say it. There was one Nurse who resided in Arctic Bay for twenty-one years. I would also like to thank Dale Redpart, for living in Arctic Bay. Although I appreciate the rest of the community, those are the special ones that I would like to thank. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 274 -1 (6): Thank Individuals for Support of Kivalliq Food Plant

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to give thanks to the Minister of Sustainable Development for honouring Kivalliq Arctic Foods for the award they received last weekend from the First Peoples Business Association.

It is great news for Nunavummiut, it is great news for Rankin Inlet, and it is great news for me as the plant is in my riding. Mr. Speaker, Brian Schindell has been managing the plant in Rankin Inlet for 10 years. His wife Vivian has been working with him for seven of those. The plant supplies employment for 15 people in Rankin Inlet for approximately 10 months of the year.

A few of these staff that have been with them for many years, James Innuksuk for example, has been working in the plant for 8 years, Joe Amarok, my son in law for 7 years, Paul Pissuk for 5 years and Johnny Kingmeotak for 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again thank the Minister and the Nunavut Development Corporation for supporting this plant and I would like to thank the community of Coral Harbour for supplying the caribou meat.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Brian and his staff for their hard work and dedication to providing superior caribou meat products to people around the world. I would just like to say how proud I am. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 275 – 1(6): Hockey Game Tonight

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in the spirit of Sportsmanship and fun in order to rally my colleagues to get ready for tonight's big game.

Mr. Speaker, as members are well aware, 5:30 this evening marks the occasion of our third annual MLA hockey challenge against the Iqaluit Women's Hockey Team. Mr. Speaker, this clash of titans not only provides an opportunity for the women's team to undertake an important funding raising activity, it also lets some of the stars of this house shine in another forum, not the Montreal forum, Mr. Premier just in case you were hoping.

Mr. Speaker, tonight's roster of MLAs is truly an all star line up. First, we have big Ed the puck hog Picco, just like his three regional health facilities he's determined to push the puck through no matter what the cost. He's also known, Mr. Speaker, to have a very magnetic attraction to the puck where ever it is.

Next, we have Kelvin, slick Ng, everyone on our side is hoping that he will skate past the opposing team with the same smoothness as when he stick handles questions in this house.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that Glenn, the slug McLean, handles any pass with the same energy that he uses to block any move to take jobs or capital dollars out of Baker Lake. David the rock Mr. Iqaqrialu will make sure that no one gets caught up high and dry except for the puck when it comes close to him between the pipes.

We also look for stellar performances from Jobie, little stick Nutarak, and fast track Jack Anawak. We also hope that James Arvaluk who is known for his hunting skills is an equally good shot on the ice as he is from his boat.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the diehard brainwashed since birth and don't know any better half span Mr. Okalik and Mr. Akasuk leave their Montreal jerseys at home. Mr. Speaker, it probably won't surprise members of this house that I would very much prefer to play left wing tonight instead of right wing.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage family and friends to come out to tonight's game and show their support for the Iqaluit Women's Hockey Team and have a good time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

Member's Statement 276 – 1(6): Pronunciation of Name Salomonie Ashoona

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A name wasn't pronounced properly. On the third one winner on the teams contest winners, it was Salomonie Ashoona, it wasn't Salomie from grade 3 and also I would like to congratulate that individual and that individual is my cousin so therefore I would like to congratulate Salomonie Ashoona for getting the third place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some individuals from Cape Dorset; Mathew Saviakjuk Jaw, the Mayor of Cape Dorset, he has been doing an excellent job in his capacity.

They have supported me at the time when we were campaigning for elections for the Legislative Assembly. And also the other individual I would like to recognize is Nuvalia Parr; he is a very good friend of mine from Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions**Oral Question 267 – 1(6): Replacement of Dental Therapist**

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have indicated earlier on I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Education.

As I mentioned earlier, the dentist from our region is leaving our region to go back home. I would like to ask the Minister if he's going to find a replacement for this dentist in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the plan would be to expeditiously fill that position soon as possible where the dentist is leaving so I would suggest to the member that we would fill that position as soon as possible.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. As you mentioned you are going to find a replacement for this dentist. Is this replacement going to be based in Kugluktuk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is aware there was a new contract awarded for the Kitikmeot Dental Services on November 12th I believe. At that time the full range of dental services, especially services of Orthodontics, Surgery, Dental Surgeries and so on would be initiated by the new company, which I believe is the Northern Lights Dental Services. We will be in touch with the Northern Lights Dental Services to see what the possibilities are for the position to be filled in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see that we're going to find a replacement for this. When will you inform us and how soon is the replacement going to be coming to our region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the contract with Northern Lights Dental Services, they have to provide treatment planning, dentures, oral surgeons, the orthodontists and so on. Those specialty services will be available through that new contract.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen, as I said earlier, with the contract as in place, Doctor staffing, medical requirements, and the communities of choice. When staffing levels come in, when I get that information, I will pass in on to the member.

I have been assured though, Mr. Speaker, that no services will be left undone and that indeed the communities in the Kitikmeot, including Kugluktuk, will be well served by this new contract. Indeed it may, enhance some of the service deliveries that have happened in the past. We're quite pleased with that new contract award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want some assurance minister. When will he be sending the replacement to our region? Yes, I understand the minister that these contract services are in place now.

This concern has been raised a number of times in my community. When will this replacement, dentist replacement be coming to our region? They wanted this individual dentist to be based in Kugluktuk.

He's very beneficial to our region, to the Kitikmeot communities. Are we going to be waiting for him, are we looking at within a month, or the next two months, or sixth months? When is he going to be coming up to our region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess at this time of year we're only about three weeks before Christmas, usually it's very difficult to move a person with a family and so on given that time frame to a new community.

Also the other concern that we had in Kugluktuk, as the member is aware, is with the housing issue and I don't know if that has been resolved. So given all those contingencies, I'm not sure exactly what date the dentist would be, if that is the case, moving to Kugluktuk. I can get that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Oral Question 268 – 1(6): Publication of Deputy Ministers' Salaries

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Premier. I think it was about two weeks ago that there was a publication of the indemnities and benefits of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to ask a question whether we can also publicize the Deputy Minister's salary and benefits and so on so that the people of Nunavut will know how much the senior staff are making within the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could make them available when I can compile the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Premier for your response. I hope that that will be soon. Are we also going to be publicizing the retirement RRSP's and every other benefit that they have? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that we can do a portion of your request, but again there are some administrative matters that we cannot disclose to the public. I will do the best I can to make those public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the publication of the MLA indemnities, I am one of the top paid among the regular Members. Nobody ever told me

that I was there. Even though that is the case, I would be very pleased to be able to see the files of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: No question, just a comment. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Oral Question 269 – 1(6): Polar Bear Population Statistics

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. We hear that there was depletion in the polar bear population. In actuality there is no decrease. Is there proper counting of the polar bear population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure how to say it in Inuktitut. In the Gulf of Boothia a count has been completed. The information will be given to the outlying communities. The people of Kugaaruk and the Wildlife Division of our Department will be given the results of the population count. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response. What happens after the polar bear count? Is there going to be an increase or a decrease in the quotas that are set for the individual communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities will be consulted and we will sign an agreement with the communities. There will be a close working relationship between the people who are doing the polar bear count in the communities.

The individual communities will be given the option and there will be a decision on the polar bear quota. There will be different options given to each individual community. There will be a close working relationship between our Department and the communities. The communities will be well consulted. And of course, the agreements between the individual communities are different. I cannot tell you whether there will be an increase or a decrease in the polar bear quota.

The individual communities will be consulted and there will be a decision on whether the quota will be decreased, increased, or stay the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response and I also thank the Minister. The Minister stated that there will be an agreement between his department and the individual communities. What kind of an agreement are we talking about here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member for the high arctic had similar questions and there was an indication that there was in 1996 an agreement, there were also changes in the year 2000 and 2002 and we now have agreements with the individual communities.

The agreements are going to be tailored to meet the needs of the individual communities. Each individual community will have their own agreement and they will be consulted prior to the signing of these agreements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that there would be an agreement with the individual communities. Are the communities going to be given options on what they would like to see for their communities or is this agreement going to be negotiated among the employees of the departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individual agreements will be tailored to the needs of the individual communities. The communities will be given options on what they would like in their communities. It also depends on the polar bear count in the outlying communities.

We are working closely with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on this polar bear study and based on the facts we will be setting up a quota system for the individual communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Oral Question 270 – 1(6): Building a Road Connecting Igloolik and Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the member's statement I mentioned a very good idea and it can benefit all communities.

There could be spin offs and it would make things a lot easier for the harvesters with the population of Igloolik and Hall Beach. It would benefit both communities and with this preamble I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development if he could look into building a road connecting Hall Beach and Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The member is talking about building a road. It could also create spin offs and enhance the tourism factor. If this is to enhance the tourism sector I could assist you as that's part of my department but we will have to look at the options and I'm sure that we can consider it seriously.

We can only do that if it's the tourism sectors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I mentioned in my Members' Statement was an excellent idea if we build a road from our community. We have huge fish up there, and they go right through the nets because of their size. The road would go right by that fish lake and it would enhance the tourism industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq. Did you intend that as a comment or as a question?

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that if it is for the enhancement of the tourism sector, his Department could help. What I said was that if this road was built right by the fishing lake that would enhance the tourism sector.

My question is could his Department look into the possibilities of creating a road between Hall Beach and Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It could benefit both communities. What I would like to see is if those two communities make proposal, we could look into it. Of course, there is a Tourism Committee that could put it together. I am sure that our Department can look into it.

If there are economic spin-offs and an enhancement of the tourism sector, my Department could look into it. What I would like to see from those two communities is a community plan that could outline this idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. The Department of Sustainable Development has set up a plan. I don't think that it is going to become a reality for long time because of the numerous challenges that we have to go through.

My idea of creating a road between those two communities could have economic spin-offs. Is it possible for the Minister, if he is invited to those two communities, to come over and discuss this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to work closely with those communities. If Hall Beach and Igloolik can write a community plan, I could be available to fit it into my schedule. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Oral Question 271 – 1(6): Input on the Romanow Report

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, over the last while, a year or two, we have heard of the Romanow Report on Health. I think it is going to be issued soon. Next week sometime. I know this is a very important document for all of Canada.

In the north we seem to be treated differently, even though we are all taxpayers. Can the Minister explain to me what he expects to see in that Romanow Report briefly? And how it is going to affect us in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. McLean I'm not sure the Minister can respond to that given the fact the report is not released yet. But Minister Picco, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase that. Did the Minister have any input into Romanow Report, what was his input based on the horrid conditions in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think Mr. McLean is right on a number of points. First of all according to our national television, the newspapers and so on, the number 1 issue in Canada has been for the past 18 months the issue of Health Care.

Mr. Romanow's report, Mr. Commissioner, the former Premier of Saskatchewan, Mr. Romanow's report will probably have the largest impact on health for all Canadians whether north, south, east or west, in the last twenty years.

We've had considerable opportunity to discuss with Mr. Romanow some of the aspects of his report. Mr. Romanow came to Iqaluit and went with us up to Pangnirtung, I know that he was very impressed with the primary health care delivery model that we have in Nunavut.

That is to say we use the nurses as a primarily health delivery source. That's a model that a lot of other jurisdictions would like to put in place. He also liked the continuum of care process as well as the community activities in the month by the social and health committee that he met in Pangnirtung.

And I know that in one recent address that he gave to southern audiences, I believe it was in Toronto, he actually talked about the community health committees that we have in Nunavut and how that is part of continuing care, he liked that aspect.

We would hope Mr. Speaker, that after the Romanow report comes up next week, that there be extra incentive from federal government to join with us in partnership in restructuring and refocusing health care needs in Nunavut. Not just the infrastructure needs that Mr. Ng and the Premier talked about but also on the Operations and Maintenance side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker I'm glad that the Minister had input into this for Nunavut. And it's very hard for me to ask questions on certain issues because I was brought up not to talk about certain things.

But it's no secret in this territory that there is an epidemic going on right now and it affects every community in Nunavut. Can the Minister tell me what the leading cause of death is in Nunavut today that is not accidental? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are several leading causes of death that are not accidental. It depends on the group by age and category and so on. Mr. Speaker, for example we know that the suicide rate for males under the age of 35 is the highest in the country.

We also know Mr. Speaker that our cancer rates have increased. Those cancer rates include such things as lung cancers and other forms of cancer that have increased. Those are very high. I would suggest to you though from the Romanow report our basic health care needs, we have accentuated and articulated the point, Mr. Speaker, that we don't even have a resident Oncologist, we don't have a resident E and T, ears, nose and throat specialist.

We don't have many of the special services for example that southern Canadians take for granted; we would hope that Mr. Romanow, in the Commission's report, would point that out. And what we said earlier Mr. Speaker, all of the other provinces and territories talk about a level playing field in health.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut just wants to get into the game. We want to be able to participate as equal Canadians in the delivery of Health Care. This government spent 17% of its gross domestic product, its GDP on health.

That's three times the national average. At that rate, as Minister Ng and the Members here know, it will not be sustainable for governments in Nunavut to continue that increase over the next 5 years.

It's a two percent increase, that means for example, Mr. Speaker that the expenditures on health would also be thirty percent of your budget.

I don't know where that money will come from. So we need the relief that the Romanow Commission, I hope, would bring forward in the transfer of funds to the CHSC. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I said earlier, I was brought up not to talk about certain issues and I think we all were brought up not to talk about certain issues as Qallunaat. And that's why I asked the question what's the leading cause of death in Nunavut, for non-accidents?

And I know, Mr. Speaker, what it is. It's called suicide and I was told when I was young, and I was told not to talk about suicide because it's a taboo thing in our culture. But the fact of the matter is, in Nunavut today, it's an epidemic.

And I'm not blaming this government; I'm not blaming the government for a lack of addressing the issue. The minister has brought forward programs to deal with this issue. But I think it's time that this government started addressing this issue because it is hitting home hard to everybody.

My question is, does the minister have any more plans to try to prevent suicide or talk with some other parts of the world to help us to deal with this issue in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've said in the past that governments themselves cannot stop suicide. Suicides are in families, suicides are in communities. What we have tried to do, Mr. Speaker, is increase mental health workers in communities, we have placed more psychiatric positions in communities where need warrants.

Mr. Speaker, we've tried to de-normalize the process of suicide at our community levels and as Mr. McLean has said, probably the biggest tool that we have to prevent suicide is to talk about it and to de-normalize it.

I know for example that my own children now in school, there are in grade 6 and grade 7, they are talking about it at their school levels, suicides, why there's suicide and so on. This is where we will have success, Mr. Speaker. As you know yourself, Mr. Speaker, in some of our smaller communities where we've had a higher rate of suicides, once we had community groups in place, community health committees working on the issue, we've seen the suicide rate drastically and dramatically fall off. That is where Mr. Speaker, where we will have success in suicide, is at the community level.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, this government is committed to providing support through pre-intervention programs, post-prevention programs and also later on this year, Nunavut itself will be hosting the Canadian Association on Suicide Prevention or CASP.

At that time, Mr. Speaker, the government of Nunavut is also sponsoring our own Nunavut-wide suicide conference where we will be bringing in caregivers as well as survivors of suicides and interventions, people in the field, actively in the field, to talk about the issue of suicide.

So your government, Mr. Speaker, is continuing on a number of fronts with the issue of suicides. However, the government in itself will not be able to solve the problem, Mr. Speaker. They're up to families and individuals and members of this house and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said earlier that we have to address this. I was brought up not to talk about it. We were told that if something like this happened we were told where we would end up after we go, and it scares me.

But beyond this, I think it's time to act, I know the minister's working hard, I know the government has committed millions of dollars, he's doing the best he can with the resources. It's not a bottomless pit of money in this territory.

I know he's hosting a big conference here in May. Would he ask the United Nations to come in and address this? The federal government will not help us.

Will he ask the United Nations to come in and help us with this issue so we can stop what's happening in our communities with our young people? It's too close to us. Will he ask for outside help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been involved in a number of programs and services that the member has suggested including providing a Whitestone Youth Suicide Workshop in October with the RCMP and youth. Mr. Speaker,

we've implemented a new suicide protocol. We could go on with what we've done, Mr. Speaker, but it doesn't seem to be effective.

Bringing in outside resources asking the United Nations to help us, Mr. Speaker, I don't know. As the minister, the officials, members of this house, I haven't had anyone suggest that to me.

I would suggest, however Mr. Speaker, that the best way of dealing with the issue is dealing with it at the local level as people from Nunavut. I believe that the best way to deal with the issue of suicide is to deal with it with family members. To deal with it with Nunavummiut.

I don't know if help from the United Nations would be that good. Right now one of the things we're doing, we have Inuit staff in a couple of our different regions looking at the morphology or the aspect of suicide to see if there are common linkages.

We know for example that the majority of suicides are male under the age of 35. Mr. Speaker, we know that those males have been in common law relationships from an early age. In some cases, 15, 16, 17.

Mr. Speaker, we also know that in many cases, the majority of cases, the people who have committed suicide were adopted to different families. Mr. Speaker, we also know that in many cases the parents are older of the younger people who have been suicidal.

Those types of linkages are now being done by staff in the Baffin Region as well as staff in the Keewatin Region. We would hope to be able to discuss some of these findings in a public forum and they're at the preliminary level right now.

All this type of information would be used and be able to be discussed when we get to the point of the suicide counselling and the workshop and conference that will be held here this coming spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 272 – 1(6): Interim Financial Statement Publication

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

Mr. Speaker, if we can all recall, on October 24, 2000, the minister had the honour of submitting interim financial statements for the year ended March 31st 2000. My question for the minister is why hasn't the minister, according to subsection 51 (3) of the Financial Administration Act, met his statutory requirements in providing those interim statements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact, just earlier today I signed off the copies for presentation to the Speaker. It was a matter of getting the translated version completed. They'll be tabled on Monday afternoon. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we do get this information in a more timely fashion. These statements reflect actual spending of the government as opposed to when we look at the capital budget based on estimates and projections.

I think it would be much better for us to see what the actual costs are. I would like to ask the minister, does he have any plans, if it's taken this long, this is now, we're three years into it and we're only looking at getting the second year in now, this late. Does he have any plans on trying to be able to provide and meet the statutory requirements in a more timely fashion in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we provide them as expeditiously as possible. One has to remember that it's the report from the office of the Auditor General. They're the ones where a lot of times there needs to be interpretation, clarification on matters over the course of the end of the fiscal year. That effects the total time that the statements are completed. And those are the outstanding issues.

It's not the Department of Finance necessarily that is the cause of any delays. I would suggest to the member that he can certainly raise the issue of the timing with the Office of the Auditor General.

But we will put them out as quickly as we have clarification on matters and they're signed off and able to be presented publicly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee I more than welcome the opportunity to raise those issues with the Auditor General and her staff.

But I would like to ask the Minister if he could provide me as the Chairperson at the Public Accounts Committee a list of concerns or things that have caused these delays so that we can properly address them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are issues in accounting treatment of matters of calculation for the formula, for the fail-safe mechanisms etc. I would suggest that the member as the Chairperson of the appropriate Committee bring these issues up with the Auditor General and her staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Oral Question 273 – 1(6): Fire Inspection Criteria

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question. It might be directed to more than one minister but to start off in regards to Department of Community Government and Transportation, what criteria do they use to replace or to close down old, old buildings? What criteria do they use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The old buildings, sometimes the fire marshal does inspections to make sure their standards are up to date. The fire marshal, through his office, is the only responsibility we have in our department. I don't have the list of criteria from the fire marshal with me but on reasons to close buildings, I can provide her with the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first became a member there are some offices in my constituency, we heard from the Minister of Education that the buildings that were built in 1985 they had to make sure the codes are up to date.

So for that reason, the minister gave me an appropriate answer in regards to the fire marshal and safety inspections and maybe also health inspections. Maybe those departments can work together and inform me as to what the criteria are to write off such buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we only go by the fire marshal, the health issues or safety issues have their own inspectors and Public Works also have inspectors for different things.

I can only respond to her in regards to the fire marshal, coming from fire marshal's office. I can't answer her on a different department, only from the fire marshal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe it would be more appropriate if I asked this in a written form because I think it would go to more than one minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 274 – 1(6): Update on Suicide Prevention Strategy

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague from Baker Lake, even though we didn't discuss this we have the same concerns. After listening to him I thought maybe I should raise my question Mr. Speaker.

I'm directing my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, in regards to what we have been discussing. I'm trying to find ways to deal with suicide and the government and the minister have also tried to find reasons. We know the public talk about it but we're very persistent people and we don't just give up. We've been taught by our parents that we shouldn't give up even if we think that it's impossible, we still have to fight.

I want to ask the Minister, even though the question was asked, can the Minister update the members on his department's suicide prevention strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's question on this very important issue, topic.

Mr. Speaker, we done several things on this strategy to date including putting child and youth outreach workers in place so that I can give the Member and the Members here, five new positions have been created in Nunavut.

We have staff in Cambridge Bay and Arviat, and Baker Lake. We're staffing a position right now in Iqaluit and we'll also have another one staffed somewhere else in Baffin. We supported the Whitestone Aboriginal Youth Suicide Prevention Program. We brought in youth from across the region.

Mr. Speaker, we've continued with focus groups. We've held workshops across Nunavut, in the Kitikmeot, the Keewatin as well as in Rankin Inlet recently where a program was hosted by one of our people, Louis Taparti with the help of Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, we continued on a number of different fronts with the prevention program. We've implemented a new suicide protocol in conjunction with the Department of Education and we're continuing Mr. Speaker, to staff front line workers, extra mental health workers, psychiatric where needed, where the load is high in communities. We've also put in special programs through wellness in different communities throughout

Nunavut. We've also increased the Mr. Speaker, work on the post intervention side and yet Mr. Speaker, the numbers continue to rise.

Where we had success Mr. Speaker, with suicide, is in communities where we had small active working groups, working circles, Mr. Speaker. In some communities where there is a lot of suicide, I don't want to name the communities for obvious reasons.

Where we've had success Mr. Speaker, in some communities where there has been a lot of suicides. When a small group of people got together in a committee form, working with families and individuals, we saw the rate decrease and we've seen that over the last three and a half years since Nunavut has begun.

Mr. Speaker, that's where we will have success with suicide. The government at the same time will continue with the strategy. We are hosting the Canadian National Suicide Prevention Program conference here in Iqaluit this spring. And we will have as Mr. Enoki Iqiqtuq, the Member for Amittuq, had suggested a few months ago in this house, why don't we have our own Nunavut Suicide Conference and bring Elders and Youth in.

We're going to do that before the national conference. So we're taking all those types of suggestions, and putting them in place. The strategy, the suicide strategy Mr. Speaker, forms part of the mental health strategy that was tabled here in this house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in listening to the minister's response, I'm very glad to hear that he's got some staff working on suicide prevention and that he's now getting workers in the three regions.

As I have stated before, we're not going to give up dealing with this issue because we have been told by our Elders never to give up on something that we truly believe in and that's what we're holding on to. Never to give up because we can't stop dealing with this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask this supplementary question. I know that Caroline Anawak, when she was coordinating suicide prevention, she used to visit all the communities in Nunavut. And she did a lot of consultation and she worked very hard in dealing with suicide prevention.

Mr. Speaker, my next question is, are we going to get another coordinator in his department? Mr. Speaker, who is coordinating his department's suicide prevention efforts? Like I've stated before, Caroline Anawak was coordinating and visiting the communities. Do we expect that position to be filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are several people in Nunavut who have tirelessly worked on suicide. Mr. Speaker, Minister Anawak is an example, is a member of the crisis line which runs 7 days a week, 365 days a year in the evenings with the 1-800 number that people can phone.

Sheila Levy who is a counsellor, who started the crisis line with many other volunteers. Caroline Anawak, Jack's wife. I mean there are many people we could name in Nunavut who've been working tirelessly on the effort of suicide.

What the government is doing right now, Mr. Speaker, is coordinating the aspects of suicide through the directorate for mental health services in the Department of Department of Health and Social Services.

And we're trying to find out who's at risk of suicide. Are there common markers for people who commit suicide? We've talked about some of them in the house here, Mr. Speaker.

We know that when people, the majority of suicides, almost 80% are young males in long term relationships at a very early age. And in many cases they have been adopted. These figures, these numbers, these commonalities of suicide, if we can show who is at most risk, then we would probably have more success in the post intervention, the pre-intervention of suicide.

So that's the type of work, we're working on Mr. Speaker. And the Director for Mental Services and Addiction is the coordinator of the program right now in Nunavut. And we continue as the member has suggested with workshops throughout Nunavut with youth with the youth outreach workers that we're putting in place.

We're continuing to strategise Mr. Speaker, and I guess the whole process of de-normalisation of suicide. There is so much more to do Mr. Speaker. And the discussion, the debate that we're having this morning in the house is probably one of the major components of that and that is to start talking about the issue, debating the issue and seeing how we can help as a community.

To work together on this most important health issue affecting all of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister of his response. I would like to ask again; before his officials started visiting the communities usually the churches were dealing with the social problems like counselling people who have lost their loved ones, counselling people during their grieving. The church people and the Elders did all the counselling so I would like to ask the Minister if his Department involves the church groups in the counselling or the social issue parts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, The major component of what we have been doing over the last three years is building and developing the community based approaches. Those community based approaches depend on each community in the different communities that we're dealing with.

In some communities Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, church groups play a major role in the development of capacity to deal with some of the issues around suicide and we have been using it. Some communities have not moved in that direction.

However, at the same time, Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that having the small working groups or the small working committees has been the most successful process that we have put in place where we have CHR's and mental health workers on local radios talking about the issue in the open. Right now for example it's in the schools at early grades and so on. This will be part of the de-normalization and some of the success that we believe we'll see in stemming the epidemic tide that we have in place right now for suicide.

Again, I have to re-emphasize, Mr. Speaker, that there is not just one solution for suicide the same way that there is not just one reason for committing suicide. And I think that's part of the problem that we're dealing with. There's no cut and dry answer, and there's no cut and dry solution and that's why we need to be able to develop a strategy that can look at each section, each piece of it.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you in all seriousness, and every member in this House knows and the people out there listening, that we need to be able to develop some form, some mechanism, some proactive way of being able to stem this tide. And I believe the success will lie at the local level, Mr. Speaker, at the community level and the family level. And our government is there to help support that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Oral Question 275 – 1(6): Financial Administration Act: Payments to Billets

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed my question is for the Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. I'd like to ask the minister if his department follows the Financial Administration Act in the requirement for payment of northern suppliers within 20 days of receipt of invoice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe there's a direction under FANS that all local suppliers are supposed to be paid within 20 days by the Government of Nunavut. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of

Health & Social Services is no different, that indeed we try to follow that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows of the issue that was brought up, that was raised in this House earlier this week and it has to do with home boarders.

I'm just wondering if the payment to those individuals would follow under the same guidelines as the 20 days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, There's many members of the House here right now, including myself that have on occasion taken hospital patients, usually family members who are travelling that have, this week I believe it has been up to four or five staying with me the other night visiting with me.

So I do know that when a patient comes in to process this, when Tammaatarvik in this case. For example here in Iqaluit, when the boarding home is full the boarding home contacts people have approved houses for patients to stay in. Once that person arrives, they have a white paper, that white paper is given to the residents in most cases, in my case it's my wife, and she takes this paper and when the patient leaves, we sign when the person leaves, and then they get dropped off at Tammaatarvik.

It is then sent down to Rankin Inlet where if you have a direct deposit set up or something it that can be done automatically and the cheque issued. And my understanding Mr. Speaker, in most cases, it is within the 21 days that is called for in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to jump all over this rare opportunity to correct the Minister of Health and Social Services and that it's 20 days in the administration manual not 21.

I'm sure it was just a little oversight on behalf of the Minister. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if his department or any one of his officials have received concerns over delays in receiving these payments.

I'm sure that we're all aware, a lot of these individuals live on a fixed income and when they do have a boarder in their home there is extra costs involved and these people need that money as quickly as possible. So I'd just like to ask the Minister if he's received any complaints over the timeliness of it and if he would look into finding ways to expedite that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct first of all. It's 20 days not 21 days. I stand corrected I did not intend to mislead a Member of the House.

Mr. Speaker, from time to time we do get concerns raised at that the boarding home that cheques have been late in arriving. Mr. Speaker, when those concerns are brought forward, then we act on it immediately and usually within, you know, two working days or three working days, then the cheques have been delivered.

There has been sometimes a concern when we transferred the processing from Iqaluit to the processing in Rankin Inlet where we actually have the cheques cut. Before they actually cut cheques locally and when the three health boards were integrated the accounts receivable or accounts payable function for these NIHB costs are now covered out of that office. So, where the complaints come forward we try to be as expeditious as the member has said, and get those cheques out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's response he indicated that a lot of the problems are now because of the processing of the cheques that are being done in Rankin Inlet and I imagine it has a lot to do with getting the paper work back and forth. We know what the weather can do sometimes to getting things from one place to another around Nunavut.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he could look at somehow maybe working with the local office of the Department of Finance and Administration to be able to issue those cheques for Iqaluit that are here out of Iqaluit and in a way that they can charge back to the Department of Health and Social Services or Finance on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been and I said earlier, there has been from time to time delays in the boarding home cheques. However, if I went to the Department of Finance and Administration and asked them to process these, there would a lot of logistics problems with that.

Being Mr. Speaker, right now the boarding home program is one of the programs that is in the auspices of the NIHB and the NIHB payment office, remittance office in Rankin Inlet and after we did the integration of the three health boards, those functions that were originally held by the health boards were then transferred to Rankin Inlet.

I could have a conversation with the finance minister on the issue of having those cheques cut right here in Iqaluit, locally, but the cost of billing mechanisms that are in

place as well as the administrative and logistic situation with the accounts receivable from the NIHB side and the indexing and the invoicing from that side, then we have to see if that's possible to do.

So, Mr. Speaker, I could take that up with the finance minister and be able to report back to the member, excuse me, in another oral question, probably next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The members will note that question period is now over. Moving on to item 7. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 050 – 1(6): Responses to Action Based Resolutions of NAM

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document entitled Responses to Action Based Resolutions of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members in the House to read this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

Tabled Document 051 – 1(6): From Potential to Pay-Off: Report on the Community Consultations on the Future of Tourism in Nunavut

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a response to the Report of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut from Potential to Payoff, Report on Community Consultations on the Future of Tourism in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 052 -1(6): Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2000/01 and 2001/02

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following document, Legal Services Board of Nunavut, Annual Report 2000/2001 and 2001/2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 053 – 1(6): Law Foundation of Nunavut's Annual Report

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Law Foundation of Nunavut's Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Is there any further tabling of documents? Mr. Anawak.

**Tabled Document 054 -1(6): Department of CLEY Grants and Contributions
2001/02**

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to table a document from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth titled 2000/01 Grants and Contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Is there any further tabling of documents? Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, is this first reading of bills?

Speaker: Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 1 –
2002/03 – First Reading****Bill 19 - Budget Measures Implementation Act – First Reading**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2002/2003 and Bill 19 - Budget Measures Implementation Act be read for the first time.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 17 has had first reading. Bill 19 has had first reading. Premier.

Bill 26 – Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 26 Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 26 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Premier.

Bill 25 – an Act to Amend Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act, be read for the first time. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Bill 25 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 17 – Supplementary Appropriations (Operations and Maintenance) Act No. 1 – 2002/03 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriations Act No.1, 2002-2003, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to seek legislative approval for an additional amount of \$5 million 269 thousand for the operations and maintenance requirements of GN departments for the fiscal year, 2002-2003. 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. Motion is carried and Bill 17 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill is referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Premier.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the member for ____ that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, currently the minimum wage ranges from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per hour in Nunavut depending on the age and location of the worker. The proposed amendment will raise the minimum wage rate to \$8.50 per hour.

It will also remove the regulation making power to impose distinctions in the minimum wage based on age and location. The overall effect of these amendments would be just one minimum wage rate of \$8.50 per hour for all employees. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 21 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. Bill 13, Bill 18, Bill 17, Minister's Statement 72-1 (6), with Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair. Before we proceed to the committee of the whole we'll take a 45 minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:59 a.m. and resumed at 12.57 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We can start our Committee of the Whole. We'll be dealing with Capital Estimates, Bill 13 and 18, Minister's Statement 72-1 (6), and Bill 17. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 18 on the Housing Corporation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does everybody agree that we deal with the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Minister Responsible, do you have opening remarks? You can proceed with your opening comments. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the fiscal year 2003/2004, the Government of Nunavut has allocated capital funding of almost \$20.3 million dollars for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

This is an increase of approximately \$2.9 million dollars from the 2002/2003 year. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation also provides funding of approximately \$4.3 million dollars for modernization and improvement projects.

Including this federal funding the grand total for capital in 2003/2004, is \$24.6 million dollars. Mr. Chairman, this year we will use approximately \$12 million dollars to construct 48 new public housing units with a duplex being built in almost every community with the exception of Resolute Bay where no lots are currently available.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is working closely with the Department of Community Government and Transportation, the Resolute Bay Housing Association and the Hamlet of Resolute Bay to ensure additional housing supply can be built in that community in future years.

This year's modernization and improvement budget will be approximately \$8.9 million dollars including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation funding which will be used to renovate aging units.

Many of the corporation's own units are in need of repair and renovation. We also have nine Webber Units left to retrofit each at a cost of approximately \$170 thousand dollars. All nine are slated for retrofitting this coming fiscal year.

For fiscal year 2003/2004, \$2.5 million dollars will be block funded to district offices for emergency repair programs, Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program, Home Repair Program, and Senior Citizen's Home Repair Program. This gives our districts the flexibility to best respond to regions with specific requirements. Districts will have the responsibility of using these dollars to fund appropriate Home Repair Programs.

This is an increase of \$500 thousand dollars over last year's budget and will support an anticipated increase in requests for Home Repair Project assistance as clients seek to repair their units versus the new Tenant to Owner Program.

Mobile Equipment Funding of \$400 thousand is a recurring capital requirement for the Housing Corporation. LHOs are block-funded for maintenance of vehicles based on a minimum 8-year replacement policy.

Fire Damage Replacement Funding, another recurring capital item, is allocated at the Headquarters level. The Housing Corporation is self-insured on its single homes and duplexes. Through this program, \$600 thousand is available to repair or replace fire-damaged units. And that concludes my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Do you have witnesses? Do members agree that the Minister go to the witness table along with his officials? Do you agree? Sergeant-at-arms can you escort the Minister and his officials. Thank you. Welcome. Minister for the record, can you introduce your witnesses. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Pam Hine, the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. To my left is David Akoak, Vice-President. We also have with us in the gallery Mr. Chris D'Arcy the Director of Policy and Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome to the Assembly. The chairperson for the committee, do you have opening remarks. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of 2003/2004 Capital Estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee had the opportunity in September to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to review the draft 2003/2004 Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee appreciated the efforts made by the Corporation to provide briefings on new programs as they are in development. The Committee was especially pleased to hear that Social Housing Tenants are now able to purchase their units and that applications to this program are now being evaluated.

The Committee applauds the Corporation's efforts to consult with local housing organizations in the formulation of this program. Mr. Chairman, the Committee is pleased that the Minister remains committed to replacing public housing units that are sold under the program within three years and anticipates seeing these replacement units in future capital plans.

The Standing Committee notes that new public housing rent scale will come into effect on January 1, 2003. The Committee looks forward to a review of the new rent scale in the coming year.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee realizes that efforts are being made to address the extreme shortage of public housing in Nunavut. The Committee is pleased that almost every community will see the building of new public housing units this year. However, the Committee is disappointed by the fact that Resolute Bay will not receive any new public housing units this year because of problems with service to lots in the community.

The Standing Committee strongly urges the Corporation to work in conjunction with Public Works and Services and Community Government and Transportation to ensure that new public housing units can be built in Resolute Bay in the future.

Mr. Chairman, the committee notes that there is no new funding allocated for staff housing in 2003/2004 estimates or in the five year capital plan. However, recent supplementary appropriations have allocated significant funds for the purchase of staff housing.

The committee is unsure what the long term plan is for staff housing in Nunavut and questions whether or not further funding will be allocated to staff housing in the future through supplementary appropriations instead of appearing in the capital plan.

Mr. Chairman, the committee looks forward to working closely with the minister in the New Year as he works to finalize the comprehensive staff housing policy framework. Staff housing is an integral part of the government hiring process and as such, the committee looks forward to reviewing a long term plan for staff housing in Nunavut.

The Standing Committee notes with interest the recent request for proposals to relocate residential housing units from Nanisivik to Arctic Bay. Once again, the committee would

like to support the Corporation in its efforts to bring innovative solutions to the housing crisis in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the committee looks forward to updates on this and other projects that will increase the housing stock in the future. That concludes my comments on the capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Individual members may wish to raise questions or make comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Before we go to a question, I would like to remind the members that you have ten minutes each for general comments. That is our usual procedure. Are there any comments? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm happy that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be dealing with this; it's not that I am unhappy about it but I just want to state that since the creation of Government of Nunavut, we know that there is a serious housing shortage in Nunavut.

The decentralized communities, because they're decentralized, they may not be able to have more access to staff housing. I personally think the issue of the housing shortage in every community; all the communities will be getting housing except for Resolute Bay.

I know not every community will be satisfied. I would like an up to date report or something as to which communities have extremely serious housing shortages. The Nunavut Housing Corporation should have an idea as to where there is a dire need for housing in some communities.

If they can be identified, I wanted to make a point on that and the lack of housing, staff housing in decentralized communities, I have a concern where the non-decentralized communities, will they be able to be provided with more housing?

That's a concern I have. I might be wrong because I don't have all the information, but if that is the case, I will raise questions in regards to that and I will get more information. The decentralized communities, I feel if they're going to be provided with housing through Nunavut Housing Corporation, the decentralized communities to my understanding, the people who live in the community and get a job with government, because they already have housing in their community, they won't require additional.

I remember that during Minister's Statement for example, for Pangnirtung, when we were having a session, we couldn't stay at a hotel because even though there are lots of people who don't have jobs and are capable of working, there was no room at the hotel.

And it seems like they're asking for employees to come in from out of town for those decentralized communities. In the decentralized communities the local people already

have housing and when there is a shortage of housing that could solve some problems where there wouldn't be too much demand on getting housing for the employees.

There's lot of times, especially here in Iqaluit, there is a dire need of housing here in Iqaluit. Maybe it's because the employees are recruited from other places instead of hiring the local people here.

I'm just using this as an example and that's where I have a concern but for 2003/2004 capital estimates, I have no problem with them. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My comments are short. I noticed the trend which is starting to develop now is we've been building duplexes for the last 3 years and my community was a recipient of the duplexes, 2 bedroom duplexes.

But I noticed the cost on constructing these units going up every year and I was going to ask the Minister later when we get into the details but I think it's a Nunavut issue. We know that there is a tremendous shortage of housing and are we getting good value for our dollars.

The corporation works hard at seeing that we are doing that, but I'm beginning to wonder now, if the cost of these duplexes, we couldn't build a couple of three bedroom units instead of a duplex so we get more bedrooms. So I will be asking that later this afternoon.

I just want the Minister to think about that ahead of time, because I think the cost of duplexes are now close to four hundred thousand dollars and I think the cost of a three bedroom Access is close to two hundred; so it's something that I wanted to bring up.

Duplexes are costing more. I think we should be looking at 3 bedroom, small 3 bedroom access units. It's just something that somebody brought up to me, actually a contractor brought it up to me and said that at the cost of these duplexes, you can build 2, 3 small houses that we already have plans for. So when I heard that I said to myself, yeah that's a good idea so I will be looking into that.

I'm really happy about this tenant purchase program; it's a step in the right direction, with all these units. And the corporation has been good about informing people about their programs that are available out there.

The Local Housing Association seems to be getting the program information out there. The only thing that I got to caution about and it was brought up to me by a couple of my constituents, that if they're going to buy those units, they have to be careful because a lot of people are not very knowledgeable about buying second hand houses.

And there is an old word, the money pit, we've seen that show a few times that, you know, you think you are getting a good deal, the next thing you know you got to, you

know, after 5 years it's probably cheaper to buy a new one. So when we're showing off these tenant purchase programs I think we have to be very honest with the clients that are buying them about what the unit is worth. Give no false impressions. This is what it's going to cost to get it up to standards that you want and this is, you know, the high cost of renovations in the north. We all know it's four or five times more than what it is in the south.

If somebody buys a unit in September or October, it could be a full year before they get the time to purchase new building material to upgrade it the following sealift. This is a year away.

So I just wanted to list these off that it could be a problem. I know the Corporation, if the individual doesn't want it, that the Corporation will buy it back. So, I just want our clients that are thinking about purchasing these units to be very well aware.

I remember back in the old GNWT in the mid 80s, that anyone who applied for a HAP house at the time, they were all brought into a classroom and they were taught the pros and cons of homeownership. It was very informative for the clients to understand what was involved in homeownership. I think the HAP owners today are still very pleased at what they got into. Now they have a lot of equity in their homes and they seem to be maintaining them properly. That's the beginning of homeownership.

A lot of people have a lot of pride in those HAP units and the access units, so I think it's a step in the right direction. In the larger communities, like mine, there's a lot more of a wage economy. There seems to be an influx of government jobs and these people right off the bat want to get into home ownership. And they do. So I'm just encouraging the department to just make people aware. Because sometimes when people are not aware of a program, they won't ask and then they get blindsided.

In my community, and I'm being community specific now, I've got four to five access units that are vacant. The people have relocated to Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and there are a couple of people that have moved south. These units have been vacant for a couple of years now and there's one unit that's been vacant for five years. The market isn't that strong in my community right now for housing, private home ownership, because I think everybody that could get into private homeownership has.

I've got a half a dozen units sitting in Baker Lake and they're empty. So, I don't know if you can put a blitz on trying to sell them or convert them into public housing. But I wish something would happen with these empty units because I get a lot of phone calls from people saying Glenn, why can't these units be turned into public housing units.

They're there, they're built, and they're empty for years now. So I'm talking about access clients. Because when a person receives a job in Iqaluit, or Rankin Inlet or something like that, they have to move pretty quickly. Like within 30 days.

To sell a house is difficult. It's not difficult here but in my community right now, I'm starting to see a trend where it's very difficult to sell a house. And what happens in a couple of cases is the people have relocated and the houses have run out of fuel and frozen up.

Then there's another 10 or 15 thousand dollar repair bill there. That's just my personal thoughts on housing. I think the Corporation should be commended on trying to do as much as they can and as much as they have with the funds allocated to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a lengthy comment to make but I must also commend the Nunavut Housing Corporation for doing a really good job.

One of the concerns from my constituents is why they are only building duplexes. The Housing Working Group when they were going to the communities, that was a recommendation we made and this is being used now. There have been concerns from the public, why they only built two bedroom units.

I think that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will have to adjust their thinking. They should start building houses for bigger families like three bedrooms. The old units are sometimes condemned in some communities.

When we were going to the communities a lot of times people see that in some communities, there are even older units and from what I know some of them are condemned. And from the houses that I've seen, it might even be better in one community but they're still being used in another community.

I don't know what the procedure is in regards to that. I know in my constituency in Igloolik, there is a unit, looking at it from the outside they use a honey bucket, and it drains just to the outside. There's no septic tank or anything.

I will be raising questions in this regards for the capital estimates. That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have very few comments to make. I would first of all like to thank your Corporation for providing us with housing.

In 1966, when my father died, my mother had a very hard time but we were very pleased because we were provided housing by the government with heat and everything else. If you look at the communities, some of them have had a population boom.

There's quite a large number of public housing units now. But I do know that we can get more houses and improve on them. In 1966, when we got our first house, it was a three bedroom. It was a tiny little house and they're a bit outdated today.

The stove, washer and dryer were all in a line because it was a very small house. They might do the laundry and cooking at the same time in the very same location. We look forward to seeing the people not having to use those houses anymore.

Some of them have no fridges because there's no room in their house. It says here that there's a three bedroom. But in the living room if you put the TV in there right beside the fridge or the stove then there's basically no more room left for anything else.

So we have to do something about that. It says here, if it's a three bedroom, they pay a certain amount for rent. We now have better housing and I would like to say thank you, even though Resolute Bay is not getting any additional housing. In Resolute Bay we are well aware now of their situation and it was a concern of the Standing Committee also.

Housing is a very important issue. They have Housing Boards of Directors in each community and I would also like to mention about the Tenant to Owner Program. Some of the houses are in very poor shape. If a house was built in 1959, the market value of that house would be so much but they're in very poor shape, they're bought, and through the renovation program and even if they did access the renovation program it takes a very long time to get the materials in.

We look forward to fine tuning those types of programs. The houses, those houses that are made available through the Tenant to Own Program are just about totally worthless. They're very small, they don't have a living room but they do have bedrooms. I'll have additional questions afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have much to say. There are one bedroom houses being built now or duplexes. They're building duplexes now and if a fire occurred in one of the units then the other one goes too. I think that this should factored in if you're going to be deciding on what types of houses you are going to be building. From what I hear it's cheaper to build the duplex because the building foundation and piles are cheaper when you build a duplex instead of a detached unit. That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to the Minister and his staff for coming. I just want to comment a little bit in regards to the housing shortage in many of the communities in Nunavut.

For example, as I know in Kugluktuk, there are many people who are still waiting, who are on the waiting list who have applied for social housing. Anyway this problem is not only in the community of Kugluktuk but as well in many of the communities and there are people waiting for social housing.

Just perhaps I would ask this question later on as to how the housing programs are prioritized. I would like that information just for information. Because some of the communities would like that information and I have heard about the problems in regards to social housing when there has been fire damage. As well, one house has been burnt. How does this replacement program work? Those are my comments for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I welcome the minister and his staff to the Assembly. I've known both of the staff members there for quite some time. I know Mr. Akoak travelled all the way from Arviat; I welcome him to our fine capital city or your fine capital city, too, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, there's one other thing that this government has said right from day one was that housing was one of the top two priorities of this government and you know, I think I got a little excited last year when we saw the estimates for capital for housing go up to \$24 million from \$17 million.

And Mr. Chairman, just to give you an indication of how far things have gone since the division, 1997 or 1998 when I was working with the housing corporation here in Iqaluit, the total Baffin budget, just for the Baffin alone was \$25 million.

And now, you know, up to 24 for the whole territory, last year and knocked down again to \$20 million this year. And I'd like to see this corporation and the department of education being one of the first two, the first two departments that we see when it comes to capital and O and M budgets. They're the priority and we should be putting our money where our mouth is more than what we are, I think.

I'm sure that it's not the lack of trying by the housing corporation minister, but maybe I had a little problem trying to convince the finance minister to let a little more money flow in, in his department. But I'd like to see, I know it's an effort that the corporation should continue to strive for it to get more funding to deal with the crisis in Nunavut and the shortage of housing. It's been raised by every member in this Assembly, this severe crisis and housing shortages in all our communities.

In the minister's opening comments there were a number of things. One of the things that I'd be interested in mentioning first off is the retrofit, there's 9 left, I'm glad they're all going to be done this year. I think, and those again, those were supposed to be all completed in '99 and I'm sure it's high time those are going to be completed now.

You know these improvements that we do put into these houses saved us money in the long run because you know the decrepit shape that some of them were in, the O and M costs soar.

Also in the minister's opening comments, he talked about the \$2.5 million that was or will be block funded to district offices for emergency repair program, Nunavut down payment assistance program, the home repair program and the senior citizens home repair program. I'm going to be looking forward to asking the minister some questions on some of those programs and, and how successful they've been in the past and some of the criteria on them.

Also as mentioned by the Chair of the committee and some of my other colleagues in the new TOP program, in the minister's opening comments they said that they'd be selling these units to the tenants and then getting the tenants to apply for funding to repair the units that they've purchased.

It'd be like selling a broken bicycle to someone, Mr. Chairman. I don't know why the corporation won't do the necessary repairs to these units prior to selling them to the tenants. As the Chair of the committee expressed concerns over, you know, sometimes you just end up with a money pit and I'm sure that the minister and his staff agree that that's what a lot of these units have been to the Corporation for a number of years.

There's an aging inventory of units that we have and the older they get the more money it costs us to operate and maintain them. So I think that's something that they should look at doing instead of just giving a little bit of money for the tenant to fix a few things.

They should be fixed up prior to them being sold to the tenant. I guess once that happens, then it's all the tenants' responsibility and the Corporation just washes their hands of the problem. One of the other things that was also mentioned by the chair of the committee and he applauded the efforts of the Corporation to consult with the housing organizations and authorities I guess, there's only one authority, on the formulation of that program.

Not only the TOP program but on the rent scale that I'd like to, you know, probably look at asking some questions a little later on, on what type of feedback that the Corporation got from LHOs and the Local Housing Authority here in Iqaluit on any concerns or issues that they had with any of the programs and how they were addressed.

I'm sure there's much more Mr. Chairman, it's just a matter of coming across it. I just want to reiterate the fact that I think that, you know, we said that this was one of our top two priorities and it's third on the list here and it should be in the top two.

So I'd like to urge the minister and his staff to continue to push the Minister of Finance to improve their budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no other names on my list. We will then move onto the Capital Estimates for 2003/2004.

Page 12-4. We'll start from 12-4. If you have any questions on the page, please feel free to ask. And for the information of the members, we are dealing with Capital Estimates and we also have amended C 29 that you can refer to if you want to see the 5 year Capital Plan.

Any questions on 12-4, Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question if it's okay with you Mr. Chairman, on the opening comments of the minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I can read it. I'll keep it as brief as possible. It says here many of the Housing Corporation's units are in need of repair and renovation. We have 9 Webber units. What are Webber units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's reference to several years ago in the 80's on the design of certain units were brought to construction throughout the Northwest Territories. They were all referred to as Webber Unit. I think it's a pretty common reference for that particular style of house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they going to be fixing up the padding and the gravel that the houses are built on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have to correct myself; it was actually the 70's I think that were the bulk of the construction for those units took place and part of the early 80's. But anyways, Mr. Chairman, it's primarily actually the retrofit of the construction of the house itself, with its windows primarily, interior renovations, installation, more so than the foundation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done Mr. Alakannuark. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any other question and please keep in mind that you have 10 minutes to ask your question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the Minister's opening comments he talked about \$2.5 million dollars is going to be block funded to the district offices on various program and the home ownership program.

I was just wondering where those numbers are in this budget here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Sorry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect of the break down by Regional District Offices, if that's what the member's referring to, then it's \$1.26 million dollars for the Baffin, \$190 thousand dollars for the Kivalliq, and \$550 thousand dollars for the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I was just wondering where it showed here in the budget. I can't seem to see where you have those numbers under those programs that are listed here in the Capital Budget.

I'm just wondering if it was under something else in here that I'm not recognizing. Can he indicate where in here those numbers are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 12-9 for the Qikiqtaaluk, for various Home Ownership Programs. 12-11, various Kivalliq are the same and 12-13 for the Kitikmeot under the same category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'll wait; I wanted to make sure, I didn't know where they were. I got the document at the last minute so I got some questions on it. I didn't want to miss that opportunity.

One of the other things, I know it's not in the budget here but in the Capital Plan there was some allocations for the purchase of staff housing units and I know we just approved Supplementary Appropriations for the purchase; a substantial amount of money to purchase units.

But I'm just wondering what the plan is of the Corporation. Is it something that we're going to continue to see just done in supplementary. Or is there another reason why they are done like that and not incorporated into the capital budgeting process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. As you recall, we've had approximately 16.4 million dollars in this current fiscal year for

supplementary appropriations, for investment in staff housing, the condominium program.

We also have authority for an additional \$10 million dollars as required for borrowing for the same program. That's really, Mr. Chairman, I guess, in responding, there are a couple of things. Firstly the member mentioned earlier about the lack of capital for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The \$26 million dollars of access to capital is a pretty significant amount over and above what's before you now. That's \$46 million dollars worth of investment dollars available to the Housing Corporation for housing.

The reason why there is nothing for the 2003/2004 fiscal year, Mr. Chairman, is as I said earlier; we see it as a revolving fund. Once some of these condominium units start to turn over, if the program is as successful as we hope it will be, it will regenerate some cash back to the Corporation for further investment and it will continue to perpetuate itself all the time.

I would like to at this time announce, that as members know, the first condominium units in Iqaluit became available. There was a meeting with interested employees last week I believe and there's already an interest, an offer from one employee on one of the first units.

It's a start I think. It's the first and we're hoping that it will continue to develop and allow us the opportunity to enhance the housing stock throughout Nunavut and housing investments in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister mentioned the condominium program and I was aware too that there was a meeting last week. I understand that there was quite a crowd at the meeting and I guess I'm a little surprised to hear that only one person put in an offer so far.

At the meeting that the minister indicated, what was the purpose of the meeting? Was it just a question and answer that this is how it works? If that's the case, if you could just give us a little outline of how that program is going to be operated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it was the first meeting for interested individuals, staff members that may have been interested in purchasing their own units, the condominium program, as you know it's been set up as a Condominium Corporation where employees, where home owners would, once they've purchased it,

they become condominium owners as part of the association which would manage the properties under that association.

Our purpose is obviously to try to facilitate that by helping them with providing information, assisting in the establishment of the condominium Corporation itself and with the intent that in the end once all the units are sold off the homeowners themselves would operate their Condominium Association like any other. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think 37 is the number, just looking at the number in here, but can the minister indicate the number of condominiums that are for sale and the costs of the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are 37 units in the first phase here. The Parkdale, known as the Parkdale here in Iqaluit. There are 23 units there. The two bedroom units, there's 9 at \$162 thousand 765 dollars. Two more, sorry, yes that's correct and two more at \$164 thousand 615 dollars. And there are 12 three bedroom units at \$186 thousand 690 dollars.

The Falcon is another development where there are fourteen units. And they're one bedroom there. There are seven available. \$132 thousand 742 dollars. And the three bedrooms, 7 units at \$192 thousand 742 dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think if you look at the prices that the minister is talking about here, I think anyone would be pretty hard pressed to find a unit, especially here in Iqaluit for this amount.

I guess a concern that's been raised as an issue, is basically we're providing subsidized units because of the way in which the Corporation was able to go out and get value for the dollar and you know, based on the type of building that it was. They have a rather cheap unit for staff members to be able to take advantage of if they so chose.

A concern is that, you know, here people are getting an opportunity to basically, you know, get somewhat subsidized in a roundabout way, unit, by the government and people that have purchased homes outside of that on the private market don't seem to enjoy, or get the same kinds of subsidies.

So, I'm just wondering if, given those comments that I've heard, is that something that the Corporation has taken into consideration. Are they looking at dealing with that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to clarify first of all that these are not subsidized units. These are units that are being sold at cost. Over and above the cost here, there's a significant, or there certainly are some other costs that potential home owners have to take into consideration.

That's what the purpose of some of the general discussions and information, briefings are right now. So that individuals can consider these things. Condominium fees, to cover off some of the operating costs and some of the more common costs of operating an association are estimated to be about \$700 to 800 dollars a month over and above their mortgage costs of these units.

And let's not forget the whole intent of the condominium program Mr. Chairman, is to provide some affordable housing to individuals throughout Nunavut. And this is a pilot project that we've initiated here and in our other decentralized communities. There's Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset should be on line by the end of this calendar year for the availability of units and that.

So it's trying to stimulate some development of the housing market and addressing some of the broader housing needs Nunavut wide. At the same time, I think it's important to note that yes, the Government of Nunavut through the housing Corporation has initiated this program.

There is no doubt some economies of scale and having larger multi-family dwellings, because as we do, some of your general costs, and it would be cost prohibitive and probably risky or potentially risky for a private developer to undertake that same type of initiative.

Maybe their interests aren't so much in selling off units versus leasing units long term from the private development side of things. And maybe that's why it hasn't been looked at. So that's why we've taken the initiative and taken the responsibility to develop this kind of potential market that we think can provide affordable housing on a more long term basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. The Members, I can hear the Members are talking amongst themselves during our sessions so please pay attention. I would like to have order. At times I can hear them talking on the side when I'm trying to conduct the meeting. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I can sympathize with you Mr. Chairperson; I know what it's like for a certain individual who likes to do that. It tends to get a little bit hard to hear sometimes.

I don't want the Minister to get me wrong, it appears that I'm saying it's not a good idea, the condominium program. But I'm just raising an issue about staff members that have

been forced to purchase their own homes or have shown the initiative and the commitment to purchase their own home here in Nunavut.

They don't seem to enjoy too much assistance from the government. Some of them are feeling that it's a little unequal. So it was just an issue that I was raising that occurred and I am raising it for the Minister. Hopefully that is something that corporation has looked at and is addressing.

There's another quick question. Mr. Chairman. On purchase of these units, the condominiums, are the owners eligible to apply for this twenty five thousand dollar grant I guess, under the down payment assistance program offered by the corporation for these? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Maybe I should clarify for the Member and respond to the Member's comments. It's about this issue about employees being forced to purchase. Nobody is being forced to purchase anything here Mr. Chairperson.

I mean this is trying to be established to give employees an option if they want to invest in their own home; nobody is forcing anybody to do this Mr. Chairperson. So that's the first one I wanted to clarify.

Secondly, in respect if the potential home owner is eligible for existing Housing Corporation Programs, NDAP, yes they are. Just like any other individual in Nunavut provided they qualify. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. If the Minister misunderstood, I didn't mean that anyone is being forced into buying any of these condos. I'm just saying that with limited staff housing in the past, a lot of people who have moved up here to take positions, either have been living in hotels, usually if they can't get a staff housing unit. And they end up having to buy something, because there hasn't been anything else available, and that's what I meant by forced, it wasn't meant to mean forced into buying condominium units.

The Minister indicated this is the first test run and there's going to be additional costs. It's going to take some time for the condominium association to get set up and then running. I'm just wondering if the units have to be completely sold before the condominium association is formed.

How long does the corporation anticipate it taking to get this corporation, does there have to be like fifty percent of the units filled to be able to form an association or first two people in there to form an association? What are the plans between occupancy and when this corporation is set up? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, we would, the Housing Corporation would have to, is actually setting up the condominium corporations and when it gets to the point where half of the homeowners are private individuals then they would take over the control of the condominium corporation.

So we're acting as a vehicle again to allow that to happen but I'm told that until that happens we're treating it as a lease to purchase in respect of individuals with potential homeowners that have committed to purchasing the units.

So they will not forfeit any of their payments in respect of, even if it actually be as if they were home owners from the start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How are the lease payments and the leases to purchase calculated? Based on what? I am sure if anyone is planning to move in there and applying in most cases through the corporation for assistance, the corporation would know from the client that they need a pre-approval for a mortgage from the bank. So would their monthly payments coincide with what they would be paying as their mortgage payments or is there a different rate and what is it that would be set until the corporation actually gets up and running and takes over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, they would be treated as if they purchased the property when they are signed off on the attempt to do so. So they wouldn't be out of pocket for any payments that they would put forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe is there a schedule or raise that they would be charged in between on the lease to purchase type option? Is it going to be like 12 hundred dollars a month, 2 thousand dollars a month, 5 thousand dollars a month?

Or will it be an amount that they're mortgage payments would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a set rate for that or does it go with what their mortgage payments would be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It'll be based on whatever they negotiate through their financial institution. Obviously there are various factors depending on the

cost of the unit, interest rates from the term of the mortgage, payment schedules etc. But that would be the same; we would use that same payment schedule that they chose with their financial institution. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. My colleague Mr. Tootoo, I would like to remind you that you are out of time for questions because the other members I'm sure will have questions and then I'll get back to you once the regular members have asked their question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Brief question which I spoke about in regards to the decentralized communities. I know that they are short of staff housing and not only the staff have shortage of housing and it sounds like they're going to get condominiums. They'll be given an option whether they want to own condominiums. I just wanted to get that clarified, if my understanding is correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I understood the member's question but the condominium program is for those that may be interested in purchasing housing units that are established under the condominium corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I don't think I made myself clear. Like decentralized communities such as Pond Inlet, Cape Dorset, Igloolik, for example. These are headquarters for the various departments. Will you be providing housing, staff housing to these decentralized communities because these staff of decentralized communities have a shortage of staff housing? That's my question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the member is referring to establishing condominium units in other communities, yes the other 9 decentralized communities, Arviat, Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Rankin Inlet and Igloolik right now have plans for condominium projects for interested individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry Mr. Chairman, I didn't understand the member's question. Maybe if he could re-ask it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, could you please clarify your question.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Housing Corporation, will they be building units in decentralized communities where they can be used for the staff in the decentralized communities? Are they planning to build units in the decentralized communities? I want clarification on that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I hope that's clear. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, the non-decentralized communities, then they will be I guess left out because of plans for building more units in the decentralized communities. The non-decentralized communities will be left out again. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the reason why we've chosen first of all the headquarters and the decentralized communities in respect of the condominium program, is two primary reasons.

One is the issue of trying to address staff housing requirements and secondly because of the fact that there are opportunities there because of enhanced build up of decentralized positions.

So there are more income opportunities and these are some of the larger communities Nunavut wide. If it's going to work, that's where it's going to work first. There's nothing to stop us from moving into non-decentralized communities, provided that we think the market is there. And that will be once we have an assessment of how the first phase goes that would be a consideration for future spaces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand. If that will be the case, the non-decentralized communities, we have an understanding now that there will be jobs going to those communities.

Will they be government employees from Nunavut or outside of Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I can't speak about this in respect to the non-decentralized communities. That's not my area of responsibility. I would say in respect to the condominium program, is what I was referring to.

There are opportunities, if it proves to be successful where we're trying to develop them now, then the opportunity to then possibly expand that into non-decentralized communities where there is a market. There is the option and that is what I was referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be building condominiums for government employees. If that will be the case, then those employees will have access to getting those units. The trend has been the employees go to a community and at the end after they retire or something they leave the community anyways. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's probably correct, I mean, I don't know where individuals would go or if there's someone from the communities as well that would stay in those units. I don't know if there was a particular question there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): You responded well, but I just want more information. You'll probably have it arranged for this funding to go for housing in number of years and those will go to the non-decentralized communities. So how long do you think it'll take for this to materialize? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well, Mr. Chairman, as I indicated, some units are becoming available or have become available. There's more that are going to becoming available in the next four to eight weeks, and there's more still of the first phase now that will be available early in the next calendar year. We anticipate, if things prove successful, that we will continue to build these types of housing units and until such a time there isn't a market to support it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you for responding so well. According to the results of the studies that have been done in regards to Clyde River, there is a shortage in

Clyde River. It is a non-decentralized community. Will that slow the process of those non-decentralized communities in getting more units? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, I don't believe so. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I'd like to remind you, the members, it's now 2 '0 clock. I'd like to ask the members what they wish to do. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for reminding us to recognize the clock. In that light, I'd like to move the committee report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Opposed. The motion is carried. David, from Gjoa Haven, I'd like to thank the minister and David, and we'll see you again. Minister Ng, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Akoak is glad to be able to spend his weekend here in Iqaluit with us. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): The Speaker can return now. Thank you.

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 18 and would like to report that they're still considering the Bill 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? Ms. Williams. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. Motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Orders of the Day. Item 22. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of a meeting of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act at 3:00 o'clock today in the Nanuk Board Room. Another reminder of a meeting of the Regular Caucus on Monday

morning at 9:00 o'clock in the Natsik Room. Orders for the day for Monday, November 25, 2002,

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabled Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 22
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 25
 - Bill 26
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 17
 - 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 finish for the day I'd like to thank our Sergeant-at-Arms, a friend of mine, a former constituent, Mr. Thomas Elytook from Baker Lake. Thank you Thomas for your work this week.

>>*Applause*

This house stands adjourned until, our trusty partner informs me that I should also thank the pages because they also worked and finished this week. Thank you, guys and girls for a good job.

>>*Applause*

This house stands adjourned until Monday, November 25th, 2002, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned 14:20 p.m.*

