



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**6th Session**

**1st Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 34**

**Tuesday December 3, 2002**

**Pages 2189 - 2274**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday December 3, 2002**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker:** I would like to call on Ms. Thompson to say the prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 108 - 1(6): Hockey Day in Canada from Iqaluit**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister responsible for Nunavut Sports and Recreation I would like to inform my colleagues, Nunavummiut, Enoki Irqittuq, and hockey fans everywhere that February 15, 2003 is Hockey Day in Canada.

This is an annual event where all six Canadian hockey teams play in Canada against each other.

(interpretation ends) The Hockey Night in Canada program will be broadcasting for 10 hours that day which includes community issues from the host community for the event.

Mr. Speaker, Hockey Day in Canada is of special importance to Nunavummiut this year because Iqaluit has been chosen as the host community for this event.

**Some Member:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Nunavut will be featured throughout the telecast for all Canadians to see. In addition, the Coaches Corner segment with Don Cherry and Ron McLean will also be broadcast live from Iqaluit. I'm sure that Nunavummiut everywhere will be excited to hear about this upcoming event. This is another opportunity for us to showcase our beautiful territory to the rest of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, as in all of Canada, we take special pride in our participation in hockey. Residents of all ages from young children to adults participate in the many hockey leagues throughout Nunavut.

Active living builds healthy bodies and healthy bodies contribute to healthy communities. As our guiding document the Bathurst Mandate states, "We will strive towards healthy communities." To support this mandate, in my time as Minister of Community Government & Transportation my department has commissioned the opening of two new arenas in Nunavut. The Tasilik Arena in Kimmirut was opened in January of 2002, and a new arena in Kugluktuk will be opening in the very near future.

I'm firmly committed to promoting healthy and active living within our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the rest of the Legislature will join me in welcoming the Hockey Night in Canada crew to Iqaluit in February and it is my hope that we'll be able to show the rest of Canada how much we love hockey in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Thompson. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

#### **Minister's Statement 109 - 1(6): Breastfeeding a Sustainable Practice**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nakurmiik, Uqaqti. I don't think I need to remind anyone here about the importance of breastfeeding to healthy infant development.

However, have you ever stopped to consider that breastfeeding also carries great importance as a sustainable practice that has benefits for the environment as a whole?

Mr. Speaker, think about it, breastfeeding uses no expensive non-renewable resources, has no plastic or metal packaging and uses no fuel for distribution. Furthermore, no heating is required, and no plastic feeding apparatus is needed to deliver the product.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut breastfeeding rates tend to be higher than in southern Canada with as many as 78% of mothers choosing breast milk over bottled formula. Mr. Speaker, that is an enviable number. However, Mr. Speaker, we must be vigilant in ensuring that we can continue to sustain those high rates.

We need to support women in their right to breastfeed in the workplace and in public, as well as in their own home. Mr. Speaker, there are too many parts of this country where the act of breastfeeding is considered to be something that must be done in private behind closed doors.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, Health & Social Services, through the Canadian pre-natal nutrition program, is working to encourage mothers to choose breastfeeding and to support them in that decision. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.



>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 333 – 1(6): High Cost of Fuel**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was written by a homeowner. It's going to be a very cold winter, especially in the months of December, January and February. I heard on CBC radio about two weeks ago and I heard that I am not the only one who has concerns in regards to lowering the rate for fuel, especially in December, January and February because we all know those are the coldest months.

I heard that we'll be using more fuel in the winter. As a homeowner it's very expensive to heat our homes. The Government of Nunavut has to give this more consideration because I'm not the only one who has concerns regarding the high cost of fuel.

I'd like to thank everybody for giving this consideration by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Member's Statement 334 – 1(6): Celebrating Christmas in Kugaaruk**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to make a statement. Even though Christmas is a few weeks away I would like to say a few words about Christmas.

When I was young, people were not always in one camp. So when Christmas was coming people would travel to Kugaaruk from outlying camps to celebrate Christmas. There were no televisions then so there were no commercials to help you decide what present to buy. In fact, Mr. Speaker, in Kugaaruk we used to celebrate Christmas in the big Igloo. Everyone in the community attended the church service. There was a feast followed by games and prizes.

Mr. Speaker, today, publicly I would like to wish the people of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, all the people, my colleagues, their families, and all the people of Nunavut, especially my family a very Merry Christmas and a safe Christmas. Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Member's Statement 335 – 1(6): Donating to Communities for Christmas**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was an individual from Igloolik who asked for assistance especially for those people who are in need or who have no parents during Christmas. There is a group that requests donations to buy presents for their family members and they occasionally ask for donations and I believe that a letter was received by a few of us but it is very difficult to give assistance.

I guess that some of the things we do as representatives could have some monetary value. With this in mind, the jerseys that the MLAs used during an exhibition hockey game and also the Nunavut flag, which was signed by all the Members that I will produce later on, will be something to give to help the communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach if there is an auction to raise money.

On a final note, I would like to wish the residents of Igloolik and Hall Beach an early Merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

**Member's Statement 336 – 1(6): Wishing a Merry Christmas to Nunavummiut**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to reflect on the time of year that we are at. As I see the young people out there decorating the tree, it brings me back to my childhood memories about Christmas and how it used to be and how it is today.

I am trying to get this done as quickly as possible. I would like to say that I wish everybody in Nunavut a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And especially my wife and three kids who I am away from quite a bit, representing them in the Capital. I would like to wish all my constituents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I would also like to tell the elders in Baker Lake that I will be home this week, and I will have my annual Christmas Supper and Games Saturday night at the Rachel Arnamaktik Elementary School. I will be there playing games with them and having a feast with them. I would like them all to be there at 6 o'clock sharp to start the festivities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Member's Statement 337 – 1(6): Wishing a Peaceful Holiday**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that this will be our last day so I believe that it is okay to raise different issues. My parents have

watched the proceedings of the House in the past and today as well. I wish them peace during the Christmas holidays and to have fun during the holidays. I am sure that the residents of Coral Harbour will be looking after them in Coral Harbour and my brother Louie Bruce, and my older sisters Leonie Duffy and my younger sister Mona.

Mr. Speaker, I will be also having a feast with my elderly constituents in Rankin Inlet. I usually hold this festivity around Christmas time to have fun and have games. I just want to inform the elders that I will be there. I wish them a Merry Christmas and I hope that they have a very good New Year.

I hope that peace will be with them. We all have different churches and the parents, young or adult; they will be going to Church and bringing their children along, because the children have to learn about our Saviour, so invite them in. This is a positive attitude and it has been proven that it is good for your body and your mind when you attend Church regularly.

Mr. Speaker, I am urging all Nunavummiut to bring their children to Church, because it is not about Santa Claus, it is about the birth of Jesus Christ. That is why we celebrate December 25<sup>th</sup>, and keep that in mind and if possible, please attend Church. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

### **Member's Statement 338 – 1(6): Feasts and Games at Christmas - Need for a Community Hall**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a very early Merry Christmas to you. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the Christmas season one of the traditions that is carried on in all of Nunavut, is community games and of course Inuktitut or square dancing.

Mr. Speaker, unlike other communities, Iqaluit doesn't have a community hall. We have been holding the games and dances at the Anglican Parish Hall over the past few years. The size of our hall has not been conducive as our population has increased to the point it can be uncomfortable, especially for the many elders who attend the games and the dancing.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken with the head of the Hunters and Trappers Association, Amarok here in Iqaluit. I've also requested from the Royal Canadian Legion permission to use the Cadet Hall if we choose to this Christmas.

Mr. Speaker, this morning the Legion informed me that if the Christmas game organizers would like to use the Cadet Hall, then it will be made available to us.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed good news for people of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Legion for their generosity in making the Cadet Hall available for our Christmas games, if we choose to use the facility this Christmas.

I also like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, to wish the Members of the House, as well as yourself Mr. Speaker, and the good people of Iqaluit, a very Merry Christmas and to the people of Apex, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

### **Member's Statement 339 – 1(6): Christmas in Sanikiluaq**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning, while we are on the topic of Christmas, I would like to wish a very Merry Christmas. When I was young, I didn't really know much about Christmas but our parents, our mothers and our fathers used to say that it's the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

And they told us not to sell our souls or work on this Christmas day. That was the tradition while I was growing up but when schools were created or after the schools were introduced to the north, it seems when the teachers arrived, that's when we started celebrating Christmas traditions rather than celebrating the birth of Christ.

While we were in the Kuujuarapik School, we used to do a lot of activities and we used to do all sorts of celebrations. We used to follow the Bible and have our school play. But back in the 1960's, when we were in Kuujuarapik, we had to lift up one of our students, using a rope while an audience was watching.

We grabbed the rope to lift that individual and on cue the curtain opened, so we pulled the rope to elevate the individual.

One of the students got caught by the rope, I don't know exactly what happened to the rope, but we never realized that he was caught, that we were literally hanging that person, we were choking the person as we were trying to lift the student with the rope in Kuujuarapik.

Her name was Malaya, I would like to say hello to her and wish her a very Merry Christmas, and also our oldest son who lives in Kuujuarapik, we would like to wish him a very Merry Christmas.

Because Christmas season is a festive season and I wish everyone a very Merry Happy Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

**Member's Statement 340 – 1(6): Celebrate and Enjoy Christmas in Nunavut**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be celebrating Christmas all over Nunavut. So therefore I would like to welcome all of the new people who have just moved to Nunavut so they will know that when we hold our Christmas festivities and games, we usually have it open to the public.

Therefore I am inviting the newcomers to come to the games so that they can learn more about Inuit traditions and our games. I would like to invite them to take part in the Christmas festivities and games.

It is going to be enjoyable for all who participate or watch. I also take part in that because it is very enjoyable and festive. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, and also to my colleagues, and in particular, my constituents. "Joyeux Noel et bonne annui". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 341 – 1(6): Last Day of Session**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how to speak French. Mr. Speaker, also to mention again I say hello to Kevin and I would also like to say this morning that today is our last day of the Session.

Usually he watches the proceedings of the House and he knows each individual MLA and he especially knows who his grandfather is, that's me and he knows about Iqaqrialu. I would like to inform him that today is the last day of our Session so we will not be going on TV in the evenings.

I would also like to inform the Pangnirtung residents that I will be going home tomorrow to take my Christmas vacation over there. And also I would like to wish every one of the Members here a very merry Christmas and also to you Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

**Member's Statement 342 – 1(6): Wishes Constituents a Merry Christmas**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is the last day of our Session, we will all be home for Christmas festivities in the month of December. In the High Arctic, we expect the daylight to disappear and it is doing that right now. At this

time, there is 24 hour darkness in the High Arctic and during this dark season is when we celebrate Christmas and it would not be the same without this darkness.

I would like to wish my constituents in Pond Inlet a very safe and merry Christmas. I also expect to go seal hunting through the aglul on the sea-ice at this time of year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 343 – 1(6): Wishes Constituents a Merry Christmas**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a number of Members indicated I think that we are getting close to Christmas and also this is possibly our last day of our Session until next year. Given that, I would like to wish all the Members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, especially the Health Minister, Mr. Picco. That the department has a much more prosperous year than it has over the last couple of years. I wish all my colleagues a safe journey home and a good Christmas. I would also like to wish my constituents, and all the residents of Iqaluit, I hope that they have a very Merry Christmas and a good, prosperous New Year.

Mr. Speaker, one other just quick note. Minister Thompson had indicated that next year we are going to see Hockey Day in Canada come to Iqaluit. I just wanted to let Members know that I would also like to extend a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to my family.

Especially to my cousin Jordan Tootoo, who as the Members will know, has been invited to Halifax to join in the trials for the Team Canada Junior Team and I wish him and that would be a good Christmas present for him if he makes that Team. And also for his family. I wish all my family in Iqaluit here, and in Rankin Inlet, and all the other communities that I have relatives in, a Merry Christmas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Ms. Williams.

### **Member's Statement 344 – 1(6): History of Relocation of Inukjuarmiut**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute along with the House, to a group of High Arctic Inuit who were relocated north. As my esteemed colleague from Nanulik had indicated last week, Inuit are generally not the focus of history books or are largely ignored and their contributions belittled or downplayed in the modern history books that speak about the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, here I am referring to a group of Inuit pioneers and the Inuit heirs of those Inuit families within our modern history that played an extremely important role in establishing Canadian sovereignty in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, between 1953 and 1955, a number of Inuit families were relocated to the community of Resolute Bay in the High Arctic. I know that as I state the names that some of you will recognise these family names; Amagoalik, Alakariallak, Idlout, Kadluk, Nungaq, Sudlovenik, Ikaluk, Patsauq.

With the establishment of the community of Grise Fiord, some of these families were joined by others from the Flahertys, Aqiatusuks, Pijaminis, Akeeagoks, Kigutaks, Ningoeks, Akpaliapiks, Novalingas, and Audlaluk families.

Mr. Speaker, these families came together originally from the communities of Inukjuak and Pond Inlet. Although the story has not been often told from the Inuit perspective, what we do know is that certain government officials, the RCMP, and the welfare officers were very instrumental in selecting the families and organising their transportation on the ship CD Howe.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I want to recognise the many achievements of these families. To our present day in history the second and third generation members continue to play important roles as leaders and role models for all of Nunavut and Canada.

I am very honoured to have Rynee Flaherty present here today, the Elder, her children and her grandchildren who can't be here today with us. Although some family members are not here I also would like to talk about her daughter Martha Flaherty, who tackled many important issues such as family violence and sexual abuse during her terms as the President of Pauktuutit, the National Inuit Women's organization.

Her brothers, Harry, Jamie, William and Johnny Flaherty, and her younger sisters Leese and Mary and their brother Peter hold important positions both with government and nongovernmental organizations alike.

I would also like to talk about John Amagoalik. I'm sure he doesn't need any introductions. During the land claims negotiations, he was very instrumental and he took the lead role in the Nunavut Implementation Commission.

I would also like to talk about the contributions of the Alakariallak family. Minnie Alakariallak is also in the gallery. Her husband and she have made many important

contributions to the community of Resolute Bay starting in the 60's and the 70's. Minnie's house was the primary boarding home for transient medical patients travelling in and out of the High Arctic. They have made important contributions to the community of Resolute Bay over the years. Joannie and Minnie ran a Boarding Home for transient patients who had to travel through Resolute Bay to get home or to the hospital down south either from Arctic Bay or from Pond Inlet.

Everyone is aware of and knows about Minnie and her husband and how they always helped other people. Joannie ran the Anglican Church. Also Elizabeth Allakarialak who is also well known, she was a long time Social Worker and she is now currently working with Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

Of course, Madeleine Allakarialak, Minnie's granddaughter needs very little introduction as she was also identified as a very good role model from Nunavut and many of us listen to her most mornings on CBC; Madeline Allakariallak is here and so is Minnie's great-grandchild.

Another of her grandchildren, Angie Doig is also here and she's got her own children and I also would like to talk about the Akeeagok family from Grise Fiord. This family has shown some fine examples for Inuit to look up to as well because they make good role models, such as Sigluk Akeeagok, who's sitting over on the other side, a former RCMP officer, a former Fisheries and Oceans Officer, and presently he is a Wildlife Officer.

His wife Mimi Pijamini is a long time resident of Grise Fiord, one of the first Inuit school teachers in that community and who is currently working on furthering her qualifications.

Mr. Speaker I don't want to miss anyone and I know that I have missed a lot of names in my statements. I could conceivably take the whole morning to do my Member's Statement if I were to recognize everyone.

I am glad that you were able to give me some extra time for my Statement. I hope that this House agrees with me, this is a small way to recognize the number of times the contributions of these families have been overlooked by Canada as a whole.

And if it weren't for them, Mr. Speaker, Nunavut would be a much smaller place than it really is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. And welcome to the Gallery our guests. Thanks. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not, I'd like to wish all the Members and staff and the media that are here all day long, working with us a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

Also extend that to the people of my home community of Arviat and all the good people of Nunavut, especially to the elders and the children from our communities. Lastly a



reminder to all that we should make an extra effort to take care of the poor and less fortunate. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms Thompson.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some people Ms. Williams mentioned in her Statement.

When I was a Minister for MACA during the GNWT days in the Northwest Territories I recognized a volunteer. He was the best volunteer in all of Nunatsiaq and that individual received recognition and was awarded when I was the Minister for the Municipal Affairs office back in 1996.

This selected NWT volunteer helped the most people and their fellow human beings. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognise, he can even help carry groceries, Peter Flaherty, he's over there. If he could stand up. I recognize him because he was the best volunteer and also one who cared the most for his fellow residents and his mother accompanied him when he came for the award.

I don't know if Minnie Alakariallak remembers me, but back in the 1980's in Yellowknife I was the manager of the Interpreter Corp. I know that since I came from Sudliq, her dialect was quite close to my dialect so right away as soon as she opened her mouth I knew that she wasn't from the Kitikmeot and I was very happy to hear a familiar dialect.

Minnie Alakariallak I would like to recognise her and also good morning to all of them because we were taught to say that by Madeleine on her C.B.C broadcast, I had to say that. It was quite interesting and nice to hear their dialect so I would like to say I wish them a very good morning. I'd also like to recognise all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hardly ever recognize anybody in the House as my communities are amongst the furthest, but I would like to recognize all the people from my communities.

Martha from Resolute, originally from Greenland. Irene Ikaluk from Resolute. Angie and her children, Eric Doig and David Akeeagok. I talked about the Akeeagok family a little while ago; he is one of the sons and Harry Flaherty, Lazarus Akeeagok. Elizabeth Alakariallak.

Rynee, would you please stand up. Rynee Flaherty, William Flaherty, Madeleine Alakariallak who is known by everybody. I also said the Kadluk family, Andrew Tagak and Minnie Alakariallak, Peter Flaherty who was recognized earlier on and Susan Gardner and Jamie Flaherty.

Over on the other side, I would like to recognize people originally from Grise Fiord. Sigluk Akeegok and his wife Mimi and their son and Johnny Flaherty. I would also like to recognise Meeka and Abraham Arnakak. Lastly, but not least my husband Glen Williams. Merry Christmas and thank you for visiting the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Once again, welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize some of the people who were recognized already. The ones that I know of.

When the member from High Arctic was talking about the high arctic, she spoke about Inuit contributions such as those made by the members of the Flaherty family. I happen to have my Assistant Deputy Minister Jamie Flaherty here and his mother, his brothers and sisters and all the other families of the High Arctic Exiles, who were relocated to the High Arctic from Northern Quebec.

The people of the Belcher Islands lived in almost the same place as some of these High Arctic Exiles, and I feel fortunate that the relocated families were not picked from our area, but they have always made me feel welcome whenever I have met them. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to recognize all the people who were recognized already, I believe that I know most of them visiting today.

Mr. Speaker, over here behind me, on this side I would like to recognize the people from Pangnirtung, from my constituency, Abraham and his wife Meeka Arnakak.

I would also like to briefly state that they have counselled people who are grieving and they have always been there to help out the people. They never seem to get tired of assisting other Inuit although they are both busy people.

Abraham worked for the Housing Association for quite some time but he is now retired. He has more freedom to do what he wants to do, and his wife also works as a cultural teacher at the Arctic College Adult Learning Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize some of my relatives from Grise Fiord. I also have some relatives up there descended from Ooloosie and I am happy to say that they are here today and I wish to offer recognition.

I would also like to recognize my cousin Meeka Arnakaq, and her husband Abraham. And also Minnie. I have represented her and she has always been there on occasions when I have visited the elders' centre although she has not visited me for quite some time I would like to recognize her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 340 – 1(6): Update on Human Resource Management System

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

As the Minister is probably aware over the last few years, something that I have been inquiring about is a Human Resource Management System something that has been in the works apparently since division.

I would like to ask the Minister, he tabled his Public Service Report last week. In that report, Mr. Speaker, it indicates that the Government still requires an integrated Human Resource Information and Payroll System.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could update this House as to where they are with that Human Resource System and when can we expect to have one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Human Resources. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for posing his question. Although it was difficult to compile all of the names, we have produced this report with the help of Public Works and the Department of Finance.

We are compiling the names in the computer and initially although we experienced problems we have completed most of the work and we will be providing them today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what names the Minister is indicating. I was looking for some kind of indication as to when and if we will ever see a functioning Human Resources Management System within the Department of Human Resources.

I know that something like, apparently we sunk millions of dollars into this over the last 3 years. I'd like to find out when we are going to see something come out of that. When will we have an actual system that works? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just indicated, we now have the system in place and we will, unlike the past years, we now have a system collecting the data and through the new system, we will be able to provide more, much more updated information as a result of the hard work that the departments have put in the last while. So we do have our system out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Public Service report, it indicates that the government still requires an integrated Human Resource system in the payroll system and also they anticipate the implementation of the new system will begin in the next year.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, in this report, there's all kinds of statistical information has been compiled and then one of the things in there Mr. Speaker, that is something that I raised on numerous occasions in the past and the previous Minister from Human Resources could attest to, is the turnover rates within the government.

In the Public Service report, I would assume as a result of the tracking within the system, it indicates that turnover rates have gone from 31% to 28%. I'd like to ask the Minister if they could indicate through this House, what the cost of that turnover rate is to the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I'm not able to provide the member with what it has cost us thus far. That is something that I would have to get my department working on, but with staffing, including recruitment advertisings, relocations,

we are looking at approximately, it costs us about fifty thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister could indicate that he could commit to providing the actual cost of the turnover, the 28 percent turnover within the Public Service, with the cost to the government. I look forward to the Minister doing that.

I'm sure it's more than fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Speaker, one the of the things that I don't see in this Public Service report and the Minister said he tabled it last week so I don't know if I have thoroughly reviewed it, but can the Minister indicate, I know it's something that the department has been working on again for some time. Do they have an updated or new Human Resource Manual for our employees to follow or is this something that is still in the works and when can we expect to see it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is something that I would like to be able to provide to the Members, earlier than later because I know the department staff have been working extremely hard on that manual.

But further to that, with my colleagues' comments regarding the information that we provided, hopefully with the new system we have in place, we will be able to provide much more detailed information and also look at both benefits and what cost it takes Human Resources to ensure that we have fully employed departments in the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 341 – 1(6): Update on the Kivalliq Road**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, we just finished her department earlier last week on the capital for Community Government & Transportation. There was money for the Bathurst Inlet Road Project and I think it's a great project to produce and to help the private sector develop the mineral resources in Nunavut.

But there has been a long festering issue in Kivalliq and that is the issue of the Kivalliq road which you yourself have been pushing for the last 7 or 8 years. To date it seems to

have died off. Can the Minister update me on the Kivalliq Road and where it's at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the road, the proposed road to the Keewatin from Manitoba or from Manitoba to the Keewatin has not died off. It's still a very active file and we are very serious about this file.

What has happened is that the Keewatin Inuit Association has requested money from DIAND to put into the study, the study that will be done on the road. The government has already put their portion in, the Nunavut government.

The Manitoba Government has already put in their portion and the Keewatin Inuit Association responsibilities were to ask for more money from DIAND so that we can start a serious study in January. So Mr Speaker, this is still a very important file that my department is working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you raised this road yourself when we were doing the leadership elections in 1999. You asked the Premier at the time, and the Premier at the time said that he'd like to be able to drive out of Nunavut on a road. And you know it's 4 years later and there's been very little movement in this connection that would open up Nunavut to the world, through the resources and opportunities etcetera.

We all know the issues surrounding this road, the Minister told us she's going to have something started in January. Would the Minister update this House on a regular basis on how the talks on the Kivalliq Road issue are going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this has been talked about in the Mayor's meetings every time the mayors get together. We have a lot of support from the Keewatin region for the Manitoba road to the Keewatin. I will certainly keep the House updated on what is happening and what the status is on this road. We're seriously going forward with this and we should be able to see some documents from the study as soon as we get that started. Thank you.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is answering my questions and those are the answers I like to hear. But on the issue of the road; I have to date not seen once piece of information on that Kivalliq road and to this date I don't think the mayors have seen much information on it, where it's at in this stage after four years.

Could the Minister again agree to give us information, MLA's, and the mayors of the Kivalliq on the ongoing issue of the Kivalliq road and update it on a regular basis so we know that we can do our lobbying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will do that. We will do a status report on what has been happening over the last four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 342 – 1(6): Submitting the Required Paperwork to the Federal Government**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I will ask it in English.

(interpretation ends) The Auditor General's Report to the Legislative Assembly said the Government of Nunavut had not submitted the correct paperwork to the Federal Government in order to collect over 30 million dollars owed to us under an agreement that reimburses Nunavut for costs related to certain health services. My question for the Minister is has this Department submitted the necessary paperwork to collect this amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 32 million dollars, and the Member is correct, I believe that it is under the Hospitals and Physicians Contract tabled in the House last week. I have reviewed it with my department, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that in this case we have spent the money; we have spent the 32 million dollars. We have not invoiced the Feds for the total amount.

When we receive the 32 million dollars it is not going to be a cash windfall for the Government or anything like that because the money is just an account receivable. We spend the money under that budget item, and then we have to send in an accounts receivable invoice.

The reason the invoice was not sent in was because the audited statements from the Department of Health were not available. We did not have an audited invoice to submit to the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that that information is being gathered right now and will be sent, if it has not already done, expeditiously to the Federal Government as per the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that Health overspends its budget by millions of dollars per year. What is the Minister doing to improve financial management in his department? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have put several cost control measures in place. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, if it takes 20 dollars for the gas to go from A to B, and you only have 10 dollars for gas, you are not going to get to B.

One of the concerns raised by the Auditor General in her report last year was that the department was under-based. We did not have enough money. That is the Auditor General's own reasoning behind some of the situation.

So this government acted very quickly and expeditiously and put an extra 20 million dollars into the base for the department as it pertains to the Auditor General's Report that the Member was speaking about.

We have put controls in place. We have just hired an additional position to work in the finance and accounts receivable, accounts payable side of the department. That position was part of the help that came from the Department of Finance which has done a review on the Department of Health; one of the recommendations was extra support, and that person is in place.

There have been a number of things done Mr. Speaker, to try to get the costs under control and at the same time be cognizant of the fact that you are delivering at times life and death services. We need to be able to provide those services to the people of Nunavut.

I hear in this House many times Mr. Speaker, requests from Members for Wellness Counsellors, Addictions Counsellors, other services and programs, and so on.

There is only so much that we can do with the limited dollars that are available. We are trying to the very best that we can, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. There have to be more controls put in place on the expenditure side and not necessarily just on the revenue generating side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is, in 2000-2001 the Health Department overspent by twenty million dollars, in what areas did this overspending take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.



**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the Premier has mentioned to me about a year and a half ago, about the opportunity if it presented itself, would I like to look at a different portfolio. I said at the time I was not interested because I wanted the opportunity in this public forum to defend that over-expenditure.

And the Member asked me about the 2000-2001, Auditor General's Report. Let's think back to when we were integrating the three regional health boards, we assumed their deficit of 8.9 million dollars; we did not know that the health boards had that deficit.

Mr. Speaker, when you look into the contingencies that were in place from headquarters prior to division, prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> 1999 and in carrying that forward, extrapolating that number into the three regional offices, an additional 4 or 5 million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, when the twenty million dollar expenditure came about, I would suggest to you 70% is directly attributable to the integration of the three boards, which had already accumulated a deficit of 8.9 million dollars.

So Mr. Speaker, it wasn't that we had taken twenty million dollars and spent it. We actually had included it; you have to remember that we are talking about an audit report of now two years ago.

The Auditor General's reports are a year and a half, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen months, behind. So that's where those figures came from, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity of trying to clarify the situation with that deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Final supplementary. Ms. Williams

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the minister, we all know that 1999/2000, up to now, all the departments have been under-staffed, for different reasons. Therefore the budget that was allocated probably was not used for some of the things approved. In 2002-2001 there was probably some money allotted for the staff but we didn't have full staff at that time, so I'm also thinking about these kinds of things that cost money but we didn't have staff.

Mr. Speaker, my question is what consequences are there in place for senior managers who have managed to overspend by millions of dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have to remember how we got into the situation with our financial budget and so on. Mr. Speaker, in 1999 on division and before the division, 97, 98, and those three years, an excess of three years of over expenditures were being tracked by the Government of the Northwest Territories on what was being spent in the 26 communities, which made up the Nunavut settlement area.

The Federal Government said Mr. Speaker that two territories would not cost any more than one territory. They basically took the 1.2 million dollars that was being sent to the Government of the Northwest Territories and split it in half. If you remember that Mr. Speaker, Minister Thompson remembers it, we were in the Nunavut caucus, so it came out to 450 million dollars and then a percentage was added onto that for headquarters and so on, for leasing costs of buildings.

The Health budget in 1999, was a hundred and twelve million dollars, that's what it was, as Member Williams has just said, it wasn't enough, because we were at about 20% staff in headquarters alone and about 80% vacant positions. The following year 2000, now we were staffed up, probably about 60%, so that was 40% more positions filled, that means more money was being spent and at the same time we absorbed the deficits of the Health Boards in the total base budget that was left.

When you put those kinds of considerations into place, of course you're going to spend millions of dollars. The processes that are in place under the Financial Administration Act as well as the Human Resource Program under Finance and under Human Resources, dictate if there are penalties there for budgets that are overspent.

Ultimately Mr. Speaker, it is this House and the Minister responsible for that Department to have to take the responsibility for the budget. And Mr. Speaker, that's what I have done with the deficit in the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 343 – 1(6): New Air Terminal for Pond Inlet**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. During the Pangnirtung session I spoke about the need for more modern air terminals. For many years our terminal has been too small in Pond Inlet and yet a terminal has never been built.

I was wondering if the Department has considered the requirement for a larger terminal in Pond Inlet. I would like to know if the terminal is under consideration for replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budget for Transportation, we use priority setting for the oldest buildings and safety and health issues. It's becoming evident that the air terminal in Pond Inlet has required change for many years because it's too old and small now.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, since that became evident we were able to get funding from the Federal Government for this infrastructure, the funds that I mentioned in Coral Harbour, and Pond Inlet is one of the priority communities to get an air terminal building.

Mr. Speaker, at this time the Hamlet Council of Pond Inlet has made their position known and they have made a motion to get a new air terminal building.

Mr. Speaker, I have given this request to the Federal Minister to see if they could get funding from the monies that we had received because it has to be approved by the Federal Government in order to build a new terminal in Pond Inlet. So, at this time we are just waiting for a decision from the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Transportation but I also have a supplementary question.

I would like to know when you will hear of the funding approval from the Federal Government in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not too long from now, but I can't determine a date at this time because I don't know. The review and all the correspondence have been completed and once I find out Mr. Speaker, I will call the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could obtain funding approval, would it be constructed in 2003? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we receive the approval for the construction to go ahead, we will inform the Hamlet Council. The funding I talked about for Coral Harbour has been approved by the Federal Government.

In order to construct these air terminals we have to go through these procedures and that's why the process has been quite slow.

Mr. Speaker, I will provide all the information to the member and to the Hamlet Council through correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 344 – 1(6): Update on Deficit Situation in Communities**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last year or perhaps it was the year before that my constituency community of Clyde River asked this question of the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. For quite some time many communities have been in deficit situations due to the lack of funding from the department.

In my community we heard last year that our community was in a deficit situation and therefore I would like to ask this question of the Minister of Community Government & Transportation. The Municipality of Clyde River, since the deficit is quite old and we don't even know what the cause of the deficit was because it goes back to the 1970's and 1980's.

That's how far the deficit situation goes back to and it's getting very hard to know what the reason was for the deficit situation. We don't even know what the money was used for and it's getting hard to get clarification so I was wondering if we could get further clarification on that from the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in the 1970's and the 1980's, we had our first government in the north. I cannot say what the money was used for, what the real reason was for the deficit.

I don't know if this is an actual fact or not. If they don't know the reason for the deficit situation, then they have the opportunity to find that out through the auditors; the money that was expended by the municipality. Mr. Speaker, I don't know the reason why Clyde River went into a deficit situation.

More than one community is in that situation, but my officials have gone up to that community to look at ways they could make payment plans for the deficit repayment process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu .

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know what I'm talking about because I have been a member of the Hamlet Council in the past. I know that the deficit of about 70 thousand seems groundless because that is a lot of deficit in that municipality.

I was wondering of the Minister could find out why they ran into a deficit and what the reason was. Most of the charges submitted seem to be falsified, so that is why we cannot substantiate them. I would like to have this matter resolved.

The auditor is very expensive, especially for municipalities that are in a deficit situation, this exercise becomes another expense that they have to pay. The municipalities end up owing more money when the auditors come in to audit their accounts.

I was wondering if the Minister could look into this situation because if I remember correctly they were in a deficit of about 70 thousand and I'm sure that your department can review that situation. I want to have this issue dealt with so that we will know exactly who owes what. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the previous municipal councillors and the member here who was a member of the municipal council, they might know the reason behind the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, we can look into it. But Mr. Speaker, I can say that since becoming the Minister for this department, I have told my officials that they have to review and periodically check the expenditures of the municipalities. We have worked on that issue for a while and we now have auditors based in Baker Lake who are available for reviewing municipal accounts. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this translation is confusing.

We have a division now under my department, Monitoring and Evaluation, a whole division that is located in Baker Lake that does more monitoring of the hamlets' financial status.

We are doing everything that we can to assist our hamlets and we are available to our hamlets in the territory when we are needed, or when we are asked to travel to those communities, the regional department is always willing to travel.

I know that there has been a lot of work with the Clyde River Deficit Recovery Plan, which is being implemented now by the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the response that I am getting. It seems like some of the deficits did not have any basis for being included in the books. They have never been written off and that is one of the reasons why the Municipality is in a deficit situation.

It seems like the deficit does not have any basis, because the municipality cannot even deal with the banks. They lose out on economic opportunities. Since they don't identify what the money was used for, we lose quite a bit of economic opportunities especially in the smaller communities.

In the smaller communities, the majority of individuals are employed by the municipality. And when the municipality is in a deficit situation, the staff salaries usually are capped. I was wondering if the department can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have done the audit already for the Hamlet of Clyde River and it is ongoing as well. We have done a municipal finance review to see what kinds of things they can do to make sure that they pay out their deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister agree that the charges which I have maintained have no basis be checked in the previous years and corrected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have already done the financial review of Clyde River.

The 70 thousand dollars that the Member is talking about, I don't have any information in front of me in respect to that matter, so I cannot answer him right now. We have already done a review of all the Hamlet financial accounts in Clyde River and the deficit items. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 345 – 1(6): Outpost Camps for Inmates**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during a discussion of Justice in the Committee of the Whole, the Minister stated that there were only four communities that used outpost camps for this program and he stated that there are not very many people who operate the outpost camps.

There have been people in Igloolik and Hall Beach who have requested to run an outpost camp. Perhaps the applications or proposals have not yet reached his office. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not heard of the two communities that requested an outpost camp program and I am happy to find out from the member that they have requested an outpost camp program for inmates. I would prefer to

receive a copy of their applications so that I may assist them wherever I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that those two communities have requested or asked the department about an outpost camp for inmates because they have an outpost camp that exists already which was inspected to see if it was suitable.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether there has been some confusion in his department and is that the reason why that proposal or letter has not reached his department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have done in my department, what we're trying to do, is to get a supervisor to run the outpost camp program in Nunavut communities.

That is the reason why we are hiring that individual to look into these applications and to look after the future applications for these types of operations and the suitability of those outpost camps for inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response and because they are hiring an individual to look after outpost camps for inmates.

And Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question. Any community that puts out a proposal for an outpost camp for inmates, what kinds of equipment do they require in the camp before they can get approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They have guidelines that they have to follow.

I could provide the member with the guidelines that are in existence and they give information on what kinds of equipment they have to have and what things they have to do. I was happy to have some capital funds approved so that we also have some money in the capital budget for those outpost camps for inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is there an application form that the people can use to make a proposal to your department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, all you have to do is prepare a letter or proposal and you can have the assistance of my staff to put a proposal in writing.

Like I said before, we're trying to hire an individual to look after the outpost camp operators for inmates and I would like to receive also a proposal from your community so you can get assistance from my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 346 – 1(6): Implementing Assessment Testing**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister responsible for Education.

My colleague from Qamanittuaq would say it's no secret that one of the things that I have raised in this House over the last two years at least has been the fight, if you might say Mr. Speaker, of the Iqaluit District Education Authority to implement assessment testing here in the schools of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I know through the Bathurst Mandate to this government that education has been a priority and they are as we are, trying our best to improve our education system within Nunavut.

Given that Mr. Speaker, I know the minister's officials met with the IDEA last week in regards to that issue. I would just like to ask the minister if he is committed to idea of implementing standardised testing here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am, as I stated to my officials and the people of the District Authority regarding this testing, at this time wanting to see, and also and knowing that there is a need for putting in measures, to see how our students are doing and how well the education system is working in Nunavut.

One thing I have to be cautious of Mr. Speaker, is the language of Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun or French being used in our schools. To do testing in our schools, we have to take this into consideration and make sure that we are not enforcing one language but to make sure when we do testing that we take into consideration other languages in the best interests of students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** We need a quorum members. Just a reminder that when we are short in the House, that everybody on both sides should make an effort to stay in the House, until we finish our business. Thank you. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can see the minister's kind of dancing around answering the question it would appear, but again I would like to ask if he is committed to assessment testing in the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to be very clear of that, I am committed to evaluating or testing of students to see what they are learning and have learned in our schools.

However I will state to the members and be very clear that I do not support at this time standardised testing for one language only in the schools because we have to take into consideration that they are learning more than one language, those are the factors that we have to consider in doing this testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that the IDEA has proposed, and the minister's indicated in the past that he positively looked to establishing pilot projects in Iqaluit to implement assessment testing in the first stages. We here in Iqaluit I would assume are just in the English first language classrooms and not the Inuktitut or French streams here.

So, just on the minister's last comment is he still committed to looking implementing those tests that the IDEA is trying to implement here in Iqaluit to assess and determine the strengths and weaknesses of the educational system itself, not the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I got involved with the discussions regarding testing, as I had stated to the Iqaluit District Education Authority, I am committed to looking at piloting testing measures to see how our students are ranking within the current system that we have and with what they're learning.

So I am committed to looking at testing for the schools and the District Education Authority's test project that they want to take on. So my staff and I are committed to working with District Education Authority's and working out what kinds of tests that they want to undertake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister's indicated a couple of times now that it's been testing the students to see how they rank. Mr. Speaker, I made it clear and the District Education Authority's made it very clear, it's not the students that these tests are targeted at.

The tests are based on the curriculum that is being used in our schools, which is the Alberta curriculum. The tests are standardized tests based on that curriculum to determine whether our system, our education system, is where it should be and if not they're used to determine where the problems may be.

So, without knowing where those problems are, how can you fix something and I think that's what the District Education Authority is trying to do through the schools here in Iqaluit, is to identify possible weaknesses or gaps in the system to ensure that the students here in Iqaluit are getting the quality of education, so that they can address those problems and ensure that the students are getting the quality education that they're going to need and deserve in the future.

I am asking will he commit to; I know the District Education Authority wants to implement these standardized tests on Alberta tests based on the Alberta curriculum in the schools. Would he commit to ensuring that that happens? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can state to the member that in our schools today, Nunavut schools use standardized testing in grade 12 in relation to the Alberta academic subjects, English, mathematics, and sciences and we also participate in the National SAE test from the Council of Ministers of Education for students, age 13 to 16.

So, we are currently participating in some testing, however, to your comments about needing to do further tests to determine their level of learning; for both languages, or all languages that they teach in schools, we have to take that into consideration. Also Mr. Speaker, we have to recognize that the Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun languages are most important to a lot of the parents in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Question 347 – 1(6): Lower Fuel Price During Winter**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is very brief. The letter that I read in my Members' Statement stated that they use up a lot of fuel in the wintertime and I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Public Works and Services.

This winter for those three months that the fuel will be used in primarily, it is very expensive. We use up a lot of fuel for the homeowners.

I wonder if it is possible during that three month period whether that price can be subsidized during those months so it will be easier on our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The letter that he read under Members' Statements was very good to hear. To date the Government has not agreed or has not discussed the possibility of bringing the prices of the heating fuel down.

And there was also a mention where the houses should be skirted during the wintertime. In regards to his question, we haven't had any prior discussions about it so I cannot reply at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that he cannot give a response at this time. Maybe he can commit to being able to have a discussion to see if it would be an option for the three months where it is coldest.

In some communities, where the homeowners don't make very much money and they have to have food, a lot of times they run out of fuel and it gets really cold in the houses, especially when they have to use a lot of fuel in the winter.

I would like to ask the Minister if he can commit to starting departmental considerations on trying to find some way they can assist. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my question.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was the first time that we have heard about it. I cannot say that I will commit, but I would have to have discussions with my Cabinet colleagues, maybe with the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

I am sure that we can have a discussion but I cannot say that we will agree to this. That is the only response that I can give you at this time. The concern that you have is very sensible and quite reasonable. I just want to inform the Member that we have not had any previous discussions on the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You selected a different contract so you could save 19 million dollars, that is a lot of savings so keep that in mind and I am making a reasonable request, if you are going to be saving that much, I am

pretty sure that you should be able to afford to lower the prices of fuel. Can this be given consideration? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His reference to the 19 million dollars that we will be saving is in the revolving fund of petroleum products which we use to serve the communities.

The question that he's raising or making reference to the 19 million, I can't give an answer at this time, but I'm just saying that his concern is very logical but we haven't had the time to give this proper consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He doesn't seem to understand what I'm trying to ask. I was asking if this can be given consideration in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to assist and support the residents of Nunavut especially with heating fuel and especially the older people of Nunavut we try to assist them.

And we already give them assistance in regards to fuel so they won't spend too much and we assist our elders in that way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 348 – 1(6): Employees Wellness Service Program Move to Nunavut**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources.

I have asked about the 700 thousand dollars that I keep raising that goes to Ottawa for employee assistance and he stated that the position would be moved to Nunavut on September 30. I want to know what the status is now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry but I would like her to repeat her question please.

**Speaker:** Ms. Williams, can you kindly repeat the question? Thank you.

**Ms. Williams:** I will repeat it in English but I think I'm forgetting to speak in Inuktitut here. My question to the minister is about that employees' wellness program that we've been spending 700 thousand dollars on for an 800 number in Ottawa.

The minister indicated that it will be moved to Nunavut by September 30<sup>th</sup>. I would like the minister to update us as to how this is working out in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has been looking at this and how the employees can benefit from the employees' wellness program. I would like to update my colleague about that position which was going to be moved after I get further information from my officials. Then I will let my colleague know. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate that this program has been moved to Nunavut? It's a lot of money for the minister not to know, it's 700 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have an employee now to review that in Human Resources, the Employee Wellness Program, and we have set that up under our department. To reply to her question, in our department, yes, there is such a position. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I understand; if I call this 1-800 number would I get a response from Iqaluit or Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to call this number to find out where I would get the response. As I do not have an answer to that question I'll have to check and maybe call that number to find out. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was my initial part of the question. The Minister indicated before that it would be moved to Nunavut and it would not be in

Ottawa anymore. To this day the Minister does not know. I would appreciate getting a clear answer, we're always looking for jobs, and we are just putting 700 thousand dollars into Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Ms. Williams. That's more of a comment but is the Minister is prepared to address it? Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make it clear that we're not just putting 700 thousand to Ottawa for the sake of doing so. It is for a service. To the member's question, I will make sure that my response will be very clear as to where this service is being provided at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Members will note that question period is now over. It's probably over for this year with Ms. Williams having the last say. 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. Premier Okalik.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 073 – 1(6): GN Appointment, Compensation and Benefits - Deputy Minister Employment and Compensation Terms**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents; GN Appointments, Compensation and Benefits, Deputy Minister Appointments, Compensation terms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. Item 13. 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. Premier Okalik.

### **Item 15: Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 27 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) - Notice**

**Hon. Pal Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, December 5, 2002 I shall move that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two day rule notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Premier. The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1), so that the bill can have the first reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed.

#### **Bill 27 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) – First Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, by seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 27 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I move, seconded by the honourable member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 27, An Act to Amended the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is to postpone the coming into force of subsection 42 of the Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** I believe the Premier would like to ask for consent to continue. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I believe we have been here before and I request consent of my colleagues. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62(1) so the Bill can have Second Reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed. Mr. Minister

#### **Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) – Second Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I move, once again seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is to postpone the coming into force of subsection 42 of the Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, my colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 67 (2) and order Bill 27 to the Committee of the Whole. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The Minister is asking unanimous consent to waive rule 67(2) so that Bill 27 can be ordered to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 27 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 13, Bill 17, Bill 18, Bill 19, Bill 27, Minister's Statement 72-1(6) and Minister's Statement 95-1(6) with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. In accordance with the authority provided to me by motion 2-1(6), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we report to the Committee of the Whole members we will take a short break for lunch. Relax members; we're going to get there. We'll return to the chamber by 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

*>>House recessed at 11.59 a.m. and resumed at 13.36 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We can begin the Committee of the Whole. During Committee of the Whole, we'll be reviewing Bill 13, Bill 17, Bill 19, Minister's Statement 72-1(6) and Minister's Statement 95-1(6). At this time what is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to begin with reviewing Bill 13 and after that we'll do Bill 17 and then from there we'll move to Bill 19, Bill 27 and Minister's Statement 72-1(6). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We're reviewing Bill 13. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the committee today to address Bill 13.



This bill Mr. Chairman will amend the yearly maximum insured remuneration, known as YMIR to be increased to 64 thousand, 500 dollars for 2003. YMIR is reviewed on an annual basis by the Worker's Compensation Board of Directors and accepted on a recommendation of the board by both Legislative Assembly's of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

YMIR as a fundamental element of Worker's Compensation is used to determine benefits that are payable to injured workers.

Mr. Chairman, when a worker is injured and becomes entitled to Worker's Compensation he or she is paid 90% of his or her net earnings up to the amount of YMIR for as long as the disability continues.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation is seeking approval to increase the YMIR to 64 thousand, 500 dollars from the current rate of 63 thousand 350 dollars that was the last increase in 2001.

I am pleased to answer any questions members may have on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Any questions, comments? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act.

Mr. Chairman, section 52 of the Worker's Compensation Act requires the board to review annually the amount of the year's maximum insurable remuneration or YMIR and make recommendations to the minister responsible for the Act.

In November of 2000, this Assembly passed legislation to increase the YMIR to \$63,350. Bill 13, which increases it to \$64,500, as the minister indicated, is the first such increase since then.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee is pleased that the YMIR is among the three highest in the country.

Members support this increase. However, in the interest of transparency, Members would recommend that the Minister table the methodology and data used by the Board in developing its recommendations for the appropriate rate of the "YMIR".

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening remarks. Individual members may have questions or comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we move on to Bill 13, are there any comments from the members? Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to let the members know that I have to go to the hospital and I have to leave before 2:30.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Could the Minister go to the witness table and if he has any staff. Mr. Ng I wonder if our legal counsel could come sit with us. Thank you. We can begin with the review of Bill 13. Members you have 10 minutes. Questions.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask a question. It's good to see an increase but I'd like to ask a question.

People that go out hunting and need equipment. I just wondered if it would be for those people as well, people that have had limbs amputated, so for those hunters as well?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As members know through Sustainable Development we do offer coverage for harvesters. If they are injured in the process of getting income they also qualify. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered whether they're going to be getting the maximum as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the level of income that they generated. All claims are based on the income levels of individuals. This Bill sets the maximum amount of which an individual can be covered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I had indicated in my opening comments, the committee would like to see the methodology used in how they determine what the new YMIR is going to be every year. I was just wondering if the Minister has that information or is he prepared to provide it to members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have all the details here but I will get that information from the Worker's Compensation Board and be prepared to table it in March. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is one other area that I would like to raise to the Minister. I know, as the Members know that the Worker's Compensation Act is a joint Board with the Northwest Territories and any changes that they make in their Act, we have to make in our legislation.

And on that, I know I believe it was in the last couple of months, the NWT amended, made amendments to their act dealing with the disposition of real properties.

I'm just wondering if the minister plans on bringing forward the similar amendment for us to review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. That will be again in March. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** It's a general question to inform this House. I would like to ask the minister the composition of the board and if they are from NWT and Nunavut and if the members are equal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have two representatives from Nunavut, Mr. Alain Carrierre from Iqaluit and Mr. Alex Stewart from Cambridge Bay. The NWT I believe has five or six members that represent the Northwest Territories portion of the board. That was based on the agreement that was reached prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> in 1999, on the transition agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Office of the Interim Commissioner at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on that question, are we expecting a new board coming soon, are there going to be an equal number of board members for each jurisdiction ...*no audio*...

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the decision on the proportional representation of the board was based on the number of businesses from each territory that generated revenue for the Workers' Compensation Board; the number of clients in other words.

I guess all things being said that we would want to review the situation as things do change and ensure the make up of the board is still representative of that.

So, I couldn't say for sure that there would be changes, but I think we would be open to review that with our counterparts in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long is this existing board going to be running? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the board membership is renewed on a regular basis and I generally think the terms are for two years in respect of board members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any more questions on Bill 13? I think we can go clause by clause. Are there any more questions from the members? Bill 13, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. We're going to go clause by clause. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Bill 13 as a whole. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Is Bill 13 ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can move on to Bill 17.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. We can recommence our meeting on Bill 17. Does the minister have opening comments? Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, as you know this bill is to provide additional funding for Operations and Maintenance for the Government of Nunavut departments.

We're asking for 5 million, 296 thousand and the major components are 2 million, 976 thousand for the Department of Education and 2 million, 165 thousand for the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are there any general comments from the committee members? Mr. Tootoo. No? Thank you. Bill 17. We can move on to Bill 17. Any general comments? If there are no general comments from the members, any questions? I don't think there are any questions or comments. That is good to see.

In our supplementary, under Number 4, we can now proceed with the review. Minister Ng, if you would like to go to the witness table or if you prefer your chair for the presentation. Please proceed, Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: I am prepared to go into the clause by clause detail. I think I've got enough information here that's required, we can ask the witnesses to come in after.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Will you be sitting there during your presentation, Minister Ng?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Yes.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): You can go onto these binders. The title is the Supplementary Appropriation Act, Operations and Maintenance, 2002/2003, No. 1.

None of you have the appropriate copies? The title is the Supplementary Appropriation Act for Operations and Maintenance, 2002/2003, No. 1.

We'll take a 5 minute break while we sort out the proper placement of the pages and figures that we are supposed to review. Thank you, 5 minute break.

*>>House recessed at 13.53 p.m. and resumed at 14.04 p.m.*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I'm sure everyone has a copy at this time? Can you please go to page four, Bill 17?

Legislative Assembly. Operations and Maintenance. Work not previously authorized. Office of the Clerk, 100 thousand. If you can go to that page; are you on that page? Any comments on this page? If not, we'll just move on.

Legislative Assembly. Operations and Maintenance. Not previously authorized. Office of the Clerk, 100 thousand. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stated earlier that I would be going to the hospital but the doctor I was to see is too busy so I don't necessarily have to go to the hospital. Therefore I am going to remain here, just for your information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Yes, moving on to the Supplementary Appropriation, negative 100 thousand, it is in brackets.

Total Office of the Clerk, negative 100,000. Are you agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Department, negative 100,000. Do you agree?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 5. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I happen to have a question on that page. In regards to this special warrant, 1 million, 575 thousand that was issued on June 19, 2002 to fund interim payments for compensation claims to owners of snow machines and outboard motors as a result of the supply of bad gasoline.

I would like to ask the minister this question. The minister stated that they already had 1,300 claims. I was wondering if that was the total amount 1,300 and how many hunters were denied compensation after they put in their claims? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the member is referring to claims for four stroke engines there were 59 claims out of the total of 1,360 claims. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my question was how many claims were rejected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the member is asking questions about how many specifically for the two stroke engines, no claims were rejected.

I mean they were all processed and partial payments or final payments made on those approximately 1,300 claims to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I'm making myself clear here. I'm not talking about 2 or 4 stroke engines, I'm talking about your sentence up here talking about special warrants for 1 million, 575 thousand that was issued in June. The minister indicated that there were 1,300 claims and all of those claims are being paid, or are there any claims that the government could not pay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the point I was trying to make is, that all of the claims have been processed and none have been rejected. In respect to some, they have been right through to the final stages like completely paying off the whole claim.

Others are in the interim stage but there are parts that have been partially paid but having said that, there still are claims coming in as we speak, because recognizing that we announced the December 31 deadline there were more individuals who were waiting and now some claims have continued to come in.

So we'll have a better idea of the total picture some time in January once the deadline is past and all the claims should have been in by then. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are there further questions? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation)? Mr. Chairman, at the bottom of the lower paragraph, a special warrant was issued on October 9 to fund payments related to the design, development and construction of the Kivalliq Health Centre. So, who was allocated this 590 thousand? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was to authorize the government to pay for additional services or claims that the Sakku Corporation might have had in respect to the Kivalliq Health Centre work that was outside of the service contract.

To date, nothing has been paid. The authority is there. We expected it. The reason why the special warrant was issued at that time was as you may recall the government made a decision to take over the development and the ongoing work on the Kivalliq Health facility. There was a special warrant on the capital side for 3 million, 475 thousand in respect of the service contract work that had been done.

We expected that there was additional work claimed that they have put forward to the amount of 590 thousand dollars, which is still under negotiations right now.

That hasn't been confirmed, there hasn't been anything that has been paid out against that yet, but the authority is there, once the settlement has been finalized. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the minister's remarks before in the 590 thousand dollars, he indicated that was for things outside of the contract that they had with Sakku. Why are we paying for something that was done outside of the contract, if there was no authorization within the contract to do that work, why are we paying for stuff outside of the contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I said it was the preliminary information from Sakku, in respect of what they felt was their additional administrative and legal costs as a result of prolonged negotiations with the Government of Nunavut in moving forward on this project.

So again, having said that, none of these have been confirmed, it was to allow us, if a decision was reached because we had some concern about the timeliness of receiving this information and work from Sakku, if that were to be confirmed it gave us the authority at that time to spend that money to close off the negotiations.

To date, the issues are still outstanding, nothing has been paid out and we have received the bulk of the work that had been completed by Sakku and we continue to move forward on the overall project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm still wondering why we are still paying for something that is outside of a contract. If someone works for you outside of a contract and was not authorized to do that, you are kind of going out on a limb there and I wonder why we would be looking at paying bills like that.



In here it states that it was related to the design and development of the concepts of the health centre and the minister indicated that because of delays and negotiations and legal costs and things like that.

So I would like to get a little more clarification on that, what it is going to be for and also whether the minister has an indication on how much they are looking at other than 590 thousand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would be for things that were outside of the service contract; things you can look at would be the possibility of reasonable return on some of the work done to date and some of the things that were done prior to the actual service contracts, in the lead up to agreements and negotiations that took place between the development corporation and then the Government of Nunavut over the course of three years.

So like I said those are outstanding issues that they thought they had legitimate claims to, but they have not been finalized yet and these allowed the authority for the government to pay that. At that time we issued a special warrant in June when we made the decision, sorry I was told, when we made a decision to take back the contract from Sakku on the Health facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated that one of the things that they are looking at is just the return on, I guess, the profit for Sakku that was for the work done.

I'm just wondering, wouldn't those amounts have been included in the service contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, like I said earlier it was for stuff outside of the service contract. Things that would have taken place before we entered this specific service contract work with the Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I go back to my question, why are we paying for something that we never authorized to be done as the Minister indicated it was something outside of the contract. Why are we paying for something we didn't authorize? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng.

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it goes back to being fair in how we treat the companies that work with our government. If they feel that there is a reasonable return, a reasonable reimbursement that they feel is justified we will talk to them about that.

And if it's legitimate then we'll authorize the payment, if it's not legitimate, then we will not authorize the payment just like everything else. So it goes back to trying to treat the companies in a fair manner.

Particularly given that Sakku, as all of us know around here, there was a considerable amount of time that both the government and the officials from Sakku put into efforts to try and move forward with the Kivalliq Health Facility. In the end, it didn't work out and there are some reasonable costs that we think they should be reimbursed for.

But it's a matter of getting to the point of identifying and justifying what is fair, and what is not fair. That is what we are trying to do in this situation, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, would the Minister be willing to inquire about the issuing of the payment for those services and bring back any negotiated amounts and reasons to the Members why those payments are there?

Exactly what they are to be made for, if you are willing to bring that back to the Members of this House prior to the payment being issued? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would be willing to advise the Members of what the final outcome was. I'm not prepared to bring back that information prior to us paying it. I mean we don't negotiate in the Standing Committee process, in the Committee of the Whole process with individuals or contractors that we enter into discussions with.

I mean, that is the responsibility of the government. I mean if there is something that happens that you don't feel is right, then you can hold us accountable for that and that's what it comes down to. That is why I said that I am willing to provide the information after the negotiations are completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you can assure him we appreciate his comments as we are working towards an open and transparent government.

Does the government have a policy or are they just winging it as they go along on how this process goes? The Minister indicated they want to be fair to the companies that they deal with.

You know, I believe this is probably the first case that this is happening. Like, is there going to be some kind of policy, some kind of guidelines? Criteria that are established for the government to follow in dealing with situations like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is the policies and guidelines within Public Works and Services where they have the experience and the corporate history in dealing with contractors and we needed their expertise to help us formulate that.

They are the ones that are leading the negotiations in respect of what is and what is not an allowable expense here in this situation. I'm trying to move it forward, and trying to negotiate a final settlement on this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Is that it? To go on page 5. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): In regards to the compensation claims process on the bad gasoline, which was for June 19, 2002-2003. Do you think that this amount will be enough up to December 31<sup>st</sup>? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we expect that we will be coming back with a final amount. Like I said sometime, when we sit in March after we have more substantiation and more claims that come forward by the deadline of December 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deadline for claims is December 31<sup>st</sup>. I bought a new four-wheeler machine in 2001 and they usually last a long time. It broke down this summer and it was definitely due to the bad gas.

It takes a long time for parts to come in, especially to our community in the High Arctic. I ordered the requisite parts but they have not come in yet. We don't know how much it will cost until the parts arrive and there might be other people in that situation.

Is the funding still available after December 31<sup>st</sup>, or can it be delayed? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have announced that December 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline.

If there are extenuating circumstances outside of an individual's control in respect of receiving parts, or final invoicing, etc., we will look at that on a case-by-case basis. For all intents and purposes, we have said that December 31<sup>st</sup> is the cut-off date and that is the date that we are using. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): We found out that the gas was bad in 2002 and the deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002. Are you only dealing with 2002 bad gas claims and is that why there is that deadline? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I am not sure what that question was, Mr. Chairman. If the Member would not mind clarifying that?

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Back in 2002, we found out that the gasoline was bad. It is still 2002, and the deadline is December 31<sup>st</sup>. On January 1<sup>st</sup> it will be 2003. Is this deadline just for the occurrences of 2002? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. I am sorry that I did not hear the last part so if can you repeat again Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Since it is still 2002, was it just convenient to have December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2002 as your deadline? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** It was felt that because all the re-supply for the current fiscal year is in place with the high quality replacement fuel that we know is there, there is enough time for individuals that may have been impacted by last year's supply, to put in claims for them. That is why December 31<sup>st</sup> was chosen as the date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Is that it? Any other comments? If there are no other comments, we will go on to page 5.

Special Warrants 2 million, 165 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The total Department, 2 million 165 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): And Total Department, 2 million, 165 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 6. Any comments on this page? If there are no comments, we'll go on to the figures. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I missed a page here under the Technical Services. There's an additional 135 thousand for payments related to this. I'm involved in the construction for the Iqaluit health centre.

Is this payment also going to Sakku or is this something just the government, the Department of Public Works costs in addition to the other ones that they are negotiating for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Chairman, this payment is specific to Public Works to assist them in taking on the development of the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, so that's the additional cost above and beyond the 590 thousand outlined in the previous page for the same types of costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Chairman, this is additional resources for the Department of Public Works and Services for them to take on their responsibilities for the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Working backwards, start at the bottom and work up. Under the operations part, there's a provision of 86 thousand for leasing of office space on behalf of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I'm just wondering, they are looking for another new office in the Parnaivik Building. I'm just wondering why this is, why that's in there and not in the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because, Mr. Chairman, Public Works and Services pays for the office space for the department. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And corporations too, by the sounds of it. Is this additional 86 thousand on top of what the corporation had budgeted for office space for this year?

I would imagine that they would've had money budgeted for office space already for the year. I guess this is over and above? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Housing Corporation was in the Trigram Building, they moved into the Parnaivik Building. The space that was in the Trigram place was taken over by CLEY.

So in effect, CLEY really ended up with an additional space which was paid for by Public Works.

The new space in Parnaivik that we're asking for here, the 86 thousand is for the new Housing Corporation space. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm a little confused, I know like if the corporation was leasing space in the Trigram Building, they would have had a budgeted amount of dollars for lease costs for the year.

When the department moves from one building to another, do they lose that portion of their budget?

I'm wondering they must've had money budgeted for leasing already in their budgets and you know, just because they moved to another place does that mean they lose their money, do they have to get new money for this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the space, the lease in the Parnaivik building, sorry, in the Trigram Building was held by Public Works.

They hold the leases, they pay for the leases for all government departments and you're right in this case, the Nunavut Housing Corporation as well.

So, the impact on Housing is negative, additional space is required by Public Works, and they're requesting the money for additional space for leasing for the Housing Corporation.

If it was Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that had moved in, they'd be requesting on behalf of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, it just happens to be that it's the Housing Corporation situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still not sure, I still think that there was money budgeted for the lease space for the corporation or the department or whatever throughout and I'm not sure why don't take their budgeted dollars with them from one place to another.

Even it was something within Public Works paying for lease costs for the Housing Corporation before, I mean, I'm just saying this is on top of dollars that they already had budgeted for their lease costs that they had in the Tri-gram Building. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. The easiest way to explain it is that regardless whether it was Culture, Language, Elders and Youth or the Nunavut Housing Corporation; there is additional space of 86 thousand that Public Works is requesting.

So, if the Housing Corporation stayed in Trigram and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth through their expansion had moved into the Parnaivik Building, the request would have been for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for the 86 thousand.

So, I don't know if that more clearly explains it. There is an additional space for the government needs that is coming forth from Public Works and Services here; this 86 thousand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand the minister now. This is new space on top of what they already had so I think that's what he's indicating.

Does the minister have an idea of how much overall, is this 86 thousand for the year that the corporation is paying for office leases or is it more than that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in this case 86 thousand is a pro-rated cost for the balance of the current year. The overall annual costs are actually that 103 thousand overall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? I'm sorry. Going to page 6. Any comments. If there are no comments, Public Works and Services. Supplementary Appropriations. Not previously authorized, 164 thousand. Not previously authorized. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total 164 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Operations, 118 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Technical Services, 135 thousand.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Department, 135 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): 282 thousand, not previously authorized. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turning the page. Page 7. Any comments on that page? Page 7. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not dealt with the 100 thousand not previously authorized. How do you know that you need that amount of money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are all internal transfers within the Department of Public Works and Services for the informatics requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): The Minister stated that these are transfers, which Department are they coming from?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 12 thousand is from Community Government Directorate and the 100 thousand is for Public Works from Community Government that is for the motor vehicles.

I am not sure which item he is referring to, Mr. Chairman. If he can be more specific, I can be more specific. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Intergovernmental Department transfer, it states that under the Department of Community Government and Transportation, 2002-2003 and special warrants and not previously authorized, under that within the brackets there is 12 thousand dollars. And it is 112 thousand in total.

I am trying to ask the question why they would be transferred to Public Works from Community Government and Transportation. Does the Minister know which department they are going to? And how did you know that you needed this much? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are all going to Public Works and Services for warehouse and storage space leases for the motor vehicles office facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was there an emergency situation? Is that why you want to spend this much money? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No this is not a special warrant situation. This is a supplementary request, an internal transfer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe because Public Works is giving out expensive contracts. Is that the reason why? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, it is just to meet the community government needs for the Motor Vehicles branch. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Is that it? Community Government and Transportation not previously authorized, negative 12 thousand. Total directorate, negative 12 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Transportation, negative 100 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total transportation 100 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Department 112 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turning the page. The Department of Education not previously authorized. Any comments? Corporate Services 64 thousand. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on the last 1 million, 293 thousand to provide funding for the additional operational requirements of the Nunavut Arctic College and increased leasing costs of additional student housing units. I will speak in English.

(interpretation ends) I want to refer to the Auditor General's report page 22, number 16. During our audit, we observed that based on the college's records, revenue for residents had decreased in the prior year, again based on the college's records, the vacancy rate for residences was around 80%.

Can the Minister clarify that, we're spending more money on this and we've approached 80% vacancy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the details on the vacancy rate for Nunavut Arctic College residents, I mean that's something that the Minister of Education can reply to or Nunavut Arctic College officials themselves, but I'll make a commitment to provide that information on behalf of my colleague. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Anything else Ms. Williams?

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. I am requesting some clarification or we could take the auditor general's report as not being accurate? I just want to get some clarification on that Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated that I have to get more detailed analysis and information on that, that specific item, I wasn't aware of that. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Anything else, Ms. Williams?

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same line, 1 million, 293 thousand dollars additional operational requirements for Arctic College and increased leasing costs for an additional thirty housing units. Is this in Iqaluit or is this in other regions, either Kivalliq or Kitikmeot, where is this? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, four units are for Rankin Inlet, and eight units are in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it's good to see some additional student housing units here in Iqaluit, I'm sure members are aware that we all received letter from an individual that was trying to become a hairdresser. That person wanted to be able to move back to her community and go into business herself but wasn't able to and ended having to quit her course and leave because there weren't adequate accommodations.

So I think it's good to see some additional units here, I was just wondering are those units, are they for people that didn't have married family accommodations, is that what these units here in Iqaluit are for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are for married student family housing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier in the session that they did something that seems to be falling, continually falling back on the capital plan, the married residences here in Iqaluit are a good example of you know, the government acknowledges that there is a need for it, having to go out and do stuff just to get places for students to live.

So it's good to see that they recognized this issue and it's something that they have to deal with, hopefully we won't be continuing to see the students' married residences in Iqaluit falling off.

We keep getting pushed back on the capital plans, on the other amount just for additional operational requirements, for the college. Can the minister elaborate what that's for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, the 300 thousand is for increased utilities and maintenance costs for college buildings, 550 thousand is for student family housing units that they already have leases for over and above what I mentioned earlier, 100 thousand is for increased operating costs at the head office in Arviat and 343 thousand is for student family housing again as mentioned earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so it's roughly 1 million that the Nunavut Arctic College is basically running into a deficit over the year.

I'm just wondering what measures are being taken to, is something that is their base funding going to be increased next time around so that they don't run a deficit or measures being taken to make sure that they live within their means that they're going to allocate to them and don't over spend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes this is also base funding adjustments through Nunavut Arctic College to recognize the increase in operating costs that they have encountered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else Mr. Tootoo? Page 8. Department of Education. Operations and Maintenance. Not previously authorized. Negative 64,000. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Corporate Services. Total Corporate Services, negative 64 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Adult Education and Post-secondary services, 1 million 243 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Adult Education and Post-secondary services, 1 million 243 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turn the page. Page 9. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the school services, it talks about funding for 2002/2003 which will cover community consultations of 250 thousand and the printing of the Inuktitut version of Inuqatigiit.

Can the minister tell us who they consulted with, which communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information here but we can find that out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuqatigiit document, it was to be done in Inuktitut and translated into English. Is this English into Inuktitut translation now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I don't have that level of detail with me and I commit to supplying it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes it's frustrating to try to approve the funds when you don't have enough information. It's just a comment. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. That was just a comment. Any further comments or questions? Department of Education. Not previously authorized. School Services, 400 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total. School Services, 400 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): School Operations, 1 million 397 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total School Operations, 1 million 397 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Departments, 2 million 976 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Go on to the next page, page 10. Health and Social Services Department. Not previously authorized. Directorate, negative 50 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Directorate, negative 50 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Go back to page 2. Schedule One. Operations and Maintenance. Total Maintenance Appropriation, 5 million 296 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Bill 17 as a whole.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Then we'll move on to Bill 17 clause by clause. Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance, Act No. 1, 2001/2002/2003. We can vote clause by clause; do you have that in your binder? So we'll start off with Clause 1. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 3. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 4. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 6. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 7. Schedule. Appropriation Amounts Appropriated for Fiscal Year Ending March 31<sup>st</sup>. Total Supplementary Appropriation, 5 million 296 thousand. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Bill as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Does the Committee agree that the Bill is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 19, Budget Measures Implementation Act. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to appear before the committee to discuss the Budget Measures Implementation Act. This Bill will enact tax changes the government announced during its budget speech last spring.

Mr. Speaker, the Bill will reduce the personal income tax rate for all Nunavut taxpayers, it will also increase tax credits that are strategically designed to help lower to middle income earners. Corporate tax rates are also reduced as part of this Bill.

Nunavut is now known as one of the most competitive jurisdictions within Canada. I look forward to answering any questions that Members may have. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Minister Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed Bill 19, the Budget Measures Implementation Act.

Mr. Chairman, Members of this House will recall that in the fall of 2001, the Legislative Assembly reviewed and approved the Bill to introduce the so-called Tax On Income System in Nunavut.

This system is intended to give the provinces and territories greater flexibility in implementing tax measures that suit their own particular circumstances. Mr. Chairman, at that time the Standing Committee recommended to the Government of Nunavut that they must carefully consider how to address issues such as the need to reduce the tax burden on elders and the disabled, of the need to stimulate job creation and to encourage businesses to set up in Nunavut or allocate a portion of their income here and the need to address the high cost of living in Nunavut.

The committee is pleased that the Budget Measures Implementation Act, acts on these issues. The committee supports the passage of this bill and the committee is of the view the Government of Nunavut must evaluate the success of these tax measures over the coming years with respect to their success in achieving the goals I just mentioned.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments and I'm sure that the other members may have comments or questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we move on to considering the bills, we're going to take a 10 minute break and once the 10 minutes is over, we'll resume.



>>*House recessed at 14.56 p.m. and resumed at 15.16 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 19 the Budget Measures Implementation Act. I think that we can move on to that Bill. Are there any questions or general comments? If there are no general comments, we will move on to a clause by clause review. Bill 19 Budget Measures Implementation Act. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in general, a question on it before we get into this clause by clause. In this system and as I said in my opening remarks, it allows us to structure our tax credits and things like that to suit our needs and address areas where we as the Government of Nunavut decide it is best needed.

I am just wondering if this is going to significantly, if there will be a decrease in taxes as a government we are collecting from our own sources.

I am just wondering if you know based on an article that I recall seeing, I am not sure if it was in the spring or this summer, comments by the Prime Minister talking about these jurisdictions that apply for more money and yet they are lowering their own taxes.

I am just wondering what kind of impact if any, the Minister is anticipating, or does he anticipate any concerns as a result of this in our desperate plight for additional funding from the Federal Government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the overall impact of our own source revenue reduction is not significant given the overall magnitude of the sources for revenue from the Federal Government. The impact is minimal in respect of our reduction of our income tax rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just for the record, if I could just ask the Minister, can the Minister indicate what they are projecting the impact will be on our revenues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Overall, Mr. Chairman, I believe the changes were 6 million dollars approximately in lost revenues to the Government of Nunavut as a result of these income tax changes. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, will this have any impact on two things, I guess.

One, the funds that we receive through the formula financing agreement other than the lost revenues that the minister had indicated, was there any other consequential impact on any revenues through the formula financing agreement that may happen as a result of this six million lost in own source revenues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For all intents and purposes no, because of the small magnitude of the overall reduction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same lines as the formula financing agreement, we all know that this is something that's under review. Will any changes like this have a negative impact on the review for the formula financing agreement with our federal colleagues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, prior to our putting forward these decreases we did make sure the Federal Finance and the Federal Minister's office were aware and there was no concern one way or another that was expressed at that time.

So I would hope that would also prevail in due course over our work in re-negotiating our formula financing agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With these changes, I'm sure the Minister of Finance has a better idea than me, are there going to be any costs to the government for making the required changes that we have here other than the lost revenue like just in the administration and set up of this new system and as well what amounts are we looking at?

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe so and if so it would be minimal as well under our current arrangement with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in our tax collection agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think if memory serves me correct, that when we were doing the TONI bill last year, the minister had indicated that any changes or any costs as a result of the implementation of this legislation would be

borne by the Federal Government. I just wanted to confirm if that is still the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe so. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states that we'll lose six million that the territorial government gets from the federal government.

Who will be affected by this reduction, will all the residents be affected or will just the employees be affected? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is all Nunavut tax filers, those who would be entitled to paying Nunavut income tax. The income taxes would have a reduction so in effect it's not the federal government but our tax filers. Anybody earning income in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hamlets in the communities are given funding from the department of CG&T; will that amount be reduced because of this reduction in our revenues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nutarak. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: No, it wouldn't, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a question to follow up on my opening comments.

As a Chairperson for the Standing Committee that reviewed the legislation, and in there it indicated that the committee felt that the government must evaluate the success of these tax measures over the coming years and to ensure that they are achieving the goals that they set out to do and I think that's a crucial moment of any program or service offered by government.

Forecasting measures can be a very, very valuable management tool for the government.

Can the minister outline any plans they have in ways of being able to do exactly that, to monitor and evaluate the success of these changes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in a report that is provided by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency through the tax collection agreement, we will be able to track the impacts over the course of the years that it would be in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman would the Minister commit to providing updates to this House when they do receive that information so that all members can be aware of hopefully the success of these changes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Yes, we will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Good response. Anything else? I think we can continue to Bill 19, Budget Measures Implementation Act. Are there any more general comments? Clause one. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 3. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 4. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 5. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 6. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 7. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 8. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 9. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 10. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 11. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 12. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 13. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 14. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 15. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 16. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Go to the front page. Does the committee agree to the Bill as a whole?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the Bill is reading for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are there any comments? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to go ahead with Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Change of Precedence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Change of Precedence. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Before we finish, I just wanted to thank my officials that were here, Mr. Vardy and Mr. Dingle. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I hope they heard you. Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is very short, the one that we talked about is to delay implementation for one more year because we didn't have time to complete the bill and we did our best to complete it.

I'm pretty sure we'll be able to complete it within the year, but just in case, we want to give ourselves ample time so we decided on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2003. That's the only change that we anticipate to finish it within that year. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The chairperson of the committee, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as members of this House are well aware, Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and related statutes, was introduced into the House last week by the minister.

This act requires careful scrutiny and the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services provided the Bill to Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner for review.

We've just now received her detailed comments on the initiative which we will be considering and in addition the government's response over the next few weeks, prior to the resumption of the sixth session.

Bill 27 is a measure that preserves this status quo until members of this House has the time to fully consider Bill 20 and I look forward to revisiting Bill 20 in the New Year. And the committee fully endorses the passage of Bill 27. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. To Bill 27, are there any other general comments? Bill 27, an Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Change of Precedence. Bill 27. Clause 1. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Bill as a whole. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Does the committee agree that this Bill is ready for third reading?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can go on to Minister's Statement 72-1(6) - Tenant to Owner Program update. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does the Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation have comments? Minister Ng, I would like to ask if you wish to bring officials here to the witness table or are you more comfortable where you are? Minister Ng?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Witness table will be fine.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you help the witnesses? Thank you. Do you have opening comments, Mr. Tootoo do you have any comments? Sorry, hold on. Minister Ng, can you introduce your officials?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ms. Pam Hine, the President and to my left is Mr. Chris D'Arcy, Director of Policy and Planning. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, your comments?

**Mr. Tootoo:** As I indicated earlier I have a few questions that I would like to ask the Minister in regards to the Corporation's Tenant to Owner Program.

In regards to the sale of the Public Housing Units under this program, have there been any complications that have taken place with the Nunavut Housing Corporation through

the cost sharing of operations and maintenance on these units that are to be sold? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes the Nunavut Housing Corporation officials are aware the bill was introduced. I would like to say that these units were funded from CHMC who were responsible for the units and as the Members are aware their contributions will start to diminish starting in the upcoming fiscal year. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the information. Basically if we want to get rid of our public housing units and just keep the money to build new units, basically we can do whatever we want with the funding that CHMC gives us as long as it goes for housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it varies obviously the practicality of doing things. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I know there is the NDAP program under the Corporation and that's intended to provide assistance for the clients towards the down payment which is not always easiest thing to come up with.

But in cases, like under the program, can it also be used to reduce the mortgage payments of clients to a level that they can afford more to pay under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it was intended to make it affordable for individuals to own their own homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is meant to lower the mortgage payments, I guess it's to make it affordable for people to own their homes. But in cases like this, where they will be getting a house at a reasonable rate, probably nothing close to the open markets, especially here in Iqaluit with the demand right now, will it be used to lower the mortgage payments for the people applying under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the market rate, depending on the community, the clients would be eligible provided they meet the criteria for all the programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Are there any more comments? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I'd indicated shortly after the minister did his statement in the House during question period that the affordability level established by lenders and guarantors like the banks and CMHC is 30% which includes the mortgage payments, principal and interest, annual taxes, and I believe the heating costs.

When the corporation is re-evaluating clients with their mortgages under the Access program, will they be looking at providing additional support and assistance to people that may have already received the Down Payment Assistance Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on what context the member makes reference to additional support. If it's in respect of current programs where they'd be eligible for home repair programs, emergency repair programs etc. Yes, they would be available in respect of retroactively going back and reassessing their financial situation based on the past rate versus the current, anybody having a bit more difficulty from that perspective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with the move under this program to reassess the mortgages under the Access program to 20% of household income from 30%, just that reduction right there, does the corporation have any ideas on how much that is going to cost them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're going to address that over the course of the next six months to a year as they put this in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on top of that reduction of 10% of the income, I understand there will also be reductions from that to cover the costs of on-going operating costs and utilities, home repair, maintenance, insurance and taxes.

Does the corporation have any idea what that's going to be costing them to implement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's the same answer as before. We'll assess that over the next six months to a year.

I think what's important now is to recognize that, if he's referring to current Access clients, I mean there is a significant amount of arrears as a result of individuals not being able to afford the structure that was in place. We know that this will allow individuals to catch up on their arrears and hopefully be able to afford and sustain their units and that's the whole intent and goal of the program to try to make affordable housing available.

No matter if they are currently in an Access unit or planning to be in these potential tenant to owner units that we are offering now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman are there maximum or minimum income levels that the corporation is looking at for people to be eligible to qualify for this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it would depend on their individual financial circumstances, the less they make the more the Housing would be subsidising that mortgage. The more they make the less, if any, subsidising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just thinking that there has to be some kind of minimum threshold on this, otherwise someone whose 20% of their income less the shelter cost related to maintaining that unit, could potentially end up with a credit. You know, their income level is 20% of their income and some the communities where the shelter cost are quite high.

You know we could reduce that right down to zero or they could even have a credit. That's why I'm asking are there going to be cases where it seems like we're paying people to own their own houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess from the practical sense of things that we would say a minimum of, we haven't determined what that would be. Recognising that we wouldn't think that anybody who had a low income would apply for these types of units, recognising, you know there are some costs to homeownership, we would more expect lower to medium income levels would be the ones that would be the potential clients for this program. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does the department have any projections on the unit costs in the different communities. Because I know that over the years the corporation knows very well what the costs are to maintain their inventory. I think it's on average roughly 17 hundred dollars, a month, that it costs to maintain one of the public housing units in Nunavut. Again, that's just an average, it's up to I think it's as high as three thousand or so more in some of the other more remote communities.

Do you have any projections I guess on what, you know we have a program in place; surely there's been some kind of thought given to costs or savings, or implications. Even on the commitment of having to rebuild the units within three years, there must be some kind of projection that the corporation has to date on these programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member, all members know this is the first time we are selling some off some those public housing units in place. We will be actively monitoring the outcomes as we move forward on this.

Recognising that like with any other programs, they will be slow to develop and hopefully momentum will pick up if it's successful, doing things the way that we hope to be doing it. So I mean from that perspective there is some initial interest right now. There aren't any units that have been sold off or any agreements that have been made.

We're still in the consultation process right now with potential homeowners, along with the housing authorities and the CMHC. As I indicated earlier, we would be looking forward to reporting on the interest level progress in our March session. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is there an age limit on say on these units that are going to be sold off? Any units that were built last year or fifty years ago that are going to be able to be sold off. What criteria, I guess, is the Corporation using in determining what units can and will be sold and which ones will not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The criteria that we are using right now, is first of all, none of the units can have any health or safety deficiencies. So they have to be suitable units. And secondly they have to be at least ten years or older than the current housing stocks as maintained by the local housing authority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that we are not getting rid of the newer houses that we have built. On this and the Minister had indicated earlier, and I know that I raised this earlier. I think it was last week or last month. He had indicated that they were going to be sold based on the market value.

What happens in the event this is what the market value is and the client says no and does not agree with that amount, based on whether there will be any deficiencies or things like that within the unit. How will that number be reached? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if there were a situation like that we would look at some kind of independent appraisal on a unit to try to come to terms with the potential homeowner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess in determining what the market value of the price of the house is, is it just the Corporation that will be coming up with that number? Is it the LHO that will be coming up with that number? How will that number be determined if an independent appraisal report is not done for it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the intent is to do it through an appraisal of the unit prior to getting to the point of potential sale. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, will it be the LHOs that are doing those appraisals? Because I know that they are required, I believe that it is annual, to do a condition ratings on the units. Will they be able to use those in determining what the price is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it will be a professional doing that appraisal that is being carried out on the units. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would imagine that will not be cheap. That basically we are going to get someone to go around and appraise all the public housing units that we have in Nunavut over ten years old. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we would use an Appraiser that has already done a lot of work in Nunavut and is familiar with Nunavut. As you know, the housing stock is pretty standard designs overall. They don't vary that much in the communities. What would vary obviously is the condition of the state of the particular units. It will be coordinated that he or she would come in and do a number of appraisals at the same time to try to make it cost effective. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again would not, you know the LHO at the district level, or the Corporation, not be in a position to come up with, given the due condition ratings on the units, just come up with the value for any particular unit and consult with the individual wanting to buy that unit. If they could come up with a satisfactory amount that the LHO and you know, the Housing Corporation and the clients are happy with.

And you know, is it necessary to go out and get someone to appraise all these units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Chairman, I think initially it was to get the program off the ground that for the first number of appraisals we would want a professional to undertake that.

It would set certainly a benchmark for us that we can move up or down depending on the situation, on the condition of the houses. As we move forward we will have more and more experience in selling off and appraising relative to houses and units.

But there's nothing to stop individuals and the Housing Corporation of course, through the, of course with the participation of local housing authorities to develop rates that we thought were fair and everybody could agree with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll charge ahead and go back again and I'm not sure; the minister has probably looked back into the years before when we got rid of all the government staff housing.

I don't know if you know, here, staff might be aware of how that was handled where they just, there was a price for this unit, for each one of those appraised. I guess what I'm getting at is you know, an appraisal is something that we really need. You know, we know what, the LHO knows what it costs to build a unit; the corporation knows what it costs to build the units.

And you know, based on condition ratings and stuff like that, I'm just wondering if this is an expense we don't really necessarily have to encounter in order to be able to come up with a comparable price that both the corporation and the clients are happy with.

And it's just going to be an extra burden on the limited resources that we do have for housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo. You have two more questions and I will find out if there are any more members who would like to ask questions. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I've indicated earlier certainly for the first number of the units, we want to make sure that we have some independency around assessed values so that we're not seen as taking advantage of our clientele, we might not have the same expertise or resources available.

So that's why it's important that they get at least for the initial phase a fair independent assessment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** This'll be, well, depending on the answer I guess, my last question. I may have one more depending on the answer and then the next bunch; I'll have a bunch that need to go together. So, I'll wait.

And under this program and under the public housing program, the elders don't have to pay rent. So, if the elders want to buy their house where they have to pay for it, they wouldn't just be given to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess you know, we'd have to consider that scenario as it came forward and I don't think we have looked at that situation yet. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am a little surprised that it hadn't been taken into consideration. I know that a lot of our communities have elder housing units our elders are living in those units and you know, I'm a little surprised that hasn't been something that has been taken into consideration.

Maybe, you know, I guess, it kind of surprises me that it wasn't. I'm just wondering if the minister can incorporate it and come up with, if they run into a situation then that could be done prior to this program going out.

If you could, you know, we need to know all of the answers and people would need to know those answers before going into it, I guess.

Someone may want to get into it and you know, if they wait and next year, they're going to be considered an elder under another program and they will not have to pay rent and get a free house if they wait for a year before they apply.

So, I think there needs to be something thought up of in this area prior to the actual implementation so that they have consistency. Will the minister be willing to commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. That was your last question for the time being until I ask the other members if they have any further questions. That does not stop you from asking further questions. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that from my point of view if an elder wanted to purchase a unit we wouldn't necessarily give him that unit.

They are responsible for their costs and they're going to have to pay for it just like any other tenant. Given that they're in public housing, they wouldn't have to be paying any rent so I couldn't see the benefit of them moving into purchasing a unit. That's why I need to look at it. I don't think there is a lot of thought put into that but certainly it's an issue we'll address. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time, I will allow Mr. Alakannuark to ask a question. Thank you.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to the lease to own program, when individuals purchase a unit they get assistance from the housing corporation.

Usually that happens for private homeowners, so in this case would they be receiving this type of assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, depending on what assistance they would require and if they're eligible for the programs that we have. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, with the new units when the individuals buy them because they have to pay for them over a period of 5 years, the first program

*...interpreter...* I'm sorry we were on the wrong channel. I'm sorry Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question at this time, there is a home ownership program we use and they have to live within their unit and pay for their mortgage within 5 to 10 years, how was this dealt with in the previous programs offered and the individuals who used to construct their own homes.

What's the difference between the old program and the new program? I just want that clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main difference Mr. Chairman, these are current units that are under the public housing program now for the existing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I'm trying to ask is, I don't know if you understood my question but I will try and make it clear this time.

With the previous program, the first time when the home ownership program was introduced with HAP, the housing they had to pay for it within 5 to 10 years. What is the difference here with the new program that they are using now?

Do they still have to wait for 5 to 10 years in order to pay for their mortgage because they can't own their own homes until they pay for their mortgage after the 5 to 10 year period after which it's their own home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're using a potential amortization period of 15 years here for the public housing tenant to own program versus, I think the Member is referring to probably the HAP program back in the mid 1980's, late



1980's I think, where the amount of the package was written off for the homeowners under different programs and different circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. I don't think I understood his question. Why is it that we're not using the write off program here because I think that's how I understood his question? Could you can clarify that. Minister Ng.

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** I didn't get the question Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the HAP housing program, in the past they used to construct their units and part of it was written off. Why can't we use that program, similar program to this one? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ng.

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because it was a different program and they are different corporations under different times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, that's clear now. Any further questions? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I know any time when there's an opportunity for people to take advantage of purchasing government assets or anything like that there's always concerns raised and I'm not saying that this is something that will happen. I just want to have people feel comfortable that the corporation has put mechanisms in place to stop people buying units and then just turning it around and selling them to someone else on the open market just to get the money for it or to a developer or something like that.

Can the Minister go through some of the safety mechanisms that they have in place for this program to ensure that it's not taken advantage of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Housing Corporation, the main mechanism we have is that we will hold the mortgage for the first five years of the units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Minister Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So basically after five years and a day a person can turn around and sell that house for profit, is that what the Minister is indicating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For all intents and purposes, probably yes. We have to recognize that individuals who are going to be approved are going to be approved and recommended by the local housing authority.

We have to base our best judgement on their knowledge of the local residents and support them in those decisions. I mean we know that every program is, for every government program we have there are loopholes. I mean any program no matter which government it is.

And we try to minimize that if we can but for all intents and purposes, you have to treat everybody as if they are acting in good faith in trying to access the programs and the integrity of the individuals in organizations that you are working with, and that's what we intend to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the previous DAP program with the corporation, it was X amount of dollars was forgiven to whatever the assistance was per year, whether it was the percentage or what over a 15 year cycle and that's what the Minister indicated, they're using a 15 year amortization.

Is there a way of implementing something like that and in these cases, if the subsidy has been provided to these homeowners, the people who took advantage of these programs, it can be paid back in an event, not just over five years but also over some of the amortization period? Over fifteen years, whether, you know a cap of a thousand or twelve hundred dollars a year something like that was forgiven. I guess depending on the level of support you had.

I don't think there was a question that this program is going to be heavily subsidised by the corporation and people taking advantage of this are going to be obtaining a high level of subsidy from the corporation. Just so we don't just get rid of all our assets, and give away all that subsidy without having some way, some mechanism in place to be able to get some of that back in an event that the individual sells the unit.

Because I know, as the minister indicated no one knows what could happen in the future and I'm sure that some of the people that buy these units are doing it with the intention of living there till they die I guess.

You know in an event that does get turned over, is there a way that something like that can be implemented, in order for the corporation to get back some of the subsidy that has gone into the unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we encounter this issue every time we try and develop a program. The issue of how to protect the interests of the Housing Corporation, and I guess the more we look at restricted measures and protective measures, the less flexibility you give to individuals, the less opportunities they have for their own financial requests that they need and the process you have to get for financing.

You know we have been restructuring our NDAP program and we've encountered the same thing. If you put covenants against it then financial institutions wouldn't look at it as equity of the client and the likelihood of them getting long term financing diminishes.

So it's a difficult balance that we have all the time but having said that, we'll look at any suggestions that the member, any members may have, that doesn't restrict the clientele or hinder them in trying to pursue their interest in becoming homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I can ask the minister if they can look at trying to find some way to do that, over a longer term, just to ensure that in five years everyone isn't getting rid of their houses and taking the money and running.

Also some these units are quite old. How long a life do some of them have left? Is there something that the... I would appreciate it if the minister and staff could take a look and report back to the members in March when he does the rest of the program. If he likes I can sit down with him and talk about it some more, outside of here.

Just again on a different issue now, in programs, you know given that government employees are living in public housing and now these individuals could buy their units and pay 20% of their gross income less the shelter and related costs for the unit.

Just wondering can the minister indicate that this is consistent with the way it treats the employees that are in staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not consistent because this is a home ownership program. We're talking about two different programs. He's talking about what is offered or subsidized as far as staff housing versus staff that are in public housing right now and quite frankly I mean, we don't discriminate on who an individual works for as far as our tenant and who might be eligible for the tenant to owner program in this situation.

It's just based on your income levels and the more you make the less you get subsidized. When you make too much you don't get any subsidy. You just pay the market value of the unit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But at what levels, I guess that's what I asked earlier. At what levels is that determined? Surely you have some kinds of numbers to figure out at what point someone is paying the full price or at what point someone is being subsidized, at what percentage on some kind of a scale. Does the corporation have that available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, anybody that's over the CNIT and I'm sure the member knows the core needs income threshold for each community for operating a house. Anybody over that would not be subsidized at their income levels. They'd be paying the full market rate of that unit.

Anybody under that, depending on their income level within the Nunavut communities, that would kick in depending on what the actual income levels are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand that and I also know that the corporation has for each community the numbers for what the shelter costs for that community should be.

Is that the amount that they're going to use to determine the reduction of their mortgage payments for those costs or is it going to be based on actual bills that are being forwarded by the tenant on a monthly basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It will be based according to the income threshold and the monthly costs that we have on record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pretty sure if I recall, those numbers are based on residential rates and not government rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member's correct.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, earlier one of my questions was on people that may be public housing tenants that work for the government. There are other people that live in staff housing and Mr. Chairman, we also have a large number, quite a few employees, people living in Nunavut that have invested in their own homes without any assistance through programs like this.

You know these individuals have made a commitment, investment in Nunavut and I'm just wondering if by having programs geared towards people in social housing that they are being, they feel that they're being somewhat penalized by not having any subsidies or they have to bear the full costs. They don't get away with the 20% costs when they go to the bank. CMHC would look at the 30% amount on their income for shelter costs so I just wonder if the corporation or the government has looked at anything to try and equalize this playing field like this so that these people that have made a commitment don't feel treated unfairly.

Some communities it is a rather large commitment, especially here in Iqaluit, you know how the housing market is like right now. They just seem to be left on their own and they don't get assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. This will be your last question according to our time to give other Members an opportunity. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to provide programs to fit as many people as we can, but like many programs, you cannot catch everybody.

To be fair that is why we adjust programs, introduce programs, and sometimes quite frankly, programs that are too expensive, such as the one that I was mentioning earlier, about half of the programs that ran for a few years become unaffordable and they have to be revamped.

So all I can say is that we will continue to try to be as fair as we can and address as many needs that we can. This is just another avenue for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** I think that this tenant to own program, I think that a lot of people are very happy with it, because it is better to have your own house than have to rent forever. The money that you have, you could put it to your own house.

My question to the Minister is we all are encouraging people to have their own houses and we have this program so that people could own them. What is in place for parts, an example, furnace parts, in the communities? How is the government expecting to have all the parts that people need in the communities?

That is one question, another part to that is people sometimes talk about wanting to take very basic furnace repair courses or maintenance, because not everybody is a carpenter,

not everybody a furnace man. Is there something in place since we are encouraging tenants to own houses in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that over the years we have seen as we have moved into the development of some of the private housing markets in our communities that you see small operators for housing maintenance, usually for, whether it is somebody that has the background that has worked with the government, worked with the Housing Authority. Whether they do that on their own after hours, you see that has happened.

In those rare instances where there is not that kind of support in maybe one of the smaller communities the local housing authorities sometimes help out if there is an emergency part required. They will lend it out with the understanding that they get it replaced by that homeowner in a timely fashion and help anybody that is in need. This is what frequently happens in some of our communities. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is exactly what happens in the communities. What I am talking about is there any way to, for example, a lot of skidoos that people have in their community, they cannot get parts for them.

Why have something in the community if you cannot improve something, or when you cannot have something to maintain, unless you borrow from Housing? Maybe one day they are in a bad mood and they don't want to give you a furnace part. What happens in those circumstances, such as water pumps, and these kinds of things?

I just wanted to understand a little bit better what the Minister has explained. That is what is happening now. Is there anything in place, or being planned or thought of to make sure that people are getting the assistance for the parts that they need? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think generally that there is a spirit of assistance and cooperation and all our communities. We haven't encountered any dramatic case where that isn't happening.

But if it were to happen and obviously in trying to support it so that our private home owners would work with the local housing authority to try to make sure that you know there is some form emergency assistance available if it was required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this I believe it is the client and they won't be going to any financial institutions I guess like that it's the corporation that they're going to be having their mortgage making their payments to. Is that correct?

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure that button works.

Mr. Chairman for the first five years they would be with a corporation held mortgage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within that first five years, if an individual has problems making their payments or arrears or something like that, at what point will it be deemed that it's not working out; will the corporation at some point step in and say okay it's not working.

You're getting too far in arrears. We're taking back the house or what are the steps, I guess those are options that hopefully won't happen but we have to plan for, in the event that they do so, I'm just wondering what happens in cases like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct in that if that unfortunate situation were to happen we would work with the client and take back obviously the unit and put it back into local housing authority stock or else find an alternative potential home owner if that were the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the client, would an individual in a case like that, after three years or something like the last couple of years that a problem or ended up having to revert back to the corporation, would they have the ability to get back any of the money that they put in the first three years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it depends, it's hard to say on a hypothetical question here. It will depend on the circumstances of the client. If he was a heavily subsidized individual more than likely not. If he put a lot of his or her income into it there may be some more flexibility. It depends on the circumstances.

It's really hard to cover all the bases I guess, not knowing what the facts are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Can you repeat your response please?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was saying, Mr. Chairman, that it really depends on the circumstances, on knowing what the future situation is with somebody that may want to turn back the unit, depending on if it was a heavily subsidized mortgage situation or if it wasn't.

If the individual had put in a lot of their own equity over time, you know, it is hard to say today what we would do. It depends on circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then hopefully this is my last question. After the five years, I know in my experience in working with the corporation that there were instances where people who did take advantage of programs came back in need for more help that were having difficulties. Whether it was changes in employment or changes in their family make up, a new child or loss of income or something like that. That would affect their ability to maintain their unit and make their payments and stuff like that.

Has there been any thought given after someone takes advantage of this program, are they still eligible to come back after and take advantage of other programs? Or once they get this program, that's all they get, never mind coming back for more money even after their circumstances change or if there has been thought given to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again it will depend on the circumstances and what programs he refers to I guess. There are different programs that if you are eligible for them, or if you are talking about the repair programs, something like that, if circumstances change and the housing conditions.

I would think the individual would be eligible, if you're talking about coming back whether there are different types of homeownership programs and he or she has already got one, and again that would be a different scenario. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Are you finished? I don't have anybody left on my list, so if there are no further questions? That tenant to owner programs update. Members wanted to put it in the Committee of the Whole to get more information and this will be utilized in the future if everybody understands.



So we'll have fewer problems in housing in Nunavut. Thank you to all of you. Minister Ng we'll give you a chance to do your closing remarks.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you to the committee and thank my witnesses, Ms. Hine and Mr. D'Arcy. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. At this time we'll take a 10 minute break.

*>>House recessed at 16.32 p.m. and resumed at 16.52 p.m.*

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

### **Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker first of all I would like to say to my wife and my children that I will be there pretty soon.

Your committee has been considering Bill 13, 17, 19, 27, Minister's Statement 72 - 1(6) and would like report that Minister's Statement 72 - 1 (6) and Bill 13, 17, 19 and 27 can be read for the third time and Mr. Speaker I move that the report Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There is a motion on the floor. Do we have a seconder? Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

### **Item 21: Third Reading of Bills**

**Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act – Third Reading**

**Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act No. 1  
2002/03 – Third Reading**

**Bill 18 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2003/04 – Third Reading**

**Bill 19 – Budget Measures Implementation Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act No 1. 2002/2003; Bill 18 Appropriation Act 2003-2004 and Bill 19, Budget Measures Implementation Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Bills have had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

**Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Bill 21, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

**Bill 25 – An Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin South/Whale Cove, that Bill 25, An Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** The Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. The Bill has had Third Reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

**Bill 26 – Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act – Third Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Uqaqti. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Bill 26, Inter-Jurisdictional Support Orders Act be read for the third time. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

**Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) – Third Reading**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the third time. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried and the Bill has had third reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day.

### **Assent to Bills**

Before we proceed with reading the of Orders of the Day, I wish to read correspondence I received from the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut. It states:

“Dear Mr. Speaker, as the Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give Assent to the following Bills:

**Bill 13 - An Act to Amend the Worker’s Compensation Act - Assent**

**Bill 17 - Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 1 2002/2003 - Assent**

**Bill 18 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2003/2004 - Assent**

**Bill 19 - Budget Measures Implementation Act - Assent**

**Bill 21 - An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act - Assent**

**Bill 25 - An Act to Amend the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act - Assent**

**Bill 26 - The Inter-jurisdictional Support Orders Act - Assent**

**Bill 27 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Change of Precedence) - Assent**

Sincerely, Lena Metuq. Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut.”

And now we can proceed to the Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

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

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003:

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
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Minister's Statement 95-1(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 conclude for the day, I'd like to extend a special thank you to our pages that have worked so hard over many long hours during the past week. We have Nick Dunphy, Luc Joamie, Jessica Pierce, Taqialoo Michael, Salomie Silatsiak, Jesse Kulutsiak, of course our Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Kilabuk. Once again thank you for all your hard work.

Just to remind the members that they can join me upstairs on the second floor. Mr. Clerk, we'll call for the Sergeant-At-Arms and hope that everybody enjoys their holiday season and a safe trip home.

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 1.30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17.01 p.m.*

