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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday March 19, 2003**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Havioyak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 134 – 1(6): Income Support Worker Training

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Good afternoon Mr. Speaker. I rise today, to advise my colleagues about upcoming training events for Community Income Support Workers. As well, Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank these 40 workers for the difficult job they do on a regular basis in administering income support.

We heard during the Income Support Review hearings that career counselling capacity should be established in all communities and that Income Support Workers should focus more on doing assessments and appropriate referrals to training and employment opportunities for income support participants.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this training is the first step to enable Income Support Workers to assist the participants in identifying issues that have prevented a successful transition to work in the last and enable them to develop and make referrals to training and educational opportunities currently available.

Mr. Speaker, the course will include subjects such as the process of employment counselling, interviewing skills, communication skills, problem solving, strategies for dealing with conflict; creating employment and training action plans and case planning.

The training sessions will be held in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit during the last three weeks in March and will involve approximately 50 participants. Providing this much needed training will help to increase job satisfaction and thereby increase the retention on Income Support Workers within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Ng.

Minister's Statement 135 – 1(6):2002 Tax Filing and Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr Speaker, I rise today to report on the progress of the Department of Finance and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in the establishment of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) here in Nunavut. I would like to commend both parties for the collective efforts that have been made towards this end.

Mr. Speaker, the CVITP is a community-based outreach program designed to help low-income Canadians prepare their income tax returns free of charge. The volunteers are Canadians with experience in income tax preparation who are willing to give their time and energy to help others.

Last year, the Department of Finance became involved in this program for the first time. Five of its employees volunteered their time to assist Iqalumiut in the preparation of their income taxes and there were a combined total of seven (7) volunteers in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet. I am please to report that this year, over 50 individuals have signed up to volunteer in Iqaluit, 16 in Rankin Inlet, 12 in Cambridge Bay and a combined total of 9 in various other communities.

Mr. Speaker, the importance of filing a tax return cannot be overemphasized. There are a number of tax benefits that are available to Nunavummiut, including the GST credit, the Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB), the Nunavut Child Benefit (NUCB), the Territorial Worker's Supplement, and the Cost of Living Tax credit, however, these benefits can only be obtained if a return is filed. Many Nunavummiut may be losing out on tax credits that they deserve because they have been unable to prepare an income tax return because of economic, linguistic, or other barriers. The volunteers with the CVITP will contribute significantly to the removal of these barriers.

Mr. Speaker, on October 2002, the Government of Nunavut and the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency signed the Service Management Framework Agreement. The increased participation rate of volunteers in the CVITP this year is an example of the rapid implementation of the co-operative spirit of that agreement on the part of the Department of Finance. All parties are to be commended for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I will inform the Legislative Assembly of the participation rates of Nunavummiut tax payers in this program when those numbers are available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 136 – 1(6): Sivummut II Economic Development Strategy Conference

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this House the upcoming Sivummut Economic Development Strategy Conference, which will be held from March 21st to the 24th, 2003 in Rankin Inlet. The Conference is a follow up of the Sivummut Conference I that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated sponsored in 1994. The work from the second conference is the final stage of the Naujaat Challenge process, which the Premier and I announced at this time last year.

The upcoming conference will bring together 150 individuals representing federal, territorial and municipal governments, Inuit organizations, private businesses, non-government organizations, co-operatives, and labour groups will also attend.

(interpretation ends) Members of this House will recall, Mr. Speaker, that at that time we issued a challenge to all Nunavummiut to contribute to the preparation of an economic development strategy for Nunavut. During the consultations that followed, communities, businesses and Inuit organizations responded enthusiastically. Everyone was anxious to take a role in the design and implementation of economic policy for this territory.

The theme of the *Naujaat Challenge* was "Working Together." We know that only by joining with others who are involved in the development of our economy can we be effective in the implementation of our strategies. This is why, Mr. Speaker, Cabinet responded positively when the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Cathy Towtongie, proposed that a Sivummut Economic Development working group be formed.

That working group is co-chaired by the Department of Sustainable Development and NTI, and is in the final stages of preparation of Nunavut's economic development strategy. In Rankin Inlet, Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut will have the opportunity to review the economic development strategy, and to recommend changes based on the discussions and workshops that take place. I look forward to this historic Sivummut II Economic Development Strategy Conference and to reporting the results to this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? If not, we'll move onto Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 446 – 1(6): Past Rent Scales

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no written Member's Statements at this time but I would like to make our children aware of something that they should keep in mind for the future..

In the 1960s, housing cost \$2. In 1969, it became \$16 here in Nunavut. In 1972, the monthly rent was up to \$50. Looking at the price of houses years ago, the cost has greatly increased over the course of two generations and I wanted our future generations to know about it. So you want to take a look at them, the housing rental bills that we had before, I have them with me and you can come and take a look at them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 447 – 1(6): Elders and Their Roles as Counsellors

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are many stressful things that youth and young couples have to deal with today. In my culture, when I was growing up, there were times when we had to talk with our elders about our situation in life.

Mr. Speaker, I have nothing against the professional caregivers in the smaller communities, who are hired to advise people in times of crisis. These professionals are graduates of southern universities, and have the professional knowledge to deal with many problems.

Mr. Speaker, however in my time, an elder with good background and reputation from within the family or camp was consulted to speak with a person or group about a situation. This approach was good because you were counselled by your elder, and in a community that really cared about you. On top of that a follow up was available because elders lived in the community.

Our situation is in a crisis and we need to use the elders along with the professionals to meet our challenges of today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 448 – 1(6): Participants in Sports at Kugluktuk School

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise in the House to speak to the people about a good new item that the people have heard about in our community. There was a course held in Kugluktuk for some of the officials in the outlying communities.

As members know, participating in sports is one of the best ways for youth to develop their self-esteem. Sports enable them to say no to alcohol and to drug abuse, so that they do not have to worry about these problems that most people incur. So they could have better self esteem for themselves.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Kugluktuk Sports Program has gone even further. Last year teachers and coaches worked together to set up a system that combined attending class, and making real effort in school with support and rewards to those involved in sports teams.

As a result, some students are staying in school. Participation in class work has increased, and the Kugluktuk Sports Teams are doing better than ever. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to acknowledge the attention that the Kugluktuk Sports Program has received in the media, and in the mainstream sports world.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, not only is the Kugluktuk Program is getting well deserved recognition, but it will also be used as a model for the kind of sports environment to promote across Canada by the Canadian Centre for Ethnicity in Sports.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you and the other Members of this House will understand how proud that I am of the Kugluktuk Sports Program. I hope the Members will join me in recognizing the achievement of the teachers, coaches, and most of all, the youth of the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 449 – 1(6): Condolences to Resolute Bay Family

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House of some sad news. This is something that we must at one point all go through in our lives.

This morning the residents of Resolute Bay announced Minnie Allakariallak has passed away today who is a grandmother and great grandmother and I've known her very well. The grandchildren and family who are from Resolute, Arctic Bay and Northern Quebec, we express our condolences to the whole family.

We know that Minnie Allakariallak has always worked to strive to have a very good and healthy family for her children and I just wanted to let you know that Minnie

Allakariallak passed away this morning and we give our condolences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 450 – 1(6): Kitikmeot Patient Travel

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, I thank you for letting us know about the passing of a great lady.

I rise today to state that in representing Kitikmeot, my riding, but first of all I would like to say hello to my grandson. In Kitikmeot, patients that go out of the community for medical services, those who are pregnant have to leave their community for medical reasons.

Sometimes they have to be out of their community for long periods of time. And sometimes there are patients who are elders who have to travel with an escort as well as an interpreter, to escort them to medical centres and we want to make sure that they have adequate accommodations while they're attending hospitals outside of their communities.

Sometimes, when you go down south or to other medical centers, when they're overcrowded, sometimes it's too hot for them. So, I'm just stating Mr. Speaker, that some of the boarding homes are overcrowded and I feel for the residents of Kitikmeot because they don't have adequate space for them when they are traveling to medical services. I'll bring this up in oral questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 451 – 1(6): Grandson Kevin to Iqaluit in April

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, my colleague, the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Quttiktuq, we will remember the families that have just been left behind by the passing away of the lady.

Kevin, whom I love very much, is coming here to the community for medical purposes in the beginning of April, so, I would like my colleague in Health to take good care of him.

I wanted to mention that I apologize to my child. I have to attend meetings in another location and he will probably get here before I do. I just wanted him to know this before hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqiqtuq.

Member's Statement 452 – 1(6): Inadequate Medical Services – Tammartarvik Boarding Home

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to, I am not saying anything bad about anyone, but I am not saying that I am better than anyone. Perhaps this is an issue that the Minister of Health and Social Services is tired of hearing about concerning.

Every time patients come in from Igloolik to receive medical services in Iqaluit, I feel that they do not get adequate medical services that they need. When the Boarding Home in Iqaluit is full, they have to start looking for their own accommodations.

I just talked to the Mayor of Igloolik a little while ago and he told that it is happening again. One of the patients came in around 10 o'clock last night and had to wait until 12 o'clock to get a place to stay because there was no room. They were really scared that they might not be able to find a place to stay.

I do not know if that has been rectified. I do not know if he has looked into it, but I am going to be raising this question on Oral Questions. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 453 – 1(6): Student of the Month at Nakasuk School

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to rise today to congratulate the recipients of the Student of the Month Awards at Iqaluit's Nakasuk School, which I had the honour of being able to attend this morning.

Mr. Speaker, each month Nakasuk School issues Student of the Month Awards for those students who have best demonstrated the ideals of a theme for that month. Themes focus on a variety of approaches to school life from being environmentally conscious to being considerate to classmates, to helping the teacher, and other activities.

Students are recognized for their participation, involvement, and their efforts. Mr. Speaker, everyone deserves recognition for their efforts. Recognition builds up our self esteem. Recognition reinforces the choices that we make to work hard towards a goal.

I would like to add my recognition of the efforts made by the following group of students and their teachers at Nakasuk School for the month of February. Mr. Speaker, the success of these young people today will help them become the role models of tomorrow.

In February the Student of the Month recipient is Melissa Joannie, for Kindergarten English, and Eli Ferguson for Kindergarten English, and their teacher is Dianne Dennison.

In Inuktitut Kindergarten, Ashevak Montegue, and Paula Nowdlak, and their teacher is Annie Shappa.

In English Grade One, Mitchell Courtney, along with teacher Judith Fulmer. The other English Grade One class was Methuselah Inookie, and teacher is Dianne North.

In the Inuktitut Grade One, William Ulingayaq, and his teacher, Rosemary Twerdin. And Jennifer Papatsie, also in Inuktitut Grade One, Ms. Opeetee Kovik is the teacher.

Nicki Issigaitok, in Grade Two Inuktitut, with Neevee Lucassie, as the teacher. Meeka Ipeelie, in English Grade Two and Judith Mohanen is the teacher.

Naiomi Atagooyuk in Grade Three English and her teacher is Barb Young. Jamesie Lucassie in Grade Three Inuktitut, Meeka Taqadluaq, is the teacher. Angela Kownirk, Inuktitut Grade Three, Onga Kilabuk, is the teacher.

And Joetanie Toonoo, in Grade Four Transition, with Tracy Hanlen as the teacher. Marcus Wilson-Hickey, for Grade Four English, the teacher is Anita Murphy. Paul Nutararaarjuk, Grade Four Transition, and the teacher is Rodney Corkum.

And a special congratulation goes to the next recipient Mr. Speaker, is Eden Tootoo in grade 5 English and her teacher, Liz Courtney and the last one, Simonie Philip in grade 5 transition and Bobby McLean is her teacher.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all Members to join me in congratulating these students of the month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 454 – 1(6): Environmental Contaminants on Marine Mammals

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the comments made by the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the High Arctic, Rynee Nowdlak lives in Sanikiluaq and I would like to express my condolences to her and her family. We will be with them in prayer.

I would like to mention something about an environmental issue. As Inuit, we lived on the land and survived on the land without any worries about our wildlife and food chain being endangered from environmental contaminants.

At the time we were free to eat anything we wanted from the land and we didn't have any worries at the time. But, at the present time, we've been told that our food chain, our meat might be full of contaminants.

We have been informed in the general public that our food might be contaminated from different contaminants.

Pollution doesn't have any boundaries and it can go anywhere in the world and we all know that in the Legislative Assembly, although we are informed, you are in Nunavut, you shouldn't be worried about this.

I believe pollution can go over boundaries anywhere in the world, either by the environment or by sea or by air. It can go through any form in the environment.

We have to keep in mind that our food, our country food. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude Member's Statement.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any no nays? There are no nays, please proceed.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think in the 1980s and early 1990s, we started finding out about the possibility of contaminants in our country food and I was told at the time that I shouldn't eat too much seal liver because it potentially has too many contaminants in it.

As an Inuk, I said no, I'm going to eat my country food. It's part of my life although, if it's got contaminants in it, I'm still going to eat it, it's my food. That's how it is with most Inuit. Most Inuit like to eat their country food. Even the young people are eating their country food. And they don't want to give that up.

We have to look at the big picture in our stewardship of our pristine environment and base our decisions towards working on a cleaner environment. We have just heard that there might be a war starting today, perhaps even tonight.

All that pollution from the bombing and from the war will most likely end up in our Arctic basin. We have to be very careful in how we take care of our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 455 – 1(6): Rezoning in Iqaluit – Represent the People of Nunavut

Mr. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a comment in respect to an issue I have been raising over the course of the last few days about the people of Nunavut expecting good things to come out of the Government of Nunavut.

I apologize because I'm quite bad with names. There was a time on the radio where I heard of an individual from Iqaluit who lived in one of the traditional locations and which happens to be occupied mostly by elders from Iqaluit. They wanted to rezone the area and relocate the older houses up to the top of the hill.

I don't remember exactly what this individual said, but they said that this was the last straw. They stated that they had been herded most of their lives once they moved into communities, and again they were being managed. This is the original place where the Inuit inhabited or where Inuit came a long time ago before the Europeans came here and we're not moving anywhere.

There are a lot of people out there in Iqaluit who are taking a stand on what they believe to be the line. Sometimes it's extremely hard to get the attention of the government to consider our concerns and it was articulated by the Uquqmmiut MLA. I believe that it is even more of an obstacle placed in front of our people.

With that, as a government and as legislators, I think that it's time to refocus ourselves as a government and truly represent the people out there by living up to the expectations of the majority of our people and incorporating Inuit traditions and practices so that the people we represent can talk to the government.

We should be able to listen to the people out there. We should be able to make this a reality. We shouldn't be intimidated by the bureaucrats who fear the unknown. If we hear that the government is not properly representing its people, let us not hide, but rather listen to the people and try to meet their needs and expectations.

Then the people will be truly proud of their government if we are responsive to the constituents and represent them properly within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Member's Statements? If not, we'll move onto Item 4. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 444 – 1(6): Tax Filing: Other Communities Participation in Program

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. I was very glad to hear and welcome the fact that the Minister made a statement on the 2002 tax filing and the community volunteer income tax program.

The Minister made reference to three communities. Are any other communities in the regions also receiving any help through this program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are 9 communities, although I don't have the actual names of the other communities where there are volunteers. But I can certainly provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are 9 volunteers in the communities, than there are approximately 12 individuals. Is it possible for the communities who do not have volunteers to ask those individuals to come to those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are volunteers right now. I can't say whether we would be able to send them over given that they are doing this on their own time. But I can say that if there are communities where there are specific requests then we'll try to arrange assistance to those individuals requiring assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like your response. All the communities would like to have volunteers and to be provided those services that are required, so I'm urging the communities who do not have volunteers to be able to access those types of services for their own community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe there was a question there. It was more of a statement. But, yes, if there are requests out there we'll certainly look into trying to providing those services. Thank you.

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

**Question 445 – 1(6): Communication between Dept. of Education and IDEA
(Assessment Testing)**

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

Yesterday I was trying to get an answer from the Minister in regards to why the Department of Education didn't have the courtesy to contact the Iqaluit District Education Authority informing them the IDEA didn't have the authority to implement the assessment testing that they were working on.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of that communication, the license agreement that was in place with Alberta Learning and the IDEA was put to a stop by the Department of Education here in Nunavut.

Again, I'd just like to ask the Minister why they didn't bother to notify the IDEA that they had contacted the Alberta Government informing them that the IDEA didn't have the authority to go ahead with those tests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information I have is that on February 12, my ADM, who I mentioned has been leading our departments role in talking to the DEA, wrote the Iqaluit DEA informing them that all external student evaluations assessment plans must be approved by the Department of Education prior to implementation. So there was notice to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday this is something that the IDEA has been working on for quite some time and as I indicated they already had a license agreement in place with Alberta Learning, as a direct result of communications from the Department of Education here to the Department of Education in Alberta, they got that license cancelled.

Again, I'm asking why the Minister didn't bother to let the IDEA know that it had contacted the Department of Education in Alberta putting a stop to that agreement that they had in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm at a bit of a loss, not having seen the specifics of the license however, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the Member; my department has been in contact with the Iqaluit District Education Authority informing them of the requirements to proceed with such testing.

I also have information that a call was put to the Iqaluit District Education Authority which to date still has not been returned. As I have my Assistant Deputy Minister leading the discussions on behalf of the department with staff officials, at this time, I do not have specifics as to why the Iqaluit District Education Authority has not returned the call pertaining to the testing being led by my Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to hear the Minister come out with all kinds of other things other than the answer to the question I'm asking.

That is, why didn't the Department of Education contact the IDEA and inform them that they had contacted Alberta Education to put a stop to the agreement that was in place between the IDEA and Department of Alberta learning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very evident that the two parties were aware of the outcome. Not, Mr. Speaker I do not want to try and override the role of the working group and the committee that has been set up to look at testing for the Iqaluit District Education Authority.

I will have to check with my department as to the specifics, as to when the two parties learned that the testing would not proceed as planned by the IDEA and to also specify the details specific as to the outcome of those discussions.

I will have to go back to my department to check on the dates and the communications that have been put on this file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my concern is the fact that one of the objectives that the Department of Education has in its business plan is to support community District Education Authorities in a manner that fosters cooperation.

By going to a different jurisdiction that the department and the District Education Authority had an agreement with. Now whether or not that agreement, according to the Minister is something that they have the right to enter into or not, was right, but the Department of Education and maybe I can clarify for the Minister, I believe it was on February 16th at 1:17 p.m., that there was a communiqué sent to the Alberta Learning, informing them of that.

Now why couldn't they have been bothered to have the courtesy if they want to live by their business plan, worked in cooperation with the District Education Authority to inform them of that communication? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, as I said, not having the specific details as to when and why there would have been a delay in forwarding this information to the Iqaluit District Education Authority, I will have to check with my staff to get an accurate response to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 446 – 1(6): Tammartarvik Boarding Home – Adequate Rooms

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to my good friend.

I made a Member's Statement earlier on about the problems that patients face. The Minister and I worked on this before and I thought that it was going to be resolved but I heard today again and the day before yesterday, and I've witnessed it myself, the problems that patients are having.

Maybe, because the people who have the contract for boarding the patients in Tammaatarvik are the ones that are just running and operating Tammartarvik. Why don't they set up billeting for the patients before they arrive to Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Health Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for raising the issue and I am acutely aware of the problems of Tammartarvik with the overcrowding.

It's something that we've talked about in the House as the Member has said and there's something that we would like to begin working on in earnest in the new fiscal year. I guess the reality is, Mr. Speaker, that again, as I've said before in this House, before 1997, we didn't even have a boarding home in the community. All patients were boarded out into people's homes.

We have been fortunate enough to have Tammartarvik open and we need to be able to look at the number of referrals that are being sent to Iqaluit for hospital boarding and that is one of things that's driving our deficit right now is the number of referrals in and out of communities.

So, Mr. Speaker, the short answer is that we will need to review the size of the boarding homes and see how we can accommodate more patients faster. Specifically patients that arrive late, there are authorized, certified boarding homes in Iqaluit, homes, that means people's private units, where patients are boarded to when Tammaatarvik is full. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not asking about the expansion of the boarding home. I know that it will be expanded at some time.

My question is, the patients that arrive late, when it's about ten o'clock at night, especially people from Igloolik and Hall Beach, my question is, isn't it possible that if Tammaatarvik is full, that the patients arriving late at night could be given reservations or

an advance warning that they could be boarding at this certain home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is difficult to do because Tammaatarvik is set up to handle patients if and when they come.

Last week and this week for example, Mr. Speaker, there have been orthopaedic people in from Ottawa and they've been running orthopaedic clinics. Because of that, there have been a lot of referrals from outside of Iqaluit to Iqaluit.

Because people have to see those specialists when they arrive, in those weeks when the specialist clinics are, then other patients who come in for regular appointments and check-ups, sometimes there isn't enough room available.

Sometimes the planes come in late, for example, in the Igloolik case, and then there is no more accommodations left at Tammartarvik because of the load, because of the specialist clinics.

The only real solution to do this, Mr. Speaker is to make sure that we have the available space and try to book off as much as possible but again its contingent on when people are travelling. Especially for example, in emergency situations, those people also need rooms.

We try to house elderly people first, people who need wheelchair access, and so on, mother's with young children for example. In cases where the room is not available, then we have to use the good graces of the people of Iqaluit to provide us with private boarding homes.

Mr. Speaker, hopefully in the New Year, we'll be able to review the status and the number and the frequency of travellers to see what we can do. Again Mr. Speaker, there is no easy solution to the current problem in the short term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just asking whether it would be possible to provide, say for instance, somebody that's coming over here to, there was a bunch of people who came from Igloolik to get their hearts checked and they arrived late at night.

They were supposed to try and find their own accommodations. They could not get help from anywhere else. Someone mentioned here that the people who go down south for treatment, when they don't have any room, they're put up in a hotel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My question is, specifically, isn't it possible that if Tammartarvik is full, that there are arrangements for the patients to be provided with alternate arrangements in advance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is something that we will try follow up to see if it is possible logistically and administratively, to make sure that when patients are coming in late, whether there is an opportunity for a hotel room.

The problem with the hotel room rates, Mr. Speaker, is that they go above and beyond what is allowed in the per/diem and which is the amount that we're able to charge back. But that's something that we can look into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it true that the people who work at Tammaatarvik only work at that building and they don't have anything to do with home billeting arrangements?

Does the staff working at Tammartarvik only work right inside the building and in fact do not do any outside home billeting arrangements. Is that why the patients have to look for their own boarding when Tammartarvik is full? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Tammaatarvik Boarding Home is under a contract with the Elders' Society in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, their employees are employees of the Elders' Society. When people arrive in Iqaluit at Tammartarvik and there is no room available, there is a list at Tammaatarvik of approved or authorized boarding homes. Those are homes that have been inspected by the hospital staff to ensure that they have proper beds and so on for hospital patients.

There's a list of those names and then those names are given to patients when they arrive to see if those people would like to take hospital patients when they arrive. The employees themselves of the boarding home may be on the approved list for taking people also. But that's a private arrangement between Tammaatarvik and the patients, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 447 – 1(6): Use of IQ on Child Protection

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a statement earlier, and I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and in regards to professional counsellors.

There have been professionals who take away children from their families and my question is in regards to their lack of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and whether there is any way to keep children in the family, rather than being taken away from the families? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me say that it is a last resort when children have to be taken away from their parents. There are legislation, laws, and Acts in place that social workers have to follow, in this case, under the Child and Family Services Act. That Act specifically states when it is the best interest of the child, to be taken away from the parents. There are a number of factors that could be involved, Mr. Speaker.

What we have tried to do, and are doing right now, is providing that type of assistance to the social workers, as well as to the parent, to make sure that the reasons, if a child had to be removed from a home, that the reasons are perfectly explained to the parents.

Also, Mr. Speaker, there is an opportunity for the child to be able to go back to the home if changes in the situation have developed over a period of that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the Minister's response. Sometimes the parents are not informed as to the reasons why the child has to be taken away. This has adverse effects on the mental condition as well as giving the parents feelings of inadequacy.

According to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, I think that they should talk first to the parents with an elder and the social worker to ensure everything is understood by all parties. Right now Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not used when they have to take away a child from a family.

When the child gets back to the parents, they might not know the culture and ways of the parents any longer. Can this be immediately considered prior to removing a child from a family, to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to counsel the parents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that the Member has made a good point. I know that in several cases, as the Minister of Health and Social Services, you are made aware of on a daily basis where children have been taken from a home. In those cases, Mr. Speaker, the implementation and the usage of Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit within the framework should be first and foremost. In most cases, Mr. Speaker, it is.

I would agree with the Member that we should redouble our efforts and make sure that proper counselling is in place, not only for the children, but also the parents and have the opportunity for an elder, if wished by the parent, to be involved in that process.

Mr. Speaker, that is something that we would be very pleased to do in carrying out that procedure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the Minister's response. When will the Minister implement this policy, or to try and work on this? When will he be doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are two things that we have done quite quickly. One is having a person within the department who is involved in all aspects and policies and procedures. You have seen them here in the House, Mr. Tagak, who is actually looking at the issues around the Department of Health and Social Services, including the Child and Family Services Act, and the way apprehensions are done.

We are actually doing that right now. In the next two weeks, we would hope to announce in the House here, about a traditional program. We are actually bringing in Counsellors, unilingual people from Nunavut. Who will actually be working with our Social Workers, Nursing staff to be able to make sure that they are incorporating Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit within the precepts that the Member has brought up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 448 – 1(6): Lena Pedersen Boarding Home – Adequate Rooms

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just before I ask my question, I am in support of my colleague and because we're in the same situation as the Member's problems.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Members' Statements, I spoke about the Kitikmeot Boarding Home, Lena Pedersen. In February 9, 2003, the Member for Akulliq and Kugluktuk had a meeting in Yellowknife but I could not attend because of the weather although I wanted to go.

The Minister was also present in Yellowknife at the meeting at the Lena Pedersen Boarding Home in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, since you had a meeting in Yellowknife, at the boarding home, is there adequate room or do you need to expand it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have committed to visit the foster homes with the Member in April and I look forward to doing that.

It was unfortunate that because of weather, he was unable to join with me and Mr. Alakannuark and Mr. Havioyak in Yellowknife when we went and had the opportunity to visit the Lena Pedersen Boarding Home.

Mr. Speaker we would hope that in the next few weeks to be able to review the opportunities that present themselves in Yellowknife to see if there is indeed a need to look at more closely, the relationship we have with the building itself and if there is an opportunity, to look at possible other usages of the building but in the context of having a better situation for the hospital patients who are travelling to the home.

The home was put in place in 1988 Mr. Speaker, and we've seen over 20 percent increase in patients travelling to there and the facility right now is not lending itself very well to the need and the demand of the hospital patients coming to Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my fellow Member from Kitikmeot and the Minister had a meeting at the boarding home and I respect what you talked about.

We have been requested numerous times from Kitikmeot region to voice it in the House to make sure that the patients have a better facility. The Minister mentioned that he will be reviewing the situation as to what kind of building they should build.

I would like to ask the Minister again, I think he has to look for another building. Are you going to be looking for another building to house the patients that go to Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have, I think in the past three years, done a very good job with our hospital boarding homes in that we have new facilities in place in Ottawa, Edmonton.

Mr. Speaker, we're in the process of finishing the building in Winnipeg and now we need to turn our attention to, as Mr. Irqittuq said earlier, the one here in Iqaluit and look at the situation in Yellowknife.

In Yellowknife, Mr. Speaker, we're in a long term lease there with the building but there is some opportunity there to look at what we actually need on the ground based on the new hospital, the new extended health care facility going into Cambridge Bay and what the amount of patient travel will be.

I need to factor that in when we look at the facility we need in Yellowknife. I agree with the Member, there needs to be either a replacement of that current facility and to look at having another facility put in place.

The reason being, Mr. Speaker, that the Lena Peterson Boarding Home does not lend itself to expansion on that lot and therefore we have to look at another building. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a very clear response and we will be looking forward to getting another boarding home in Yellowknife and also in the Kitikmeot.

Just to advise the Minister that there's always going to be ongoing patient referrals to different centres and my question is, Mr. Speaker, the Lena Peterson Boarding Home is already there, but do you expect to come up with another boarding home and do a review within the this year, 2003? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, we need to be able to look at what we're going to have on the ground in Cambridge Bay, also in Rankin Inlet because of the facility we're putting in there, as well as Iqaluit and Yellowknife.

So, those four locations, Mr. Speaker, we're going to need in the beginning of the new fiscal year, very quickly, move to look at a review of those facilities and then see what we need.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker that the Member is correct, we'll probably need some type of newer facility in Yellowknife to handle the capacity that right now is not being handled by the Lena Peterson Home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Kitikmeot residents will now expect to see a boarding home in the summer of 2003. Do they expect to see additional space for boarding in the summer of 2003? Do you expect they'll have additional space for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it may take on various forms. We know that there seems to be a capacity problem at the Lena Peterson Home in Yellowknife.

So, there may be an opportunity to look and see what's on the ground right now in Yellowknife, similar to what we did in Ottawa where we had the Larga Home and there was actually an expansion to the building next door to use.

So, we didn't build a brand new facility. There may be another building in Yellowknife that we'll be able to access, that's conveniently located and so on. If that's not the case, then we might have to look at something else.

I'm not in a position to say what that will be. I am in a position to say that the department recognizes there are needs in Yellowknife and we'll need to meet those expectations over the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 449 – 1(6): Differences in Employee Benefits

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to follow up on the one I brought up yesterday to the Minister of Finance, I'm going to make a supplementary to that question about the staff working in the long time northerners in the communities.

There are a lot of benefits. You agreed that there are people who come up here to the north who receive compensation and salaries and very good benefits like for housing and others.

You also said that long time northerners or Aboriginals who are in the communities are hired on a different level and are not receiving the same benefits as the people who are just being hired.

Especially in our communities, we have Inuktitut as the spoken language in the work place. When they come from down south, and they come to our communities, they depend on the Inuit people to communicate with the general public, in order to do their jobs.

Why are you are excluding the beneficiaries or long time Northerners in receiving the same benefits from the southern hires. They should be given the same benefits. Can you look into this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Member misunderstood. I never said that there were not the same benefits applied to individuals hired in Nunavut versus from the south. I said yesterday, I thought that I was quite clear, that we treat all our employees the same based on the classifications of their jobs, the requirements that they need.

In respect of that issue about classification pay levels, that is more of a Human Resources Ministry responsibility. I did say that in some instances there is staff housing that is provided, based on availability and accessibility, in different communities.

That is where there may be a perceived difference in possible benefits from that perspective. Having said that, I also said individuals who are hired from the communities, long-term Nunavummiut, are more than likely, already have accommodation, if they are already in that community, based on where there is public housing, or through one of the Housing Programs offered through the Housing Corporation, currently, or in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I always say Mr. Chairman, myself. According to your response, can you give us documentation or a briefing note of some kind? Can you give me a written response as to what kind of compensation and benefits that you provide to all the employees in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a Collective Agreement for those who are unionized, which is translated in respect of all the pay and benefits for unionized employees. And as well the Department of Human Resources has manuals in respect to excluded employees, managerial employees, etc.

Between myself and the Minister of Human Resources, we will provide that information to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that information. All the employees in the Nunavut Government, if they were noted down in the Written Response.

Are you going to include which people are the employees? Which people receive benefits, and which do not? Are you going to include that in your response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not exactly sure, Mr. Speaker, of what the Member is asking. I would say that of the information that we provide to him, if there any additional clarification, or information that you request, we will certainly work with him to try to clarify that for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 450 – 1(6): Sivummut Economic Development Conference – Amend Invitation List

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy about the Conference that will be going on in Rankin Inlet. The MLA for Rankin South will be attending that Conference. The Minister of the Department of Sustainable Development stated that they will be meeting on economic development and Sivummut Economic Development Conference on economic development opportunities for Nunavut.

I'm happy to see the people attending that conference but on the other hand it seems as though they have missed out on important aspects of organizations, the smaller businesses like Bob Hanson's company and those companies who might be the foundation of our economics in Nunavut, those people should be attending that conference because they know where our economies stand and there are different organizations out there who have their own small businesses.

Are you going to be amending the invitation list to include those small businesses in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question.

Just to clarify a little bit, in Naujaat, Repulse Bay, we had a cabinet retreat there to do business plans and I've had a chance to visit the larger communities who have their own businesses.

I've had a chance to meet with several businesses in Rankin Inlet and we started working towards how we can better develop our economy in Nunavut. There were businesses from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

We discussed with them on how we can improve the economy through the local small businesses and larger businesses and they have been involved in the past in similar conferences such as this.

This economic development strategy conference is organized by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and our government and we're going to be including our own economic development strategies within the government.

We will be doing a presentation and then report to them on different conferences that we had in the past so that we can develop the economy in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, when they are going to do an economic development strategy such as this, they're the ones, the small businesses are the ones to dictate where the economy is going.

Artists within the communities know how much money they're making. Even sewing groups or arts and crafts or businesses who rent vehicles are the ones who know where the economy stands.

Since those companies are familiar with the smaller communities' economy, my question is, are you going to be holding another conference such as this one with the small business before you decide to hold an economic development strategy conference such as this. Will you be able to meet with them again in the future? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not Mr. Anawak. Mr. Anawak was asking the questions.

Those are very good questions and we'll bring this up with NTI to see how we can resolve the economic development challenges we face in Nunavut. As well, the idea of the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce and to seek their input in getting this in front of a conference and I'll talk to the person who I'm working with to set up this conference. I'll ask them what kind of conference to hold with these different companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary, Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the briefing notes it states that since their meeting in Naujaat, the Naujaat Challenge stated that they would inform Nunavummiut about government operations and businesses so that opportunities that are available will be taken. Are you going to be informing us in that conference the kind of economic development opportunities they're building for Nunavut such as Pangnirtung Fisheries or the Rankin Inlet Meat Plant?

Are you going to be informing those delegates at the conference of these different types of opportunities that they can take advantage of to develop our economy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Sustainable Development, when I attend the federal/territorial meetings I try to inform my provincial and federal counterparts about our economic development plight in Nunavut.

We want to make sure that we develop a comprehensive and feasible economic development strategy to assist the small businesses and potential businesses that might become available to the people in the future. That is why we wanted this conference and as a government we cannot implement economic development alone, we have to work with parties who have vested interests in Nunavut.

We have to have agreement with NTI, and the Federal government to work on an economic development strategy so we'll work along side with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you are on the government side the clock seems very slow, but it's the other way around when you are the one who is asking the questions.

One thing that we have to discuss further and I know that it's not the Minister's responsibility but I think that there has to be further dialogue on the issue. We have a sparse population up here in Nunavut and people tend to become provincial although they work extremely hard to develop economic opportunities.

Although as Inuit we are told that we own development corporations, like the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, Sakku Corporation, the Kitikmeot Development Corporation, Nunasi Corporation, our people are told that we own these birthright corporations but, they end up competing against the Co-op and other Inuit private businesses that are established up here.

I know it does not constitute part of the mandate of the Minister, but I think that further dialogue is necessary with the organizations and what the Minister can do, is address it in one of his Minister's Statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the Sivumut II Economic Development Strategy Conference, it is going to be a forum for discussions amongst the various parties for working together as a territory to create more economic development for our people and communities. I'm sure that the Sivumut II Conference will be extremely beneficial to our territory and provide clear and solid direction for our foreseeable future.

There will be discussion between the government, private businesses and other entities and to see what we can do to plan for the future and look at other economic development opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: We still have Members left that haven't yet asked questions on the list. We'll try to move it along. Mr. Havioyak. Mr. McLean.

Question 451 – 1(6): Dental Services in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to make this quick so somebody else can get a question in.

My question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. My question today to the Minister, can you tell me who is responsible for not providing dental services of any kind in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know who's responsible for not providing it, but I do know who's responsible for providing it and that's me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that I have that straightened out, that his department is responsible for dental services, and can he tell me why there hasn't been any there lately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that there is at least 98 days of general dental services provided to the people of Baker Lake each fiscal year and included outside of that, there are also days available for orthodontic services in the community and Mr. Speaker, in the process right now of the advertisement of a dental therapist for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's refreshing to know that the Minister is advertising for a dental therapist.

There hasn't been one there for three years. I know the wheels of bureaucracy move ever so slow, but to get a job advertised out there and get a dental therapist into the fourth largest community in Nunavut, I would think would be a priority of this government.

Can he tell me if they're really working at trying to put a dental therapist in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we are, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I live in Baker Lake. I live there. I spend roughly 98 days in the capital and you know what my feelings are on that. I really enjoy it.

>>*Laughter*

But in the last three years, I've been trying to get a tooth filled. For three years I've been trying to get a tooth filled in Baker Lake. And he said that they provide 98 days a year there.

Could he explain to me or give it to me in writing, when the next 98 days there's going to be a dentist in Baker Lake so I can spread it around my community to inform my constituents that we may in fact have somebody over there to deal with their dental needs. Can you give that to me in writing for the next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes, we can do that Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Question 452 – 1(6): Patient Transportation Vehicle in Iqaluit

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Pond Inlet, Igloodik, Hall Beach, Arctic Bay, Grise Fjord, and Resolute Bay residents arrive in the evening and usually they have medical patients. Our van is just too small and

there are usually some medical people who don't have any transportation to take them anywhere. Are you going to provide one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, part of the contract that is in place with the elders' group here in Iqaluit is to provide transportation to medical patients coming from outside of the community to the boarding home and or to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I have not been aware of incidents lately where there has been a problem with that, but if there are situations, then, Mr. Speaker, we will look into them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad that the Minister is going to look into this.

Usually in the Inuit custom, even though there is a discomfort or a concern, we usually don't say anything. We're very patient people. We all know that there are taxis available. The elders especially don't know when their appointments are, where the boarding home is or how to get there.

There is going to be a Quttiktuq flight coming in tomorrow with patients again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as soon as question period is over, we take a break. Mr. Speaker, I will go into the office to make sure that Transportation at the Hospital is aware of the planes coming in to make sure, as the Members has stated, that the elders, or any other patients that are coming in, that there is transportation available to them because that is part of contract that is in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 453 – 1(6): Status of Negotiation on Public Service Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act. Mr. Speaker, as we all know that the current Collective Agreement that we have between the Nunavut Employees Union and the Government of Nunavut expires on March 31st, at the end of this month. Less than a couple of weeks away.

This Agreement covers hundreds of employees in all the communities across Nunavut. I would just like to ask the Minister responsible as to what the status of the negotiations are

between the Nunavut Employees Union and the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform the Member that I will have to check with my staff as to where the standings are in the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act, I would like to ask who is going to be given specific directions to the Government of Nunavut's negotiating team. Is it going to be the Minister responsible for the Public Service Act?

The Act indicates that the Collective Agreement is an agreement in writing between the Minister and the Employees Association. The definition of a Minister is that is the Minister responsible for that Act? Can I ask the Minister if in fact what will be happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have reviewed this matter at the Cabinet and also it might be other jurisdictions. (interpretation) I completely lost it in English.

What we are doing is currently doing a review to see what the other jurisdictions are like. And we appointed the Minister of Finance to be the lead negotiator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister indicate what they appointed the Minister of Finance to Chair a meeting of looking at what the other jurisdictions are going to be doing, or chairing the negotiating team between the NEU and the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I probably would. I was looking for it earlier too in looking at the other jurisdictions to be consistent with some of the arrangements. We have the Chairman of the Financial Management Board that is leading the negotiation for the NEU and Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated and I will read it directly from the Public Service Act, under Collective Agreement, on Section 41, a definition to the Collective Agreement means an agreement in writing entered into under this section between the Minister and the Employees Association.

In the definitions also Mr. Speaker, the Minister means the Minister responsible for this act and that's the Minister of Human Resources so if the Minister of Human Resources is the one that is supposed to be entering into these agreements with the Nunavut Employees Union. Why then is that responsibility being handed off to the Minister of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Cabinet Members and the FMB have done this to be cost effective. What we did was to get the Minister to be the lead negotiator in these discussions between the two parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 008 – 1(6): PYs in the Schools

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to digest the Minister's response when I ask questions.

Mr. Speaker, my written question is for the Minister responsible for Education.

1. How many funded teaching positions (PYs) did the Department of Education have for the 1999-2000 school year?
2. How many funded teaching positions (PYs) did the Department of Education have for the 2000-2001 school year?
3. How many funded teaching positions (PYs) did the Department of Education have for the 2001-2002 school year?
4. How many funded teaching positions (PYs) does the Department of Education have for the 2002-2003 school year?
5. Are Principal positions included as teaching positions in the above figures?
6. How many of the above positions are covered by the collective agreement between the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Government?
7. How many actual teachers were teaching in elementary, junior and senior high school classrooms in the 1999-2000 school year?

8. How many actual teachers were teaching in elementary, junior and senior high school classrooms in the 2000-2001 school year?
9. How many actual teachers were teaching in elementary, junior and senior high school classrooms in the 2001-2002 school year?
10. How many actual teachers are presently teaching in elementary, junior and senior high school classrooms in the 2002-2003 school year?
11. What was the total number of students registered in K-12 during the 1999-2000 school year?
12. What was the total number of students registered in K-12 during the 2000-2001 school year?
13. What was the total number of students registered in K-12 during the 2001-2002 school year?
14. As of March 1, 2003, what is the total number of students registered in K-12 during the 2002-2003 school year?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Anawak.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 087 – 1(6): Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet PPD Events

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to table a document. It is in both Inuktitut, Innuinaqtut and English. This is in regards to the events that happened over the last month in regards to the decentralization of PPD to Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22, Bill 30 and Minister's Statement 126-1(6) with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 2-1 (6), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

We will now break for 20 minutes prior to Committee of the Whole.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:11 p.m. and resumed at 15:42 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Good afternoon. I will now call the committee to order. In Committee of the Whole, we will be dealing with Bill 22, Bill 30, Minister's Statements 126-1 (6). What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 30, Operations and Maintenance Act and from there we would like to deal with Bill 22 and also with the Minister of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does the committee agree that we deal with those items? The Minister just completed his opening remarks yesterday so I would like to call the Minister and his officials to approach the witness table.

Sergeant-at-arms.

Welcome. You're pretty recognisable. Although we know who your officials are, could you please introduce them for the Members? Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The officials that I have are my Deputy Minister, Nora Sanders and to my left Assistant Deputy Minister, Mala.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Just before we begin, I would like to remind the Members that according to rule 77 (1), you have ten minutes to speak. Please try to keep within the ten minute limit. And according to rule 77 (2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a Member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. Are there any general comments? If there are no general comments, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome to the Minister and his officials.

I don't have very lengthy comments to make but I would just like to say that the Department of Justice has a very important job to do that deals with the lives of people, the public.

In regards to justice and the RCMP, those are the types of jobs that this department does. We all know that in our communities, the RCMP has to be a friend of the people because they deal with the protection of the public.

Sometimes we try to make sure that there is good justice done and the money that is going to be used for the Department of Justice, looking at them, I'm very happy to see some of the programs have increased funding.

It will help out the people of Nunavut. The money is not just geared for the department but it's for the public. The Department of Justice deals with the lives of people and to prevent people from breaking the law.

We all know it's the last resort that they have to deal with the justice system. People try to assist them with the job that they do. In Arctic Bay, recently, there was an individual over there who dealt with spousal assault counselling.

Although there are those people who deal with the public in the communities such as social workers, they try to help the people who get into trouble with the law just to make sure that being incarcerated is the last resort.

Looking at those things that I just mentioned, we have to try to make sure that the department does their job properly. Even though there are those things that the Department of Justice does, there are usually some problems that come about that have to be dealt with.

The department should be educating the public out there to see what things the public can do to prevent crime and to keep from going to jail. We think about a person who committed a crime, they go to court and they're represented by their lawyer but we don't always understand what is happening because the accused does not talk.

It's the lawyer who is protecting the accused who does the talking for the person who committed the crime. There has to be more programs to help the people of Nunavut in the Department of Justice to prevent them from committing crimes in the first place.

I would like to talk to some of these issues as we review some of the other pages under the department. I'll be asking questions as we go page by page with the Department of Justice and review the various programs that they are funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. The person whose name is on my list. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have talked about some of the issues previously in the House including recommendations to be used by the department and some stuff the department has heard before in regards to the protection of people and educating people. Others are seemingly new ideas that are beyond the feeble minds of the planners, but perhaps they are already under consideration.

In regards to people who have to go through the court process, and who end up in another community awaiting their sentence and that creates problems for the community where the individual is originating from as well as to the community who is receiving the remand prisoner.

They can't understand all of the reasons why the individual is sent outside of the community and it tends to create a problem in the community where they are sent to. This

is especially when these people are pretty well just left to their own devices in that community and they are only identified when the court has come to town and residents find out why that person is in their community.

These people are not given adequate accommodation and if they don't have a family, this can be very traumatizing to them. There is an individual who experienced that in my community of Hall Beach. Those types of practices have to be addressed by the Department of Justice.

We all know that it is a difficult job that the Department of Justice has to undertake in Nunavut. The biggest single issue is when a person enters the court system, their court date is continually deferred and they have to reappoint another date and the people who have their lives disrupted and who are forced to put their lives on hold and this can really stress people out. In the Inuit tradition, it would already have been dealt with, issues resolved and forgiveness asked for from all the parties.

Especially the young people, what the court system does has been to cause some youth to commit suicide, because the court can't get into the community right away, they have to wait for another date and it really bothers those people, worrying about what the outcome would be once they go to court.

They start to worry about what might happen to them when they go to court. If you don't have to go to court, you don't worry about it, but those people who have to re-book their appointments, they really worry and it gives them undue stress which clouds their decision making process.

It should be solved, I know that we can't change the legislation that we have, but maybe we could make it easier for the judges to arrange courts for certain times of the year. If Inuit traditions and justice practices were recognized and accepted for their common sense approach to deal with their own problems, then these problems would largely vanish. Those are the things that I'd like to say at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday, in my capacity as the chairperson of the Committee, I had a chance to speak on the issue but I'll be brief as some of the issues I was going to raise have already mentioned.

I used to be a part of the Community Justice Committee for five years in my community. The acts that are under the criminal code from the Federal Government cannot be changed when you're working with the Department of Justice. You have to abide by them.

I don't know how it is at this time but there are a lot of people who have been taken to court and the case is postponed and a lot of times, some of them have committed suicide because they have to wait so long for their next court date.

There is too much postponement of these court cases and too many cases going to court. It seems as though we just want to take people to court for any reason. How can we stop this tendency to charge people prior to attempting to resolve the conflict? This is a foreign and confrontational practice inherited from our imperialistic colonial conquerors.

We take people to court by getting them charged and degrading each other in the process, especially when there is no serious offence committed, except to our society. There are good solutions out there that we can use so there won't be too much suicide.

There are inmates who are incarcerated for long periods of time although they are generally good people at heart. Maybe it is cast in stone and rigid. I think that you lose your identity when you are taken through the justice system or the court system.

In the past, we were directed to speak with the people who have done us wrong and advise them about what they're doing. A lot of times today, there are people who have been charged through the court system who are then personally affected in their psychological being and start to suffer low self-esteem.

A lot of times they have to postpone their court cases and they start thinking they are unworthy and not contributing to society, so they become suicidal. These are the mindsets suffered by the prisoners. This is a big problem and a profound reason for the losses we are suffering. We need to start looking at real solutions because we have laws in place to make war, and this is insufferable as everywhere people want to fight each other and now the world is on the brink of war because of legislation.

A lot of times we charge other people because we don't like them and we look for little things that we want to charge them with. And today in different countries, they're fighting over legislation and laws. It's embarrassing to see people wanting to go to war.

At the same time in Nunavut, people go to court and try to make the other person look bad in front of other people. I think the justice system should be in place to help people, rehabilitate people because there are a lot of people with evil thoughts who want to commit heinous crimes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome our guests and witnesses for the Department of Justice. The Minister of Justice, and the Deputy Minister, and the Assistant Deputy Minister. Very briefly, a lot of the comments that we made earlier are very true.

When a person has been convicted in court, they are punished. The justice system, the court system is always going to be there. There is always going to be people going through the court system. Although we are not happy about it, as soon as the person is judged and sentenced, they have to send them out of the community to corrections.

As soon as they are incarcerated, they leave their wives, their families, and children. The family that is left behind when they are incarcerated are in a situation where when one parent is not there, they do not have a parent to rely on.

A lot of time, some charges are summary convictions and some are longer under indictable offences. I know that we are always going to have to use the court system to punish people. As Inuit, or as an individual, we used to have some sort of justice system, traditionally.

Also they used to have a group of advisors to do that kind of thing, when someone did something wrong under our Inuit tradition, we had a similar justice system. We used to have counsellors to deal with that person, but today we have a system where a person is charged and they have to go through the system and they do not know these people who are defending them, or the prosecutors, or the judge, they do not know these people. They do not know who this defendant is and they charge him according to the facts and then they have to leave their families when they are incarcerated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I do not have any other names. Would you like to go to the main estimates? Agreed? Page 5-5. Justice. Branch Summary. Operations and Maintenance. \$2 million, 562 thousand. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question under 5-5, on the contract services, the contract services for the previous year and this year, there is an increase there. What kind of contract services are you adding? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract services have increased when we have to hire casuals or people to do temporary contract services. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it has increased and that you hire temporary contractors. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we don't have the necessary staff, we have to hire contractors to temporarily hire people for policing for example. We have to hire contractors when we don't have enough staff. That's why this has increased for the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I know my colleague know that on 5-6, this \$327 thousand dollars, total, on that page, this is part of the section on 5-6.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2003/2004, so you already know how many contractors you're going to hire; is that why you have that in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an amendment from last year because we have been in place for three years. We now know pretty well how much they need to increase to hire contractors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, other expenses, there's been a big increase of up to \$130 thousand dollars. What other expenses does that cover? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. You're talking about \$130 thousand dollars. Yes we've had to pay other expenses for other IT programs that were under Public Works and Services. It's for information and technology services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 5-6 is part of the total Operations and Maintenance. My last question is the last one, Victim Assistance Fund.

It used to be \$90 thousand dollars but there is nothing this year and I had asked within the legislature and was responded to by the Minister about this Victim Assistance Committee that will be formed.

When they're forming a Victim's Assistance Committee, what kind of funding are they going to have? It seems as though you have nothing for victim assistance during the next year. How are you going to fund the committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year we had provided these for victim assistants. They had to help victims through the Department of Justice and as a government, we provided temporary funding to assist these victims through the Crown Council's Office.

Since we have now a Victim Assistance Committee, and they're just being established to take on that responsibility, they provided some funding through the Department of Justice

and we're hoping that we'll come up with more funding in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very happy that they have a Victim Assistance Committee and staff to provide that, but my question is why is there is no funding for this year for those funds? That is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is someone that just sat beside you. I don't know his name. Could you introduce your witness?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I didn't see him come there. I would like to introduce our Finance Director, Pierre Chartrand. To your question, the funding that we provided for last year, all of it was not used and we didn't have a position in place. As I said before, the funding doesn't necessarily come from our department; it's usually provided from federal funds so we wanted to help with the victims so we provided that funding last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Pierre Chartrand, welcome. 5-5. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Main Estimates are provided to us. Although we are not happy with some things within the changes, we can say all we want, we won't make any changes as ordinary MLAs, and they're just presented to us.

But my questions on 5-5, there was an increase of \$4 thousand 130. What was that increase for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That question was just asked. You will probably respond the same way. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the Member didn't hear me. Perhaps I'll speak up and then maybe he'll hear me.

Public Works and Services have the responsibility of Information Technology and they purchase computers. But that has been transferred to over to our department and this is for providing computers.

Yes, although we have Main Estimates presented to you and many times we comment on the previous years and we try to cover them in the Main Estimates. That's why I'm very happy to hear your concerns when we're doing the Main Estimates. We also use your comments on the following year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand your comment. Total Grants and Contributions. It was \$420 thousand in 2002-2003, and then \$327 thousand for 2003-2004. Is that because the funds weren't used up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The response to your question is in 5-6. \$90 thousand was used last year and \$3 thousand for Justice. I can say that the \$90 thousand has not been expended to date.

In total we have \$265 Thousand under the Victims Assistance Fund. We now have a committee and also employees who work through this program. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no other names on my list. 5-5. Agreed. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2 million, 562 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 5-7, Justice Branch Summary, Law Enforcement. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the contract services, there's \$18 million 795 thousand dollars and looking at the other line items, there is only \$5 thousand dollars for grants and benefits.

I would like to know what this \$18 million 795 thousand dollars is used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening comments, I stated that the highest increase would be for law enforcement because of course I was told last year to provide RCMP detachments in every single Nunavut community.

We contract the RCMP and we increased the number and we have had problems with the telephone system, so we revised that. There have also been concerns raised about drugs in the communities so we are going to be getting a police dog that will be helping out the RCMP. That is the reason for the increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought we had a dog. What happened to him? It looks like we're going to be getting another police dog. I would like further information on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We did have a dog; he's just not the Premier. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course dogs get ill and that happened to our police dog.

If we get a dog, we will need to have a handler, so this is also expensed under this line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is more of a comment than a question. It's in regards to a major concern especially here in Iqaluit and I would like to make a comment on it.

We do seem to have an increasing number of RCMP members but in Iqaluit, we know that there are unsolved murder cases. People are even making comments about the Unsolved Mysteries and if we look at New York for example, they could find a murderer in Greenland.

Is it not possible for our detachment to open those files again? We've got more than one unsolved murder case here in Iqaluit. I just had to make that comment because we are very concerned about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. It was more of a comment than a question, but if the Minister would like to make a response, please feel free to do so. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the Member completely because of course we want to solve those cases. When they are still being investigated, I can't say much about it.

I do agree with you. We too would like to see them solved. These cases are still open and I can't comment on it at this time. I can assure the Member those files are still open and the RCMP is still investigating these murder cases. The police have been providing updates and have regularly requested help from the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq. Page 5-7. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please tell me if I'm out of line but I would like to ask a question regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and when it's going to be implemented into the justice system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And if I'm out of line, please tell me so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like this question affects all government departments.

I will try to stick to the Department of Justice. We work together with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth on how we can incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and just recently, we made a statement saying that we now have elders who work with the inmates and also with the security guards.

We now have an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinator for three months and we're very pleased that we do have one now. We try to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the policing department. They are bilingual and they use the Inuktitut language.

They know the Inuit culture and language and they're especially beneficial to the elders who are unilingual. We also have receptionists who are all bilingual because that was one of the concerns that were identified.

These were requests that you made last year. We also are looking at healing and applying it to the inmates and to the justice system. We also do alternative justice sentencing with the elder's circles.

We have alternative justice systems when we put them on probation instead of putting them in custody. Also, the Department of Justice is on their own but they do ask for advice from the elders on how to sentence those people. So that's part of my answer to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Law enforcement on page 5-7. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18 million, 795 thousand dollars. Mr. Mclean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Law Enforcement, your department has made great strides and the announcement that we will have detachments in every community in Nunavut shows a commitment by this government to provide safe communities and proper policing.

It's good that you have two RCMP officers in those smaller communities to assist each other if there's an incident, which brings me to the point, I see an increase in policing from last year, which is a great commitment to provide more policing in our communities and it helps make them safer communities to live in.

It's no secret that our communities are getting more violent; crime is on the rise, etc. All the statistics that we don't like to see but the reality at the end of the day is that crime is increasing pretty well in most communities in Nunavut.

Which gets to my community of Baker Lake, which is the fourth largest community in Nunavut and currently we have three RCMP officers and the community has been asking

for a fourth member because of incidences that have happened there over the last four or five years.

Do you see in the future of providing more RCMP officers; there are more and more RCMP officers in the larger communities. One of the frustrations that they have to deal with, they say Glenn, we're just trying to keep up with the workload that we have. They don't get a lot of time to do crime prevention. Do you see an increase of RCMP officers for the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe we're going to additional policing issues. Our priority for this past year and the past two years was Inuit policing in every single community, and now that's done I think we can move onto other issues like more policing, but that would cost more money, so we have to find additional resources.

That is something we do every year with the RCMP, we review what they need and what they require for the territory to do their job effectively.

After this is passed, we will want to address issues that are raised here in this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that Minister, I'm very glad to see RCMP officers and detachments opening up in Repulse Bay, I think Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove that were presently served by Rankin Inlet and they have a large detachment there for a town of 2,400.

With these additional detachments opening up, is there a surplus of officers now in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other challenges that additional policing in other communities present is that there have to be two officers in every community and those officers in those communities require some relief.

Some of the relief work is carried out of Rankin Inlet for the Kivalliq. So that is something I believe we've looked at and there may be but we have to talk to the RCMP on the operations for the coming year on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to know Minister. On that issue, if there happens to be a shortage in Baker Lake, just two officers at a time, could your

department look at an additional officer, a relief officer from Rankin Inlet as time and necessity warrant it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is something that I guess the RCMP could look at, but I've learned that trying to move resources from one community to the other is not an easy task so I have to be careful in responding to a question like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I first got elected, the big phrase in this Assembly was, this is Nunavut and we have to look at every part of Nunavut and not just one community or region. So I am hoping that this Government is going to play by that rule and not look at their selfish ways. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question. On my list. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not be talking about decentralization. For Law Enforcement, there is over \$18 million dollars for 2003-2004. Does bylaw get their funding from this over \$18 million dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We help them out a little bit. They are the employees of the hamlet, and their funding comes under Community Government and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my community of Clyde River they are used quite a bit, especially at night. Perhaps because they are being used in the communities a lot is there any way that you have thought about increasing the funding that you give to the bylaw officers in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We used to have the help of the Federal Government. They contributed some funding for the bylaw officers, but what we do is we work along with Community Government and Transportation and those bylaw officers get their funding from Community Government and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): While we are on the subject of the Department of Justice, I want to talk about the RCMP. If we are in somewhere else, please remind me. It was a few days ago that I had mentioned this item.

Sometimes the RCMP Officers want to stay in the communities longer. The Federal Government and the Nunavut Government have an agreement on policing. Can you maybe clarify the agreements that they have between the Federal Government? I am talking about, maybe it might be mentioned somewhere else?

Sometimes the policemen want to stay longer in the communities. If the RCMP officers wanted to stay in the communities longer then the Nunavut Government could probably say yes, but the Federal Government has other priorities; they tend to move the policemen earlier than expected. Perhaps you could look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with the Member and I am happy to hear that some of the RCMP would like to remain and the community would like them to remain in the community.

Perhaps if I could get my Deputy Minister to explain a little bit further about the retention of RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Sanders: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly about the agreements that we have with the RCMP. Operational matters are left for the RCMP and that includes things like specific investigations and also where they place different members and who they place there.

We work very actively on the broader policy issue and that includes the policy of how frequently they transfer members and that kind of thing. That's a matter that is under active discussion with the RCMP right now.

I think that all of these things are evolving processes. It used to be they transferred them after one year. And now the standard is to two years and they're actually given a choice if they're being brought up from the south of coming for three years in one place or two years in another.

We've had quite a few discussions with them on it and it's a complex matter because they don't want to have all the members in the detachment leaving at the same time. So if

they're both staying for three years, that's fine, but if one wants to stay for three and one for two, then they lose them both in one year. And you lose continuity.

Those are the kinds of factors they look at. They also look at the needs of each community and sometimes although someone has done a very good job where they are, there's another community where they feel they're needed more.

They also, as with all personnel kinds of issues, those that make the decisions within the RCMP, are looking at the individual members and their families and factors that may or may not be common knowledge to the community as to that person's career aspirations or the health of their families.

We had a discussion even earlier this week on that topic. It is one that on a policy basis we're very actively discussing with the RCMP, generally under the contracts we don't get involved in a specific decision about which member is placed where. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Saunders. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad to know the issues on the table of our discussion to see what way we can accommodate some of the communities. We need to have those officers in the community longer. Like you said the continuity, working with the youth.

It makes a difference to the community. You mentioned the agreement is mostly financial aspects of the federal and territorial policing. You said Operations and Maintenance because again when you're talking about Operations and Maintenance, RCMPs are in the community.

I'm just wondering why, I know it's not that, I'm just trying to make sure we cover all the issues. Why don't we have them say as to where the RCMP wants to stay there because he or she is making a difference in that community. So I just want to say that and see where we can go with that.

Like I said in my statement, it makes a difference to that community. When did you start the discussion on this or how much longer is it going to take? Do you have any idea or do you have plans that are not going to take too long down the road to discuss this issue. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's been a subject that's been under discussion for a couple of years and I can't say when those discussions will conclude. We'll keep it an issue and keep it alive as long as this issue is a concern for the Members.

So, we'll keep it under discussion and hopefully we'll get some movement. Operational details have to be agreed to by the RCMP. Yes, we provide a substantial amount of money but we also rely on their expertise to do their jobs in all of our communities.

So, we try and work together and we will do that on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, for your response. This is not a question but mostly a comment. When you really get down to the dollars and the financial aspects of this, I stand corrected if I say that the Nunavut Government is financing 70 percent of this, I think?

If that's what it is, we should have more power on some of these issues that we need to do in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe we contribute 70 percent of the operation costs and we try to get our views known and yes, it takes time but we're getting movement on other areas like new policing positions, we're getting more Inuit trained and so those things are happening.

It requires some discussion and it takes time to work these out in some cases. I will not interfere in the operation of the RCMP as a politician because once you get there it's not good.

We'll leave the operations to the RCMP and let them do their jobs but try to have a role in the positive contributions that they're making in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Havioyak, do you have another question?

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go onto another issue. It seems to me, and I could be wrong on this because I'll use a corporal as an example, where we are not creating any trainees or for Inuit who wants to be an RCMP, we're not getting people out there, not trying to get young people interested as officers for the community or for Nunavut.

Maybe this question was asked earlier, but I'll ask it again. How are we trying to promote this to the communities, to the beneficiaries especially? Why are we not trying to find out if there is interest in each community? We should send a message to young people and say that we need more Inuit officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe the RCMP have travelled to the communities and done recruitment trials in all the communities in Nunavut. In addition, they've done posters to promote more Inuit to join the RCMP and I believe one of the Inuit officers will be getting posted in Kugluktuk for example to show that Inuit are welcome in the RCMP.

We're trying to post them wherever it's possible so that the young Inuit of today can see that they have position in the RCMP if they want. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Most of us know that there is not too much coming out from my community or the region itself. We should try to make an effort, through the RCMP, yes, but also through the Hamlet Council. I am sure they can. I am just trying to say and make the extra effort where we are not getting trainees to these offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would encourage the Member to assist us, if he knows bright young Inuit, for example, in his home community that would be a good prospect to be recruited, please let the RCMP know. We are always looking for recruits.

With hamlets, we have trained bylaw officers, and they have moved onto the RCMP in a number of cases. So we try and find them wherever we can. I appreciate if the Members can help us with recruiting Inuit members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is related to the Minister's comment. The Minister said that there are some relief RCMP Officers in Rankin Inlet. How many are there in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are trying to see how many RCMP Officers are in Rankin Inlet, and we are trying to see how many relief RCMP Officers there are for the Kivalliq region. As soon as we find out how many RCMP Officers are in the communities, we will give the information to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I know that the Minister will give me the information later on. In regards to the interpreters in the courts, the court interpreters, are there any French speaking interpreters for the court system at the present time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when we come to that page, I could answer that. We do not have a French interpreter on hand, but we contract them out when the need comes. We also have names of interpreters in Inuktitut in each community who are available for court interpreting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If anyone wants to become an RCMP Officer, it takes a lot of work to be trained as an RCMP Officer. I know some people who took some training in Regina. They just got sent home because maybe they could not do the training that they were required to do. Can the Minister tell us whether what is involved in training an RCMP Officer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Entering into the RCMP training program is very hard because you have to have a certain level of education, but when they require further education they are trained and they take course and if they are not finished with that program that they did previously they have a chance to enter the training program again if they wish to.

That's what happened in the past. We know that people have just quit before they finished because policing isn't for everyone, it's for people who are really committed to being in law enforcement that pass this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$18 million under Law Enforcement for Operations and Maintenance, I don't think there are any policies that state that if an Inuk is going to be an RCMP officer they have a choice as to where they want to go to be a police officer anywhere in Canada, they don't specifically have to be in Nunavut. I was wondering if he could clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is no policy where they should be stationed; they can be anywhere in Canada. It helps that some of these Inuit RCMP officers get experience down south and they can learn about the

policing system from the southern point of view and it's a good experience for them. We have been seeing an increase in Inuit RCMP officers in the last few years. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has anyone that is an Inuk gone down south to be an RCMP officer after they're finished their training? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think there was one or two who have had a chance to go outside of Nunavut, just for short periods. But a majority of the time our Inuit prefer to be in the north.

Perhaps in the future younger people might be interested in being police officers down south. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before I go back to my list of names I would like to recognize just behind Rebekah, an Inuk RCMP officer here in Iqaluit, welcome.

>> *Applause*

You came in at the right time when we're talking about law enforcement. Back to our orders. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We talked about the agreement, the O and M for that office detachment in each community. And they do have a clerk or a secretary for the operations of the detachments. Are these positions funded in these areas too? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, most detachments don't have any clerks, they don't have the numbers. In some of the communities they do have a few, but they're part of the contract for the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These positions, I mentioned clerks or officer workers or secretaries to the officers, I'll give you an example.

In Kugluktuk, it is funded by the hamlets through one of the programs that they have within the hamlet in the agreement they have, an IIBA where they get money from the mining company, so there are individuals who get some contributions from the hamlets. But that can't be forever, the hamlet can't continue to fund this position in that detachment.

Can the department look into this because it's identified in my community that it's needed while the RCMP are out there in the field and we have an Inuk worker that can communicate with the Inuit in the community. So I think the department should look further into this and say yes.

It's an identified position that's needed in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyok. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is one of things that we looked at in discussions with the RCMP on support staff for the RCMP.

For this past year, the past two years that I said, the focus has been trying to get policing in every community and that is why we diverted our resources to that area. But in terms of support staff that is a subject that I believe that will be discussed further.

It's not cheap. We looked at it and we couldn't afford it for this coming year. So, we'll see. If we can find resources, then we could but the focus has been policing for the past three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. 5-7, Justice Branch Summary, Law Enforcement. I don't have anyone else for general comments. Total Operations and Maintenance \$18 million, 795 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 5-9, Justice Branch Summary. Legal Services Board. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3 million, 357 thousand dollars. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on Maliganiik Tukisiniarvik Board instead of the summaries figures.

As I stated, legal aid is not readily available in the communities and it is not as visible although you seem to have adequate funding for legal aid, has the legal aid services to the communities withered away? Is it not being managed properly? Can you clarify this please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can he clarify his question? What do you mean by no legal aid is available in the communities? Can you clarify your question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Can you clarify that Mr. Iqaqrialu?

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought Maliganik Tukisiniarvik meant that there are lawyers that provide legal aid and there are criminal defence lawyers who or lawyers who can help with civil cases.

I thought Maliganik Tukisiniarvik means where you get legal aid or assistance on legal matters. I don't think that we have that outreach program available to our communities, so can you clarify that? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I hope that is clear. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Operation and Maintenance, there has not been any change in that regard. We have had the same form of services, regular services available for the communities. I cannot answer to you at this time how many Lawyers that we have in the offices.

We would like to see many more Legal Aide Services available at the community level, although there is regional Legal Aide Services available for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): 9-9 and 9-10 are in the same format. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 9-10, Legal Aide Training. \$890 thousand.

It seems as though although there is funding available there is not much Legal Aide for the communities, because I as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, there have been some people in my community who have asked me to get support in obtaining legal aide, to get legal information. It is very hard to get legal counsel when you do not know where they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Sorry, I said 9-10, it is 5-9 and 5-10. Just to correct my mistake. I reversed the numbers. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Anyone seeking Legal Aide, or legal assistance, there are Regional Offices, Legal Clinics. They can call the Iqaluit Maliganik Tukisiniarvik legal office toll free. They can make a collect call as well. If they wanted to get a lawyer, or are seeking out a lawyer, they can call this toll free number, even if they need legal assistance before their case goes to court. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need clarification because I have someone who really needs legal aide assistance. If that unilingual person cannot get anywhere on the phones, or the toll free number, where would they go to get legal assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are staff who speak Inuktitut. If there are unilingual people seeking legal assistance, they can call the Office and there is an Inuk there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maliganik Tukisinairvik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where is Maliganik Tukisiniarvik?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is in Iqaluit. We have the largest Office in the region. There is also an office in the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you give me the address and telephone numbers and all the information that I need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have it at the present time but we will bring it down for you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for making your questions brief. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm wrong, please let me know and I don't know if it's within this branch summary but what do you call those, I can't remember those probation officers, and there are case workers, court workers or probation officers, if that was in this department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure. These probation officers within the communities, there are cases where they have been on probation, is that what you're talking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, there are elders justice committees, and I don't think they have anybody working for them to help them with their work so they don't have anybody to help them. So that's what I'm trying to ask.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's under section 5-13, Corrections and Community Justice; perhaps we can raise that during that summary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that it? 5-9, Justice Branch Summary. Legal Services Board. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3 million, 357 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 5-11, Justice Branch Summary. Lawyer Support Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2 million, 146 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 5-12, Justice Branch Summary. Registries and Court Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5 million, 270 thousand dollars. Agreed? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the description on page 13, it states there's \$800 thousand dollars for court services and they're going to be using that funding for inmates and court services.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to know if that \$800 thousand dollars is on this page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. That \$800 thousand is not with Registries and Court Services. We had to supplement our funding of \$800 thousand because we went over our budget; also because of the court circuit that had to go to the communities. We went over budget a little and we had to approve a supplementary appropriation to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): First of all, every time I say your name, there is a little button there that you have to turn off if you don't want to listen to what you're saying. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize that this question isn't specific to the branch summary, but I want to raise a question.

How did you allot this money? How much money did you go over for corrections for inmate services and the other service that you just mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize I wasn't available to respond to your question but this 399 thousand dollars is for the court circuit travel increase and this 219 thousand dollars increase is for the inmates. I'm just identifying the large over budget items. I could give you a written response to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Any further questions? Branch Summary. Registries and Court Services. We're on page 5-12. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5 million, 270 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Moving onto 5-13, Justice Branch Summary, Corrections and Community Justice. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These funds where you went over budget and in respect to the people sent away from Nunavut, I think that's going to go over that limit again because we have to pay for those people who are going out of Nunavut.

Where is that going to be covered? Are you going to use part of the funds this year, would it be taken off from next year's budget once you've gone over this budget or are you going to use part of next year's budget to cover that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once we've completed 5-12, and now this is on page 5-13. There is a 300 thousand dollar increase in our Operations and Maintenance that will be used for inmates.

It's already here. We don't want to see an increase, especially the number of inmates and we don't want to go over budget again. It would be good if we went under budget, but you never know how many inmates we're going to house in one year. So we are just basing it on the actual figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Yes I understand that, Mr. Chairman. I know that it is hard to see people who are incarcerated but we cannot help that. Sometimes there are more people incarcerated and sometimes less, depending on the time of the year.

Regarding that \$234 thousand that would be used next year, I think that that is fine so that Finance will not be looking at us if we go over budget again for next year. Finance would be having problems verifying that over budget for next year.

If it is okay with the Chairman, I want to ask another question. Last year you had mentioned that they are going to make another correctional facility somewhere else other than Iqaluit. The Correctional Facility that was planned a couple of years ago; is that still in the planning stages? What is the situation on it right now? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We went through this during the Capital Budget exercise and I said at that time that I plan to find one for this coming fiscal year. So I would like to get it done so that we do not have to deal with it. I know that the Chairman is very interested on this as well.

So we are working on it, and we hope to finalize it before the next election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Yes we understand that. We have heard that it was brought up. Maybe you remember it was brought up. It has been three months now that they have not heard about it at this time. Perhaps you can inform the communities what the situation you are in right now.

I understand your answer but my colleagues are looking forward to working with our colleagues here so that we have an idea when this facility will be built, and when its budget will be finalized, so that our communities will understand where the situation is at this time. This 2003-2004 year.

It has been a few years now that it has been discussed. The budget gets eaten up because we keep postponing it year after year. I know that Kugluktuk has been waiting on this facility for quite some time and they would like to hear what the status on this facility that was discussed is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I did not hear a question. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was waiting for another question to come from this side. But while we're on page 5-13, corrections and community justice.

This is one question that I've been asking repeatedly during my tenure as an MLA. In the business plan on page 5-19, it speaks to probation officers. How many probation officers do we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we have 11 probation officers and once this budget is approved, we'll have 13.5 PYs for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plans, on page 5-21, it shows you where the positions are located. The probation officers are not identified in the organizational structure, where do they fit in here?

Where do the probation officers fit here? If they are included, which communities are proposed for these new probation officers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have the communities listed here. We'll enter the additional probation officers once we've identified where they are going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Cambridge Bay has three probation officers and Pond Inlet has two officers while Rankin Inlet has two as well. Are these all probation officers and why are three in Cambridge Bay when the other communities don't have any? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're not just probation officers. We also include the court workers and the aides who work at the community level. Some of them only have one probation officer but they also include other positions in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering why there are other positions under corrections and community justice if they do not work in corrections or community justice initiatives. I'm just wondering why they're under that title? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of them are justice specialists who are located in the communities. Perhaps we can identify them further next year, exactly what they do so that it's clearer, so it doesn't look like they're all bunched up in one community and just doing one thing.

We'll take that note for next year so that it's clearer for everyone what they actually do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, in Cambridge Bay there is one community justice specialist and two probation officers in one community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of these are dependent on the cases per community. Some communities have a lot higher case loads than others so, we do it on a case load basis as it applies to those positions.

In Cambridge Bay, for examples, there are two positions identified right now but one is vacant. We'll have to see how that works, how the case load is depending on what type of case load is required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question on that page is, some of the communities don't even have probation officers and one community has two when one is vacant.

When you have a probation and parole office in the community, there are less people going to jail because they can get help from that person. So, can they consider putting these 2.5 positions into other smaller communities?

I've been asking for one in my community for a long time and I have yet to see this position created in the high arctic, Grise Fiord, Resolute and Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We understand the Member's concerns on that and we have identified a half position in one of the communities that the Member represents.

We are trying to find additional ways of funding more probation workers. We agree with the Member but at the same time, we want them to do a good job. They're overworked and can't take care of cases when there's too much, than it wears them out.

At the same time it doesn't do any service for those people who are on probation so we have to be conscious of that. We're currently in discussions with parole services of the Federal Government to see if we can combine some of their work with some of the probation work that we do

They don't have a lot of parolees, and we can probably utilise their resources and contract with us in delivering those services and providing more PYs throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I said that it was going to be my last question but another function that the Minister just mentioned is parole services.

Again, our inmates are serving full terms in penitentiaries in the south because we don't have parole services. So, that's another function that we need to have so that the people are coming back on parole.

The rest of the country is doing that. And we should be the same. We should have parole services that are adequate so they take them to jail as much as they take people from Ottawa to the jails.

We should not be treated differently. So, can the department and the Minister put extra effort to put positions in place? Let's face it; we're putting so much money into inmates, and if we had parole services, some of these people could be back at home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I totally agree with the Member. That is why we're trying to work with the Federal Government.

Parole services are a federal jurisdiction but we're trying to find a way to contract with them so we can offer both services to federal and territorial inmates, so we can utilize the resources to the utmost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Corrections and Community Justice, I asked this question before. The people who have either gone through the courts or people who are waiting for their court date, I informed you about the problem that we have when an individual goes to another community when they are no longer wanted in another community.

I just wondered if that is in the works now about taking care of those people who go to another community when they are on probation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Member informing me of that. I was not really aware about it so I did not respond to the Member right away. Apparently, this problem has been happening in the Members' community. We do not want something like this to happen again.

What we have said is that the Community Justice Committees had been informed that when this kind of case comes up, that they should deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, I am from Hall Beach and nobody wants me in Hall Beach anymore, and I go to Igloolik, the people who I am staying with, if they were my family, or if they were strangers to me, do those people who I am boarding in, the family that I am boarding with, would they get paid? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they go to the family members, they do not get paid. If they were asked to go to another community into a certain household, we have to pay for the expenses that they incur. If they end up with family members, we do not pay the expenses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are a good Chairman. Under Corrections and Community Justice, say for instance, the referral that come from the RCMP to the Elders Committee, and these Elders Committee are very happy to help out with the referrals. They talk to or counsel the individuals; do those people who provide counselling that are referred to by the RCMP get paid?

Apparently their secretary has a heavy workload and does not get enough money for doing their role. I just wondered if there is anything under the Grants and Contributions that could be used to help out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We increased the funding as soon as I became the Minister.

I know that they need more money for their operations and we're able to fund them and we're trying to get some more funding. We may hear, this summer from the Federal Government, how much more we can access from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the people who we're talking about, people who are banished from the community, has there been any thing dangerous that came about because of a banishment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The only one that I know is the individual who my colleague talked about from Amittuq.

If there were any other offenders who went through something like that that people know of in the communities, we would like to hear from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The elders could help a lot in each community to counsel those individuals.

If there was banishment into another community, I just worry if something might happen to the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good comment but I didn't hear a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Branch Summary. Department of Justice. Corrections and Community Justice. 5-13. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13 million, 928 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Information. Going back to 5-4. 5-4. Department of Justice. Department's summaries. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$46 million, 58 thousand dollars. Agreed? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under Contract Services, \$22 million 565 thousand dollars, I wonder if you could use that for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps we can pull an RCMP from the Member's community because that's for police contract services. I can't agree to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 5-4, on the third party funding, I know it's in here somewhere in this number, I noticed that some of the programs are not funding.

Why is there nothing in the third party funding? Maybe I will use an example, Youth Justice Renewal, the Community Counsellor Agreement, those types of things. I am just giving you an example on that. Some of the third party funding is not there anymore. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of things that were one time costs that were in third party funding. And there were some that were typed by the Federal Government, like in community policing, the Federal Government hopefully, will renew, but it does not look like they will.

A lot of that we used for providing police services where we did not have any police officers. So we will have police in every community after this year. So that sort of offsets that cost. There are other things like the Young Offenders Act, the Youth Justice Renewal; there is one time money available from the Federal Government to implement the Young Offenders and training to prepare for that.

Yes, it has reduced some of the Third Party Funding, but a lot of it was one time funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Perhaps we can continue to try to convince the Government to ask for more funding in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I concur with the Member, and I appreciate the good pressure that I am getting, so I can tell the Federal Government and

say look I am getting pressure from the Members and we have to keep going on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that it? Is that it? Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$46 million, 58 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the Committee agree that we concluded the Department of Justice? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his Officials, Nora Saunders, Mr. Chartrand, thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have any last comments?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I would like to thank my officials assisting me and I thank the Members for their questions. We will consider the comments and questions received from the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The Department of Justice is completed. I will now ask to take a break and we will be deal with Bill 22 after the break. Agreed? A twenty minute break. There are also some snacks in the Members' Lounge.

>>Committee recessed at 17:44 and resumed at 18:12.

Chairperson (interpretation): Order. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to go onto Bill 22 and to have the Minister of Justice as our witness. As soon as we finish Bill 22, we would like to continue on to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

We would like to at least get their opening comments and start with the opening comments of the chairperson of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will go through Bill 22 and I would like to ask the Minister to join us at the table. He's right here with us. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Justice to make his/her opening comments. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Bill amends the law to adopt the language used in other jurisdictions in Canada for those who want to sell shares of public companies and bonds in Nunavut.

Most of these sellers are based outside of Nunavut and they may be soliciting Nunavummiut by telephone or other means from elsewhere in Canada with suggested investment opportunities.

It is important for the protection of Nunavummiut, that these sellers be required to register their company or business in Nunavut to do business and communicate with the same standards as the rest of the country.

This registration program is to protect potential investors from fraudulent dealers who do not disclose full information about the stocks or investments they offer. The amendments to the law will make it possible for Nunavut to become part of the national registration database for sellers of public companies to apply for and receive confirmation of their registration status through the computer system.

The amendments also address potential conflicts between certain provisions of the securities act and the access to information and protection of privacy act. Once the access of information act comes fully into force, it is important that Nunavut have legislation that will provide legal infrastructure to support economic activities and commercial development with the same protection for Nunavummiut as for the rest of the country.

This Legislation is an important step in that direction. Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to answer any questions that the Members may have in relation to this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Do you have any witnesses? You can ask your witnesses to go the guest table. Does the Committee agree to bring the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for going to the witness table before I asked that question. Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Nora Sanders, my Deputy Minister. To my left is the Registries Director at the Registries Division. He is Registrar for the department, Jerry Crowe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome again to Ms. Sanders, Premier Okalik, and to the Registrar. Any comments from the Chair of the Committee? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit reviewed Bill 22, an Act to Amend the Securities Act, with Minister Okalik on March 6th, 2003.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee understands that this Bill amends the Securities Act to maintain consistency with the securities legislations of other jurisdictions. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committees afforded the Bill at the Clause by Clause stage of the Standing Committee Review.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my Opening Remarks. The Committee recommends the passage of the Bill to all Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will now go forward with the proceedings. According to 77(1), I will give everyone ten minutes to make their general comments.

According to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chairman, a Member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. We are in general comments. Would you like to go Clause by Clause?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I think everybody has a copy of the proposed bill. Bill 22, An Act to Amend the Securities Act.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 1. Agreed?

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. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 12. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 16. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 22. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 23. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 24. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 25. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 26. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 27. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 28. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 29. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 30. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 31. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 32. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the Committee agree that Bill 22 is now ready for third reading? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister and his officials for coming here. Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we stated earlier, we would like to go into opening comments of the Minister responsible for the department or those of the chairperson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree that we deal with Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are there opening comments from the Minister?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs I'm pleased to be making my comments and discussing what we've been doing in our department.

I will be summarizing the activities that are underneath this department and we deal with what the government stance will be on certain matters and we also direct policy on issues before the Legislature. We also work with the Members to draft legislation for Nunavut.

We also try to consult with all affected parties when we are drafting legislation that affects Nunavummiut and we also provide direction to our employees on certain issues.

I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister, do you have a copy of your opening comments because of course we have to have the copies in front of us also.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I thought everyone had a copy. There are some available, that are being brought in. I assumed that everyone had copies. Perhaps they are being brought in at this moment.

Chairperson (interpretation): We need copies of the opening comments. We'll take a five minute break while we make copies of the opening comments. We'll take a five minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:28 p.m. and resumed at 18:40 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will go back to the opening comments by the Minister. The copies weren't available. Mr. Premier, you can begin.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, again, Mr. Chairman, and I apologize to my colleagues for not having the copies available. I did ask to have some changes made and I again apologize to my colleagues for not providing the copies.

For my opening comments, I'm pleased to be here to present the 2003/2004 business plan and proposed budget for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I will go briefly to the role of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

It is to seek political direction, build consensus on policy issues within the government, to communicate that direction, to collect, analyse and provide information to the government and to the public and provide coordination and leadership for the public service.

It is important to note that the department still has no capital expenditures and the department is a small operational department with 45 employees who work in policy, statistics, intergovernmental affairs, communications, decentralization and cabinet support.

These functions are with the budget of 6 million 373 thousand dollars. When appointments and budgets for Ministers' offices, the Commissioner of Nunavut and the

Utility Rates Review Council are added, the total budget rises to 10 million 495 thousand dollars.

This is still the second smallest budget being considered this year by the Assembly. This operational budget for my office has no capital. This year's budget represents a decrease of approximately 595 thousand dollars from the 2002/2003 budget.

That is mainly due to the completion of the program review that will expire on March 31st of this year. The final report of observations and recommendations for improving the Government of Nunavut's program delivery will be forthcoming at the end of June 2003.

This is the final year for the decentralization secretariat. Since August 1999, the secretariat has coordinated the decentralization of 429 positions throughout Nunavut. In the past year, some relocation efforts have been delayed because of the need for more housing in communities.

The secretariat has been active in developing new housing in these communities and these are coming on stream. In the coming year, the secretariat will complete the relocation of existing positions and deal with standing commitments to Pangnirtung and Baker Lake.

The secretariat plans to complete this crucial work by the autumn of 2003. We're also working with Human Resources to incorporate the tracking of decentralized commitments through the Inuit employment records tabled quarterly in the Assembly.

Finally, an organizational change, Aboriginal and circumpolar affairs is now organized under the responsibility of the Deputy Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

The division manages the government of Nunavut's relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Land Claims bodies, provides funding to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, represent the Government on the Arctic Council, and manages trans-boundary dispute issues. Thus, it has a natural place in the Intergovernmental Affairs portfolio.

Those are some of the issues that we have dealt with. We are working on the Wildlife Act with the help of Sustainable Development. We are trying to get more employees through Article 23. In regards to the economic development issues, we are giving support to that conference that will be held.

In May of 2000, we completed the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement for territorial parks. There are still a lot of outstanding issues that we are dealing with. We expect to continue with programs like the Government of Nunavut Community Radio Broadcast, and continue to promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a strong influence in policy development across the Government of Nunavut.

We still have a lot of work to do. We are also concentrating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, as of course, we have to include those into the day to day activities of the Government. That is a summary of what we have been doing at the department. I am sure that there will be questions from the Members. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You can go to the witness table with your officials. Sergeant at Arms, if you would escort the witnesses please? Thank you. Please introduce your officials, Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure everyone knows the Deputy Minister. We have Anne Crawford, and on my left with Intergovernmental Affairs, the Deputy Minister, David Omilgoitok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you very much, and welcome to our Chambers. Before we begin as usual we have general comments under Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes. Subject to the discretion of the Chairman, a Member may speak more than once on a matter, but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Hi Glenn, I would just like to say hi to somebody. They had indicated that they will be watching me on TV.

>>*Applause*

He indicated that he would really be watching me on T.V. so I just thought I would say hi to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed the main estimates and business plans for the department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the 2003/2004 fiscal and I am pleased to provide you with the comments from the committee.

The Committee notes that the department's total 2003/2004, budget of \$10 million 495 thousand dollars represents an increase of more than \$2.7 million dollars or 35 percent from the department's first budget allocation in 1999/2000.

This is a substantial increase in just five years for a department that delivers few programs or services directly to the public. Last year, Members raised a number of concerns during the review of the department's main estimates.

I would like to take a moment to make some comments regarding progress and performance in these areas. Last year, Members stressed the need for the department to fulfil its responsibility as a central agency by working to ensure that the government, departments, boards and agencies obey the law and table their annual reports and other statutory required documents on time.

Although there has been a marked improvement in this area over the past year, there remains room for improvement. In the past, Members have stressed the need for the department to improve communication with the communities.

Members are pleased to note the department's commitment to more actively using community radio to disseminate information of interest to Nunavummiut. Last year the Committee spoke strongly on the need for the government to push Nunavut's priorities on the national stage.

Members supported the government's efforts to impress upon our federal partners, the need for funding arrangements that are not based on rigid, inadequate, per/capita formulas, but on real needs of a jurisdiction.

In turn, Members urged the government to be consistent and credible by dealing with the needs of our smaller communities in a manner that is not based only population numbers. Members were extremely pleased to note the recent tri-territorial success in securing a fairer deal for Nunavut and our northern neighbours in the area of health care. Members remain concerned however, regarding progress on other fronts. For example, although the recent budget address again spoke of the need for devolution, a goal all Members support, there's a distinct lack of forward movement on this issue.

Just last week, Mr. Chairman, for example, the Yukon Premier, Mr. Fenti, noted publicly in a legislative debate in the Yukon and I'll quote him; Unfortunately, Nunavut has not been given the same assurance that they can begin negotiations on devolution. We remain concerned about this issue.

Last year, the committee indicated that it was looking forward to the tabling of the next annual report on the status of the Clyde River Protocol between the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Members continue to look forward to this given that it has not been forthcoming. Members continue to urge the government to be forthright in defending it's own positions when issues of contention arise between it and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Mr. Chairman, all Members are aware of the importance of the Government of Nunavut's ongoing program review exercise which is being coordinated at this stage by Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

The Standing Committee has consistently urged the department to draw extensively on the knowledge of front line workers during this exercise and not fall prey to the over reliance on imported consultants.

Members have noted with concern the various RFPs that the department has issued over the past year to solicit the services of consultants. Members of the standing committee have suggested that the government examine closely, the desirability of splitting Health and Social Services into two departments and to examine whether there is a continued

need for a stand alone Human Resources Department. Members have also suggested that it may be desirable to take the income support function out of the Department of Education. Members also urge the Government to scrutinize closely the opportunities for savings in such areas as travel.

Mr. Chairman, a related area is that of performance measurement. Members have noted with interest the department's stated business plan goal to "establish a Government of Nunavut performance measurement program" in the coming fiscal year. Members reiterate their wish to see business plans begin to incorporate performance measures that look at actual results and outcomes, and not just activities and outputs.

Members have consistently supported the Government of Nunavut's decentralization initiative, which has been coordinated through the department. Recognizing that decentralization is scheduled to end in the coming year, Members would wish to get clarification on such outstanding issues as the feasibility study for the decentralization of certain positions that has been discussed in this House in recent days, as well as the future of such positions as those associated with the Liquor Commission that were originally earmarked for Gjoa Haven.

That concludes my Opening Comments. Individual Members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I am sorry; we will give the Members a chance to do general comments for ten minutes. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Member made a motion to report progress and it is not debatable. I am ahead of myself. I think that we have had a long day. There is a Motion to report progress. All in favour? Opposed? I will rise and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your Officials. Thank you we will see you again tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Committee has been considering Bill 30 and Bill 22 and would like to report that Bill 22 is ready for third reading. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Haviyok seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the day for Thursday March 20th, 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. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 30
 - Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 22

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Quirke.

This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 20th, 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:03 p.m.*

