



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**6th Session**

**1st Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 47**

**Friday March 21, 2003**

**Pages 3035 - 3079**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Kevin O'Brien**  
(Arviat)

**Ovide Alakannuark**  
(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Jack Anawak**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
(Iqaluit East)  
*Minister of Health and Social  
Services; Minister Responsible for  
the Nunavut Power Corporation;  
Minister of Energy, Minister of  
Homelessness and Immigration*

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**  
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale  
Cove)  
*Minister of Community  
Government & Transportation*

**Uriash Puqiqnak**  
(Nattilik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**  
(South Baffin)  
*Minister of Sustainable  
Development, Minister of Culture  
Language, Elders and Youth*

**Glenn McLean**  
(Baker Lake)

**Hon. Paul Okalik**  
(Iqaluit West)  
*Premier; Minister of Executive  
and Intergovernmental Affairs;  
Minister of Justice*

**Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tunnunuiq)

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

**Donald Haviyoyak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**David Iqaqrialu**  
(Uqqummiut)  
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the  
Whole*

**James Arvaluk**  
(Nanulik)

**Hon. Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)  
*Minister of Public Works and  
Services*

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)  
*Minister of Education; Minister  
of Human Resources*

**Rebekah Williams**  
(Quttiktuq)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk  
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant  
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk  
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms  
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

*Box 1200*

*Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0*

*Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266*

*Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)*

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer .....	3035
Ministers' Statements.....	3035
Members' Statements.....	3036
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	3042
Oral Questions .....	3042
Notices of Motions.....	3058
Revert to Item 7: Written Questions .....	3059
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills .....	3059
Consideration in Committee of Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	3061
Report of Committee of the Whole.....	3078
Orders of the Day .....	3078

**A.**

**Daily References**

Friday March 21, 2003..... 3035

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

140 – 1(6): Justice Video Conferencing Technology (Okalik)..... 3035

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

468 – 1(6): Bill 1 – Education Act (Tootoo)..... 3036

469 – 1(6): Taluq Designs Handicrafts in Taloyoak (Puqiqnak)..... 3036

470 – 1(6): Pond Inlet Basketball Team (Nutarak)..... 3037

471 – 1(6): Caribou Commercial Harvesters in Coral Harbour (Arvaluk)..... 3037

472 – 1(6): Polar Bears Over Populating (Iqaqrialu)..... 3038

473 – 1(6): Thank Hairdressing Students (Okalik)..... 3039

474 – 1(6): Remembers Fighting as a Young Man (Alakannuark) ..... 3039

475 – 1(6): Thank Hairdressing Students (Irqittuq)..... 3040

476 – 1(6): Basketball Tournament (McLean) ..... 3040

477 – 1(6): Pleased with Hair (Kilabuk)..... 3041

478 – 1(6): Recognize Ben Kovic as a Great Volunteer (Picco) ..... 3041

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

464 – 1(6): Look Into Providing Durable Packaging for Coral Harbour Caribou  
Harvesters (Arvaluk)..... 3042

465 – 1(6): Shelter Assistance Based on Gross Income (Havioyak) .....	3043
466 – 1(6): Local DEAs Process for Public Meetings (Iqaqrialu).....	3045
467 – 1(6): Bad Heating Fuel (Tootoo) .....	3046
468 – 1(6): Testing of Bad Fuel (Alakannuark).....	3048
469 – 1(6): Furnace Maintenance Workshop (Irqittuq).....	3049
470 – 1(6): Unilingual Homeowners – Bad Heating Fuel (Puqiqnak) .....	3050
471 – 1(6): Program Review Exercise (Williams).....	3053
472 – 1(6): Baker Lake – Private Airline Fuel Services (McLean).....	3054
473 – 1(6): Capital Projects (Nutarak).....	3055
474 – 1(6): Homeownership Impacts (Iqaqrialu).....	3057

**E.**

**Written Questions**

010 -1(6): Ministerial Travel (McLean) .....	3059
--	------

**F.**

**Notice of Motions**

020 – 1(6): Establishment of a Task Force on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing (Irqittuq) .....	3058
---	------

**G.**

**Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

Bill 33 - A Tobacco Control Act - Notice.....	3059
---	------

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Friday March 21, 2003**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good morning. Mr. Premier, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 140 – 1(6): Justice Video Conferencing Technology**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our geographic size and our needs to communicate with the public make it especially important to build a on strong foundation for information technology.

With these goals in mind, the Nunavut Court of Justice has implemented and is working towards using video conferencing technology to create telecommunications link between the Courthouse and the Baffin Correctional Centre and the Nunavut Court of Appeal.

The technology is currently being tested between BCC and the Iqaluit Courthouse and will be used on a regular basis to be bail hearings and for other court matters.

Mr. Speaker, members, please join me in recognizing the efforts of the staff of the Nunavut Court of Justice in bringing this new technology to the court operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? If not, we'll move onto Item 3. Member's Statements.

### Item 3: Members' Statements

#### Member's Statement 468 – 1(6): Bill 1 – Education Act

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the public who contributed to the standing committee on Health and Education's review of Bill 1.

Mr. Speaker, many groups and individuals took the time to present their views, thoughts, concerns and suggestions to the members of the committee. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the public hearings that the committee conducted here in Iqaluit.

I was impressed by the commitment that so many Nunavummiut have to building a quality education system that serves out youth well.

Mr. Speaker, I know it is not always easy to stand up publicly and be critical of the government. I know that some people took heat for their stand. Mr. Speaker, there is a wide diversity of views on how our education system should be designed and delivered.

On some issues consensus will not be possible. However, I believe that the committee's consultation process fostered a faster and open healthy debate. I look forward to the government reflecting on the views that were expressed as it goes back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, the Iqaluit District Education Authority, the French District Education Authority, NTI and QIA.

I'd also like to give special recognition to individuals that made presentations. They are Ms. Mary Wilman and her sister Annie, Caroline Anawak, Madeleine Redfern, Aaju Peter, Carl McLean and Jonah Kelly.

I would also like to thank each and every member of a community DEA that took the time to come out and be heard during the review process as well as all the individuals that came out and made presentations to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

#### Member's Statement 469 – 1(6): Taluq Designs Handicrafts in Taloyoak

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue that I have been raising for the last few days.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about my other constituency of Taloyoak on behalf of the women of Taloyoak. There is a workshop called Taluq Design in Taloyoak and this

handicraft in front of you was made by the women there and also I would like my colleagues to know that these handicrafts are beautifully made. These are made according to the oral legends of Inuit.

This one is packing a baby using an amauti, although it's not a human figure but it's depicting the oral legends of Inuit. I would like to congratulate the Taloyoak women for making these handicrafts.

We like to see real ones rather than imitation art so these real ones are very nice Mr. Speaker, and they're very beautiful. Every time my colleagues go to Taloyoak there is a place called *Taluq*, make sure that you go visit that workshop. They make various pieces of art. I am very pleased to acknowledge the women of Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 470 – 1(6): Pond Inlet Basketball Team**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I spoke about the Basketball team from Pond Inlet; I was going to mention their names once I got their names. I do have the names of the winning team for the Basketball team.

Neil Henderson, Jerry Arreak, Andrew Arreak, Jimmy Pitseolak, Matthew Ferguson, Simon Sangoya, James Ootoova, Chris Merkosak, Jimmy Kunuk, and Barry Simonie. So those are the team that had won on the Basketball Tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 471 – 1(6): Caribou Commercial Harvesters in Coral Harbour**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very good morning to everyone. It is beautiful outside but we are inside working. Mr. Speaker, the caribou commercial hunters of Coral Harbour, this is being managed very well. They have harvested close to 3 thousand caribou. And they employ over forty local who butcher the caribou, they go hunting and they prepare the meat, they have cooks so they have all the stoves where they work on the caribou.

They employ over 40 individuals, and there is employment opportunity created from that. Coral Harbour residents are very pleased with that.



They have an opportunity to earn income because there are hardly any employment opportunities. There are about 700 people in Coral Harbour and with 40 people working this makes a big difference to the community.

When I was asking why they cannot harvest over 6 thousand caribou, they were saying that there is an interest in marketing the caribou meat down south.

The packaging of the caribou meat is made of paper. They cannot fill up those bags, so when they get too heavy, when they fall, they are not durable. They are requesting bags that are more durable, so they can at least harvest over 6 thousand caribou. Why do we want to have 6 thousand when they have 3 thousand or a little bit over caribou.

The reason why they want to harvest 6 thousand caribou is because when that Island, Coats Island, or Southampton Island, when their caribou over populates, they eat all the vegetation and they end up starving, and it takes a long time to get the population back up. So what the Coral Harbour residents are trying to do is that to make sure that the caribou do not over populate so that they will not all die off.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions about if they can get more durable caribou bags, so that they can be used in their next season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 472 – 1(6): Polar Bears Over Populating**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I probably look younger this Friday morning. I rise today to talk about polar bears as usual. In my two constituencies the polar bears are over populated and they're now starting to maul each other and kill each other and they're very skinny because they're probably short of their food.

When the polar bears start dying off, it will take a long time to get the population back. As people from the north know that when the animals die off by themselves, they over populate and die off, but when you maintain the population by having sustainable harvests the population is maintained better and that has been our knowledge from the past.

In my constituency of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq according to their issues, according to all their concerns I try to speak out on their concerns in the House. I appreciate them for giving me their concerns so that I could speak about those issues in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 473 – 1(6): Thank Hairdressing Students**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the people from the hairdressing school and would also like to thank Minister Kilabuk for arranging that and we do look younger today.

He looks younger today because his hair colour has changed although I envy him for being able to make his hair look better, I was told that my crown can't be fixed, I was not too pleased about it but my colleagues over here, Jobie, and I'm sure that what happened to him.

I had told Mr. Irqittuq that I didn't realize that he could look any better but actually he does look better after the haircut.

I would like to thank Suzanne, the instructor and also the hairdresser Elisapee Quassa who did my hair and I thank all the students in that hairdressing course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 474 – 1(6): Remembers Fighting as a Young Man**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday I will make a very short member's statement. I rarely make long member's statements. When I was younger, when I started hunting, I would go out with my hunting friend who lives in Kugaaruk. I'm sure he's going to recognize me on TV.

As we grow older, every time we see each other, after we got married they were constructing homes in Kugaaruk and I started working with him and we fighting over a pipe and we fought for so long, perhaps 2 or 3 hours and people started watching us while we're fighting over this pipe.

After fighting for a few hours we ended up not using it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 475 – 1(6): Thank Hairdressing Students**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to show myself now to the person who did my hair.

>>*Laughter*

So I have to show off now my beautiful hair. Anything is possible. I am very proud for those students who are in the Hairdressing Course. Especially Delilah Karetak, from Igloolik. She is a very young person and she did my hair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 476 – 1(6): Basketball Tournament**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to say that it is nice to see some MLAs give up their seats today and send their sons into the Assembly. On that topic, I would like to thank the Hairdressing School for inviting us all for a haircut last night, but myself, James, and Mr. Puqiqnak, we wanted Afro perms, but they did not work out the way we wanted so better luck the next time.

>>*Laughter*

But on a more serious note, I would like to mention that last weekend; I had the opportunity to watch some very good Basketball by some young ladies in Nunavut. Iqaluit was a great host. They hosted the Junior Girls Basketball Team Tournament last weekend. Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Pangnirtung, and Baker Lake participated. At the end of the day, Iqaluit triumphed, by a hard fought game between Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay. Baker Lake came in third and was the bronze medal winner.

I would like to recognize Samantha Pattuk, Lianna Pattuk, Leanne McLean, Lorraine Tunuq, Amy Tootoo, Diane Iyago, Justine Killulark, April Aupaluktuq, Katherine Kalluik, and Sheila Sweetland, the coach.

And I would also like to thank all the hard work and every time we turn around there is bunch of volunteers out there that do not get recognized. I would like to recognize all those volunteers out there, the coaches, the referees, and all the supervisory staff at the Inuksuk High School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 477 – 1(6): Pleased with Hair**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night my colleagues and I enjoyed the evening when we went to go get our haircuts. Just in case my constituents in Pangnirtung do not recognize me with my new hairdo, I am still the same person.

I do want to say that before they were actually finished with our hair, we tried to look into the mirror and they prevented us. We were already pleased with our hair even before they completed it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Member's Statement 478 – 1(6): Recognize Ben Kovic as a Great Volunteer**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to begin by saying that the Members look very good, and you remembered the Lady Grecian formula that you use to use when you were in Yellowknife, and I know that some of the Members have an opportunity now to bring that here to Iqaluit. I believe that I'll schedule you along with myself for another treatment next week, so I look forward to seeing at that.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. McLean just talked about some volunteers and I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce you to a very interesting constituent of mine, from Iqaluit East. Mr. Speaker, this gentleman is involved full time as the Chairman of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

In this role he has been a leader in the direction and the implementation of sustainable traditional harvesting practises. Mr. Speaker, he is also one of the most experienced under water divers in Nunavut. And it is well known here in Iqaluit for his harvesting of *ammumayuqs*, or clams, which he also distributes to people in the community, which is well welcomed.

Mr. Speaker, he also finds time to actively be involved with minor hockey as a volunteer. He also runs his own very successful skate sharpening business. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ben Kovic, is an entrepreneur; father, volunteer, and I would like you in this House, to join with me to applaud the initiative shown by Mr. Kovic and the other volunteers across Nunavut in their activities every day on behalf or for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not we'll move onto Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that I have an opportunity to recognize an individual in the House. Before I mentioned the name, back in 1992 there was an individual who came from Nova Scotia who went to Gjoa Haven and for 13 years she resided there as a teacher.

During the long service awards I had her recognized for his long service. She is a teacher, she is also the vice principal for the elementary school, and she's also a member of the Hamlet council and my wife's in-law. They have two children, Susan Hillier. Please stand up.

>>Applause

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

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 464 – 1(6): Look Into Providing Durable Packaging for Coral Harbour Caribou Harvesters**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a simple question as it is Friday. I would like to ask this question to the Premier.

In regards to my member's statement and I believe that he made a statement too that they would look into the communities that are non-decentralized to make sure that they have programs.

I would like him to continue inputting programs into the non – decentralized communities. Perhaps I should be asking this question to the Sustainable Development but I believe that the government can deal with bags that are use to package caribou meat.

When they package them in the plastic bags, they then put them in bigger bags. I was wondering if they could get more durable packages so that they could handled more caribou because these packages have grades and they can't even fill them to capacity because it gets too heavy and the bag is not durable.

I was wondering if the Premier could look into that to see if they could find better packaging. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the very first time that I have heard about this issue so I will ask the appropriate Minister to look into this and see how it can be rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's a bit too late in the season right now, but for the next season, and I'm sure they'll have to order the supplies through sea lift. Could he respond to me before the deadline to order is up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into that and ask the appropriate department to look into that and I will get back to the member with my response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

#### **Question 465 – 1(6): Shelter Assistance Based on Gross Income**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many of our MLAs look like young men again.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the government offers a Shelter Assistance Program. This program provides assistance for employees for those monthly shelter costs are more than 30 percent of their gross monthly income. These costs include rent and utilities.

I just want to mention this part to the new housing rent scale which came into effect this January of this year provides that rent that assess the net household income, not gross.

My question to the Minister responsible is why is the Shelter Assistance assessed based on the applicants gross monthly income and not the net income, to be consistent with what they're doing in public housing rent scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Housing. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, actually in respect to the Shelter Allowance Program, that is run by the Department of Finance right now. But there is progress being made to transfer that over to the Housing Corporation.

And Mr. Speaker, that's the exact reason why we're trying to bring some more consistency to the programs through one agency in respect of having all housing policy and matters under their jurisdiction.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, it's no different right now than what I said earlier about all housing programs and public housing side of things right now, rent is charged based on income on the staff housing side of things, rent is based on the square footage, condition of housing, etc.

So we're trying to bring some consistency in there and like I've said in the past it's a matter of timing to work that through. That's why we're continuing to try to develop policies that are more consistent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the answer to the question. I asked about why the gross and not the net income. How did you arrive at that. I'm trying to figure out how you assess by the employees on the gross income instead and not the net. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's because all our programs prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, of 2003 of this year were based on gross income. Like I've said in the past on the new public housing rent scale, now it's based on net income and that's one of the positive actions that we've heard out there taken into consideration other cost of families and trying to provide for the families as part of the income and the assessment of rent.

Now, having said that, the Housing Corporation has made that dramatic, or significant shift in policy to base rent in this program on net income and the Government of Nunavut policies will move in that same direction.

Like I said, it's a matter of timing. I was trying to make that point to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also checked this thing with CMHC line as to where you got the 30 percent from, the Shelter costs of their gross income.

You mentioned that Finance is moving over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I heard you say that. When is that going to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, In respect to the Hardship Allowance Program, it's administered right now by the Department of Finance. I indicated that there is work being done to shift that program, that policy over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would expect reasonably within 30 to 60 days that could be finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister consider putting that putting the Shelter program income from gross down to assess the employees on net income while they are doing that, can they consider that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Yes, we will consider that, but I would like to point out that if you have an employee that is making \$70 to 80 thousand of gross income, take off their expenses and it's down to \$50 to 60 thousand, it's still significantly higher income earners.

It's not going to change the situation necessarily for that individual basing it on gross or basing it on net income. Obviously unless it's an extenuating factors in the net income calculations for that particular employee or employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 466 – 1(6): Local DEAs Process for Public Meetings**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. I also thank the person that cut my hair.

In the smaller communities, I'd like to ask about meetings pertaining to DEAs. When the DEAs have problems in the communities they hold meetings to deal with concerns or problems and raise their concerns with the government.

My question is whether they have those types of meetings in Iqaluit. Does the DEA in Iqaluit have the same type of process as in other communities? Does the public in Iqaluit have the opportunity to raise their concerns regarding their education system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The DEAs according to their mandate give opportunity to the public to voice their concerns.



For instance, the draft Education Act gave the perfect opportunity for the community to voice their concerns through their DEA and if you're asking about Iqaluit and whether they hold public meetings with the community members, I am not really sure about the surrounding circumstances so I don't know how to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 467 – 1(6): Bad Heating Fuel**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker I know the beginning of the session I'd asked the minister if they were looking into any of the problems that were reported to the home heating fuel that was reported in Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, on the radio this morning there was an indication that there were some problems with fuel and I'd like to ask the minister if its just the two communities that they're looking at as the reports states that the fuel is the same, it came on the plane barge, is the department looking at other communities where that same fuel was dropped off and look to see if there is problems there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time the only two communities that we heard of before this session were the only two communities where we heard of cases and it was only from here say that I heard of one other community with problems and we had begun some testing regarding the home heating fuel but only in these two communities. My staff has also checked with other communities to see if there are similar problems regarding home heating fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we all remember that with bad gasoline that we all faced last year and we're still dealing with now and Mr. Speaker I know that this is something that we don't want to repeat with the home heating fuel.

I'd like to ask the minister if he can indicate or commit that this fuel will be tested and checked in all the communities to ensure that we don't run into the same problem that we did with the bad gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ensure the information regarding the testing will be brought forth because we don't want to see what happened last year with gasoline with the home heating fuel.

There is some testing being done in these two communities and we still need some time to test the fuel and to see if we can limit the situation and we're more or less following the same steps as we did with gasoline testing last year so at this point we are not hearing of any other complaints besides those two communities.

I think there is an additive missing from the home heating fuel that is causing problems but I will let the members know once the testing is done and ensure that the other communities fuel is checked. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, according to the director I believe that in individual from Petroleum Products, there was an early indication or preliminary tests that there was a lubricant additive that may be causing the problem and that this additive was put in by the refinery where the fuel was bought and I'd like to ask the Minister that fuel that was bought at that refinery is the same fuel that not only went to these two communities, it went to all the communities throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fuel at sealift time, it is thought that this problem fuel arrived in these two communities, so what I'm saying is the problems are arising in only those two communities.

We checked the other communities, it's the same fuel that was delivered to those communities but they don't seem to be having the same types of problems as these two communities although it's the same fuel that was delivered to other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would think that common sense would indicate that if it's the same fuel in those two communities that went to all the other communities, that there could possibly be the same problem in all the communities where that fuel was delivered to.

Mr. Speaker, I know each community is a little bit different in the amount of fuel that is left over from the previous year, that it may be using up that old fuel before it gets into the new fuel or there may be a mixture of last year's resupply left over from previous years.

I really believe the same thing happened with the bad gas. First it was just a couple of communities and then it was everybody so I don't think the department should wait until people complain. Can the Minister commit to being proactive in this situation and go to

each community and check all the fuel in those communities to try and solve the problem before it becomes a big problem that the department doesn't want acknowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we will do that and I will also say that last year, when we were dealing with the bad gas, the tank farms, the ones that had fuel left from the previous year, their problems didn't arise until they used up the old supply.

Once that had run low, their problems arose later. I will commit to ensuring that all the communities will be tested and we'll figure out what the supply levels are from the previous year.

I will commit to ensuring that fuel is tested in all communities and as well find out what the levels were from the previous year's supply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Question 468 – 1(6): Testing of Bad Fuel**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have a question for the same Minister of Petroleum Products.

The Minister had stated that they will be conducting tests on the heating fuel from Repulse Bay and they're still experiencing problems today with the heating fuel because the heating fuel breaks the pumps of the furnaces.

It would be very dangerous when it over heats. It can explode and burn the house down, so my question is, rather than waiting, how quickly can you get the results for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard from the residents of Repulse Bay that they reported having problems with the heating fuel. We have sent out the samples to the laboratory and they say that they put an additive when they transported that fuel to the ship.

I think we're going to have to wait a little longer to get the final results. The laboratory is testing the fuel. I don't know how long we'll have to wait for the results. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his response. I've been thinking too that if it's going to take a long time to finally get the results from the testing, I hope it doesn't happen again like it did with the bad gas experience we recently had last year.

I know that the cost of living is increasing. Perhaps you'll be able to compensate the homes that have been experiencing with bad home heating fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we'll have to wait awhile to get the final results and after that we can then look at solutions. But in regards to your question about compensating the home owners, I myself cannot, as an individual Minister respond to that because government as a whole has to respond to that.

We have to get the final results before making any decision so I cannot respond to your question today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 469 – 1(6): Furnace Maintenance Workshop**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give my friend a rest today as it is Friday.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I think it was last year during the session we deliberated on some problems that are arising. There was a furnace maintenance workshop here in this region and the Minister Community Government & Transportation was talking about a furnace maintenance workshop. I was wondering if they're in the planning stages right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not make that statement. I don't even know what I said. I'm not a furnace expert. I don't know if we're talking about Hamlet furnaces. I don't understand his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last fall during the time we started experiencing bad gasoline, we were talking about furnace problems.

In Repulse Bay more than one unit has burnt down. That is why I had asked that question. Can her department consider holding a furnace maintenance workshop whether

it's the staff of the Hamlet or whether it's the staff of the Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Kilabuk will answer that question.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for having the same level of understanding. In regards to furnace maintenance program, they don't go to training programs but what they do is training on the job.

They would spend 8 weeks in Fort Smith and that's part of their training program. In regards to the member's question, I have made a Minister's Statement on looking into what adults are interested in learning. That was one of the suggestions by people in Nunavut on what kind of training that the public would want to see in Nunavut and that was one of them. This coming fall, after it's been completed, I'll be able to table it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted Ms. Thompson to respond to me. I thank the Minister of Education to me.

Back in the 1980s it was possible to get that training and I know that individuals that used to instruct Furnace Maintenance Programs.

We still have that position in our community and I was wondering if the Minister could look into this Furnace Maintenance Program can be restarted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk to the Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation because I don't know if there is a training program for furnace maintenance within the municipalities. I will commit to speaking with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 470 – 1(6): Unilingual Homeowners – Bad Heating Fuel**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all before I ask a question, I have been receiving correspondence from my colleagues. This is not for sale. I want everyone to know that this was presented to the Commissioner of Nunavut.

The people in Taloyoak make those so I just wanted to bring it out and show it off to the members here.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister for the Housing Corporation. When the government used to provide assistance for \$15 thousand for those homeownership programs, DAP programs, Mr. Speaker, many people own their own homes.

I would like to ask the Minister, some home owners in Nunavut don't know how to speak English and they're unilingual speaking people and they don't know how to maintain a furnace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that these homeowners, to make sure that these people who are unilingual homeowners, that they are in a safe condition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister for the Housing Corporation, Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously Mr. Speaker, we would want to ensure that all Nunavummiut live in safe housing conditions. If there was a specific problem with the unit or units in a community, we would certainly be able whether working through the local housing authority or directly with housing corporation staff, make an assessment and see if there were any safety issues or concerns that had to be addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituency of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, I know about them and there are individuals too who reside in public housing, yes they get very good service and they service their furnaces annually but those homeowners, the homes are poorly insulated and when the weather gets cold, the pipes freeze.

We don't know if our electricity and furnaces are safe. Mr. Speaker, I'm asking this question because everybody has the right to live in a safe environment, so I was wondering if the Minister can look into making sure these home owners furnace's and other things are regularly maintained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if it's a private homeowner then that's part of the responsibility and obligations of being a home owner to try to make sure that you maintain it.

It's in the best interest of being the owner of the home. But having said that, if there are issues around repairs being required, over and above what a normal maintenance expenditure would be, there are home owner repair programs, emergency repair programs and so on that the housing corporation provides for those individuals that may be in that situation.

Again, if there are specific individuals within his constituency that require some help, I would be more than glad to discuss it with him or have my officials deal with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, did I understand correctly, that the homeowners can inspect the private homes to make sure they're safe and to look at the fire extinguishers to make sure that they're up to date, just to do a safety inspection of these private homes.

Can private homeowners request inspections, or is it your department that asks the officials to do the inspections. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not exactly sure on where the member's questions are going in respect to safety. If it's in respect to housing conditions, that is where the Housing Corporation would come into play.

If it is in respect to issues around fire, that's where the fire marshal would come into play. So, I guess it is a matter of what issues that the Member is raising as far as safety concerns for the home owners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I think he is misunderstanding me. I am talking about public housing, yes, they are regularly maintained. I am talking about home owners not the public housing.

I know the public housing units are being regularly maintained, but home owners in the communities are what I am talking about.

I am concerned that these home owners. I am wondering whether they can get regular inspections to ensure their houses are up to code. Can you ensure that these home owners can get that same service as public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can try. It depends on what issues the home owner is facing. Like I said if it is in respect to a deterioration of the unit because it is an older unit and a poor insulation and then the Member had mentioned before, that obviously we could work with that home owner to try to access some of the programs that we have for home repair programs.

It is in respect to fire marshals, issues around that or health issues around the quality of some of the components of the house and that might be a different matter, but it certainly will work with the Member and any home owner that has problems to try and identify where we can assist them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 471 – 1(6): Program Review Exercise**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed and I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Which Department is coordinating the program review exercise?

Mr. Speaker, I have been concerned and also been speaking out sometime now that the Government would be better able to deal with social issues in Nunavut by dividing the Department of Health and Social Services into two.

This would allow for each Department to clearly focus on its mission. My question, Mr. Speaker, is will the Premier commit to me and this House that the program review exercise will give serious consideration to this idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I will do is await the results of the program review and I would be alone in reviewing that, the Cabinet along with the Members will adjoin me in reviewing the final analysis of the review.

So, I look forward to working with the Member and all Members of this House in determining the best way of moving forward after the program review is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to elaborate little bit more on why we need to have a Social Services Department. When I review the Opening Remarks of the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Committee Chairperson's Report, also the Main Estimates, there is very little spoken about social service issues and a large part of the budget is for health related issues.

So, to have healthy communities, we need to have a good program to just support and help our people in the communities. I would just like to make sure that this is being taken seriously. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Premier Okalik.



**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep an open mind. I would like to see the review completed and as I said, I am committed to working with all members including on the best ways of moving forward when the review is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Premier. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

**Question 472 – 1(6): Baker Lake – Private Airline Fuel Services**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too will give my friend a break today in question period.

My question today Mr. Speaker is to the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, the current awarding of the petroleum products contract to Woodward's Oil, and also the awarding of the dry cargo contract to NSSI shipping.

I'd like to thank the minister for his quick response to most of our questions but in Baker Lake we have a private contractor providing fuel services for fuelling up aircrafts in Baker Lake.

This contractor fuels commercial aircrafts, plus he's also responsible for fuelling medivacs, emergency airplanes etc. And the Government of Nunavut in the awarding of the centre over looked this very important component when they were awarding their contracts.

The question today to the Minister responsible is will his department work with this contractor to make sure that they have sufficient fuel to fuel up medivacs and the commercial airlines this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the answer I was looking for. Will he keep me informed also because this is a very important issue and can he also let me know when he is going to have this issue settled because the last time I knew or heard, there was no really decision made on it.

Can the minister commit to let me know as soon as possible about this private contractor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Question 473 – 1(6): Capital Projects**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad my voice won't be on the radio because I have a deep voice. I sound like a big man.

My question is directed to Community Government and Transportation minister. In the communities there are projects like dock or roads to be constructed to out the out skirts of the community. How are these projects dealt with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): When there are different needs in the communities for projects there is a tender call put out. If the roads need to be constructed in the communities to a hunting site or different, there is a proposal call for these projects. The Cape Dorset regional office deals with those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The transportation minister gets funding from the Federal Government and my question is, when there is a dock or a road being constructed to the out squirts of the community the hamlet has an opportunity to take part.

But my question is, in any of the community, say they want to build a breakwater, would they have to ask the Federal Government for the funding or can her department deal with those requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. regarding the breakwater projects in the communities, it's an ongoing project and we're seeking funds from the Federal Government.

We have had some of the funds forwarded to us for these breakwater projects. Those communities who need these breakwaters, we have to do a feasibility study first for instance, especially when it's going to affect the marine area and we have to deal with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans before those projects are started.

Mr. Speaker, if a community is requesting a breakwater, we would work with the community and the Federal Government. We would automatically be dealing with them anyway, and first of all, we'd deal with the community first to discuss the needs and how these breakwaters would be constructed.

Yes, the funds are funnelled through us but if we need more funding, we would request those funds from the Federal Government and ensure that we have the same understanding with the community and work with the communities and yes they would work through my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Yes if there's a need in the community, they would have to do a study first as I heard, through their department. I think it was last year; there was a feasibility study done in the community in the month of August.

There were some officials in the community. What were they planning or have you seen that project regarding that study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The members had asked about the breakwater projects in the communities and if it could be made a priority for the members.

The breakwater projects, we haven't really been dealing with this project. The previous government had this initiative and it was not their priority as well. Because of that, the breakwaters, in these communities, are to better serve the sealift season.

These breakwaters are not specifically built for the hunters. With that, when Nunavut came to be and when I became Minister, I was asked by the members to find out what the needs were for these breakwaters. So, I had asked the officials to go into the communities and find out what they're asking for exactly about these breakwaters.

What we do know now, is that these communities are not happy with their breakwaters because they weren't geared for the benefit of hunters. Mr. Speaker, in some of the communities these breakwaters are actually a safety issue and there are dangerous issues in some of the communities as a result of these breakwaters.

These were only constructed for these ships to dock and the idea has changed whereas, we want to construct these breakwaters to benefit hunters and that is why there was a study.

The Federal Government funding is geared towards these breakwaters and we have began working closer with the communities to ensure their needs are met. There were some funding issues in there that we had to deal with on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 474 – 1(6): Homeownership Impacts**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I was glad that he was getting quite emotional yesterday. I just want to get the facts straight here.

There have been a lot of home ownership programs and there are different programs that allow people to buy homes. So those home owners that have gone through the banks for mortgage, what effect does the Housing Corporation have on these houses that have bought their homes through the banks?

Their setup is quite worrisome. For instance, they can be moved from the house as one of the conditions from the mortgage from these banks. I am wondering if his Department has any effect on these home owners that have bought homes through the bank. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is speaking about foreclosures of individuals do not make their mortgage payments fall into arrears and obviously, the private relationship with the financial institutions, the banks, and they would have legal ramifications in respect of trying to recover their investments.

We have little input into that matter, the transaction between the private home owner and the financial institution. Our initial assistance is obviously is through the down payment assistance program that would have helped those individuals.

But having said that, Mr. Speaker, if there are individuals that are in that situation, we would hope that they would at least come to the Housing Corporation and try to seek some kind of counselling, some assistance that we might be able to provide or should be able to assist them with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I called you Chair earlier. That is a very good response and for these home owners. I am not aware of anybody who has gone through these problems with the banks.

So, I am very pleased to hear that the Housing Corporation would be willing assist individuals who are going through a hard time to ensure the bank does not foreclose on them. I am wondering if that is the process now, if they have any type of assistance for those people with problems paying up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is no program now that would make their mortgage payments. For example, for an individual in that situation, like, not directly from the Housing Corporation.

We would try to provide some kind of financial counselling to see, try to assist them to see if something can be worked out between that home owner and the private financial institution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports to Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Irqittuq.

#### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

##### **Motion 020 – 1(6): Establishment of a Task Force on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on March 24, 2003 I will move the following motion.

I MOVE seconded by the Honourable member for Baker Lake that the Government of Nunavut Establish a Task Force on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing;

AND FURTHER, I MOVE that the Task Force be established no later than May 1, 2003;

AND FURTHER, I MOVE that the Task Force be charged with the responsibility of examining the issue of suicide in Nunavut and making recommendations for real action in the areas of suicide prevention and community healing;

AND FURTHER, I MOVE that:

- The Task Force be broadly representative of Nunavut's community, youth Elders, healers, educators and justice workers;
- The Task Force receive all necessary resources and support from the Government of Nunavut;
- The Task Force report to the Minister of Health and Social Services within six months of its establishment;
- The Minister of Health and Social Services table the Task Force's report in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 14. Notice of Motions. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 7. Written Questions. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The member if is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item 7. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. McLean.

### **Revert to Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 010 -1(6): Ministerial Travel**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask a written question posed to Mr. Paul Okalik, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

1. Ministerial travel – for the period April 1, 2002 to March 1, 2003, how many trips on official ministerial business were undertaken by, the Honourable Olayuk Akasuk, the Honourable Jack Anawak, the Honourable Peter Kattuk, the Honourable Peter Kilabuk, the Honourable Kelvin Ng, the Honourable Paul Okalik, the Honourable Ed Picco and the Honourable Manito Thompson?
2. What the purpose and itinerary of each trip?
3. What was the total cost of each trip?
4. Which trips were undertaken by scheduled air services?
5. Which trips were undertaken by air charter services?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 7. Written Questions. Returning to Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

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

#### **Bill 33 - A Tobacco Control Act - Notice**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Monday March 24, 2003, I shall move that Bill 33, A Tobacco Control Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 15. Notices of motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 30, Bill 31, Bill 32 Minister's Statement 126-1 (6) with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will break for lunch and report back to the chamber at 12:45.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:27 a.m. and resumed at 12:50 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you, for coming back. We have Bill 30, Appropriations, Operations and Maintenance, Bill 31, Bill 32, Minister's Statement 126-1(6). What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to deal with reviewing Bill 30, reviewing the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Yesterday we started off with the Department of Health and Social Services. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, are you going to bring your officials down to the witness table.

Minister Picco you may proceed to the witness table. Mr. Picco, can you introduce your officials please. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my immediate left is Mr. Donald Maychruk, from the Department of Finance within the Department of Health and Social Services.

On my immediate right is Mr. Keith Best. He is the acting Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. And in the gallery, we also have Laurie Idlout, we have our policy analyst and also our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit specialist, Mr. Andrew Tagak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once on a matter for ten minutes. Once all the members have had their general comments we'll move onto questions and we'll start off with page 10-5, but I'll open the floor for general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Department of Health and Social Services, because that department's mandate is one of the most difficult departments to deal with.

As we talk about concerns to the Minister, we tell him about all our issues and concerns whether it be airlines, boarding homes for patients and other general items. First of all I would like to acknowledge when we were young, we know how the community grows in size and back then, when I was younger, the population of Nunavut was very small compared to today.

Even in Igloolik, when I was growing up, there were less than 100 people in the community. Igloolik is quite a large community and when I was working for CBC down in Churchill, I used to go visit Arviat. Their population was so small they didn't even have an airstrip but the community worked together to remove boulders to make way for the airstrip because the population was very small.



Why was the population small, because of starvation and health problems? People from the Aiviliq region usually would lose their lives by being stranded on the ice and sometimes they would have illnesses that were curable but since they didn't have a nursing station or health centres at the community level, usually the patients were diagnosed too late and in them days they were never medivaced to medical services down south.

I know that there were quite a few people who had gone down to TB sanatorium, whether it be Moose Jaw or Hamilton or other places. But I do want to congratulate and acknowledge. I think we now have 26 thousand people populating Nunavut.

How did the population explode within the 50 years because we now have health centres and there are health services now and they now operate on patients and save their lives which was never the case in the past.

So, all the Inuit of Nunavut do appreciate that although we complain about the details, yes we do complain but looking at it as a whole it has improved a lot.

Likewise with health services and being provided shelter, schools, and nursing stations. Yes, the schools have enhanced us too because they teach us things that we would never know before and we can utilize the things we learn from school in daily life.

We all know that we still have challenging issues to face. If were going to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit we have to use the take the best ones with the European system for the system we use now and incorporate them together like we do as hunters and the elders don't know the weather will hold, how the weather will be day from now.

Why can't we forecast the weather now? Traditionally it was possible, but now the environment has changed. And likewise with health because our diet has changed and our shelters have changed.

The knowledge of the medical professionals and the knowledge of traditional knowledge should combine their knowledge so that we can work towards resolving some of the issues and the Department of Health and Social Services made is a huge one and we all know that.

And also as Inuit, which is 85% of the population of Nunavut is not aware how we should address health issues, the preventative side, like myself. Some of us smoke cigarettes. Don't we know the causes of it? Yes, we know that it can cause health problems but we are addicted to it.

Whether it be alcohol or cigarettes and also the heat like we visit homes when somebody is ill and they let their children visit the home where there is a ill person in the home.

Is it because due to ignorance, or is it because they think they know they won't get infected but and our diet could be hazardous to your health and there are documented cases. Yes, there are diabetics out there and there is or there might be too much oil in the potato chips like, we are now living a foreign culture that we never knew better.

Some people now live who never gone out of their community and they've never gone out camping or hunting. They just stay at their community, especially during the spring time. We get flu and these illnesses and we experience them annually.

What I am trying to say is, Mr. Chairman, yes, the Main Estimates for the Department is a little bit over \$150 million. Yes, we want to resolve some of the problems, but we do have to remember to collect all the of traditional knowledge and Qallunaaq system.

When I say Qallunaaq system, I am not talking about white people. What I am trying about is that the Western Culture is not our culture. I know that those solutions, Western System solutions is not going to resolve all the issues in the north like, smoking, addiction and eating healthy foods for the people of Nunavut.

For that reason, what I would like to see, all this knowledge collected, traditional knowledge and current knowledge of the western world so that we could start living a healthier life mentally and physically and start eating better foods.

And with the knowledge of what foods are good for your body or not, either by exercising to live a healthy life because our ancestors had never stopped working physically.

And nowadays, we see heart attacks and strokes and too much cholesterol. So, I believe we have to educate the public about these things through negotiations because if we just try to work with the money, even if we build health centers, I do not think it is going to improve the health of the public.

We have to learn the knowledge of Inuit people and we have to learn their western knowledge and combine them together. Although it is not going to resolve overnight, we are not going to resolve it overnight.

But in view of the future, long-term future with the use of this new first Legislative Assembly, we have to start making plans. As we have stated after ten years that we would like to see Inuktitut language being spoken in all of the workplaces of Nunavut Government.

We do need to have some, a goal similar to that in order to have a healthy life and make your objectives so that the public out there will know how to live a healthy life after the ten or twenty years is over.

And so that is the kind of plans I would like to see. I am out of time, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Doctor Arvaluk. I will allow Ms. Williams to speak now.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. I do have many things to thank the Department of Health and Social Services for.

A few days ago, I made a Member's Statement thanking the people from Baffin Larga in Ottawa because it is being operated very well and they are very receptive and the people there are very welcoming.

So, I am very appreciative for that fact. My mother is still down there, but she will be travelling back up here tomorrow. So, I would like to thank the Department and I am sure she feels the same.

And I am sure it is the case in other boarding homes such as Winnipeg because they do take care of the patients and take them, they transport them to and from where they should be going.

But what I talked about the other day is when the patients arrive to Iqaluit in the evenings, nobody picks them up and I am sure this has been looked into already. Mr. Chairman, I will be asking questions in regards to this issue.

And also, in regards to councillors and social workers, Social Services being in the same Department as Health, I know that health issues are very important.

Mr. Chairman, it could be that if we're happy in our lives and if we have confidence and if we know what our limits are, we can live a healthier life. That's what I'm trying to say because patients have to go to the health centres and nursing stations.

There are a lot of preventative things that we could do. For example, cigarette smoking, it's totally up to us whether we want to smoke cigarettes or not. When we smoke cigarettes, it's not good for our health.

It's totally up to us whether we want to smoke or not. If you smoke, you can get sick later on and the money would be used to help the person who is sick when that money could have been used for something else. That money is being used to provide services for those preventative illnesses that the people get. If there is more preventative work done, there would be less sick people.

Looking at the department's main estimates and businesses plans, the overall budget has increased for the health issues.

Later on, after the general comments, I will be asking questions in regards to this issue on how the funding for health services and social services is split up. Also, Mr. Chairman, I will be asking about the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, article 32 because previously

there were documents being tabled and I don't know if one was tabled last year, but these documents that were tabled are called "On our Terms", that's what they were called. That's what the title is which was written by social services.

I want to know how effective they were especially for social services because they have the responsibility to carry on that article because according to the land claims agreement, article 32, that the staff have to work with the land claims entity on those, especially on what kind of support they need.

Mr. Chairman, the suggestions and the recommendations have to be respected by the department. Also, in the land claims agreement where it states that you have to work in cooperation with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated entity, in regards to the social issues and health issue, in view of that Mr. Chairman, during question period, Mr. Chairman, I'll be asking questions in regards to those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for being here. We all try hard to ensure the health of Nunavummiut. We all try to do our part to ensure people live healthy lives although this is a big amount of money for the Department, but we are not always going to be satisfied with what is offered. We are always going to get sick and we have to deal with it, but we have to move on.

What we have fought for as Arvaluk stated, that if we take all the goodness of our culture, the cultures of Qallunaat and the Inuit culture, take all of the good thing out of both cultures and combine to make it work and that is when we could see solutions.

We as Inuit understand part of the Qallunaat culture, but because the Inuit culture is so unique, it is very hard for other people to understand us.

I bring that up because for instance, it is probably really not the case in Newfoundland, but other parts of Canada. My daughter is 18 years old and according to their culture, she has to move on out of my house and that is not our culture.

I also know of a person who is 53 years old who is still living with his parents and that is what the difference in our cultures are because it is our culture, it is the way we are. People have to make an attempt to understand and respect our culture.

We cannot just walk into a Qallunaaq's house, we have to knock first before we want to go in and we have to get permission to go into their homes. If I go to my community, for instance, or if I go to Pangnirtung and I go visit an Inuit family, I could just walk in because it is the way we are.

Those are very big differences in our culture. It is our culture and the way we live, that is a big gap. We have different knowledge. If I go down south and shoot a cow to sustain myself, I would not be allowed to do that.

Those are the very big differences in our cultures. I just wanted to bring up our differences, first of all, because life is very important. At times, I may sound like that I am against other cultures and the social workers, sometimes I'll say why do we have a social worker in Hall Beach that does not speak Inuktitut?

Perhaps because over 50 or 40% or more do not speak English. In the smaller communities there are very big differences even from community to community and the pace and progress of some of these communities is faster than others and some communities are slower and more traditional and want to be traditional.

That's very apparent when you travel to different communities for meetings. Some communities are using the qallunaat culture more than others. And some who are not as traditional. I always bring it up because it's our lives, we're dealing with.

It was what our parents lived and we're just going through some big changes but at the same time trying to keep our culture. We have elders tell us how to live our lives and we try to live by it.

Where did social services come from? Did it come from a piece of paper, no. If it's Qallunaaq, Inuk, it's according to what they know they become social workers. We have never seen a piece of paper saying this is what we're going to do to help you deal with your social life.

Inuit elders know how to deal with social issues. There have always been problems and Inuit dealt with it, whether you're Inuk or Qallunaaq, you deal with those problems. That's why I try to fight hard to ensure that social services are dealt with by Inuit for Inuit.

If the mandate of social services changed to ensure they don't need that piece of paper to work there, because we know Inuit can help each other. They have that knowledge already.

We all have problems at one time or another. Those of us that have experienced those hardships, there are a lot of people that have gone through those because we know tomorrow will always come.

Those are the people who can truly help the people with social problems. But it's unfortunate that if they're not taught in southern institutions, they have to resort to using the policies and they think they can't deal with social issues just because they don't have that piece of paper and that education.

I'd like to say, as Inuit, it wasn't our way of doing that. When we started the Legislative Assembly, you could see my anger although I didn't let it all go when I said that the government killed my sister.

That was a feeling, an emotion I had to let go of by talking about it because it happened according to policies and regulations of the government. I didn't mean to attack anyone personally because that's how I saw it.

In the Inuit culture, she would have been fine and in everyday life there are different ways of dealing with things and we still have that knowledge.

I have someone that is close to me, is very strong, has all this knowledge and has lived life because he's been through hardships and it's kind of frustrating that that person next to me has gone through the court system for years and he's strong enough to be here because he's experienced it and he can help other people with his experience because he's a very smart man.

There are a lot of other people that have had all their life experiences that, my time was too short but Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Those are very encouraging words. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for coming before us. Welcome. That's all I can say.

I have not too much to say but as Inuit we're slowly becoming more self reliant because we recognized our rights. When Qallunaaq first came we were like slaves more or less but we have over come that and have decided that we have to work together to make things work and that's very good.

Working together is what we need and that's what we've started and I encourage people to work together no matter what background you come from even though, yes, with limited funds you do the best you can to deal with people's lives in trying to help them and I commend you for the hard work.

I'd also like to bring up issues about social work in the communities. We need more recognition in dealing with social issues in the communities. Yes, I know we have to take ownership in order to that and realize that we have to deal with it but a lot of people are confused about who they are because they're between two cultures of Inuit and Qallunaaq.

That's a barrier at this point even though we can over come that if we're given the chance. We want to be more self reliant as Inuit. We don't want to be trampled on and be given orders on how to do things or how to live life like we always hear that Elders have all this knowledge. We always hear that. Even as Elders we don't know everything.

Young people are smarter and can really help Elders. I was told by one of my children as an Elder I was told this is how you do it dad, and yes I admit Elders can be wrong sometimes because we're not exposed to as many things as our young people are.

We were taught to be more afraid of Qallunaat and we had to listen to everything that Qallunaat said even though they might have been wrong. One regret I've had over the years about social work, when there was school in Chesterfield Inlet, I wanted to go there for a year but my parents didn't want me to go and they didn't realize they were wrong at the time but yes we do make mistakes and we have to admit our mistakes.

And that is part of dealing with social issues. That's all my comments and I thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Those are very encouraging words. I have no one on my list at this time.

If it's the wish of the committee we'll go on to the question period on page 10-5. Any questions? Would you like to go line by line? Page 10-5, 10-6, 10-7 are all together. Department of Health and Social Services, Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Grants and Contributions, \$986 thousand dollars, an increase of \$20 thousand dollars.

In there it says \$5 thousand dollars for community councils and \$5 thousand dollars for a Nunavut-wide council. I'm not particularly asking about the money issue, but these community councils were given \$5 thousand dollars per community when the regional health boards were dissolved.

The act that we amended, can we amend the change in the act because \$5 thousand dollars is not enough, especially when it's in the amended act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, originally when we dissolved the boards, we had put in place the committees of council in each of the communities. At that time we funded each one of them about \$5 thousand dollars.

A recommendation came forward from the standing committee and the house that suggested that we increase those dollars and that's what we did last year. I still have about \$200 thousand dollars available.

Right now we've allocated \$177 thousand 500 dollars and there's about \$20 thousand dollars extra, and what we use that for is when special requests come from communities, from the community council.

If it's for training or if it's for extra dollars and so on, then we're able to allocate some extra funds for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He said that they can bring forth applications. Is that a new thing or has it been happening already? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's something that's been in place for the last two years.

For example, if the community had a situation around alcohol and drug awareness workshop or seminar, then they could come back to the cabinet and come back to the council, through the council, to the hamlets, to the Minister's office and ask for some extra funds if they're available and that's what we have made available there.

We weren't able to do different types of funding other than the amount that we have in place because we did not have that available in the budget for this fiscal year to increase it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page, for the directorate increase of \$20 thousand dollars, or on page 10-7, new monies. This is new monies for \$20 thousand dollars for nursing scholarships.

How many students is that intended for in the nursing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct. That is for the Nursing Program and that is the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship that was set up in honour of the Queen's visit to Nunavut and it is made available to the nursing students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Is that through an application process as well for these nursing students or is it automatically given to these students? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the students who are in the nursing program who are doing very well academically with attendance and so on,



they may become eligible for the scholarship and then it is awarded each year to those students.

They would make an application from the students themselves in the program, you know, to the faculty and then it would come to the Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): If I was a good student, I would be given at the end of the year according to the performance. We wanted to increase the funding for these nursing students. Is that as a result, even though this would be given at the end of each year?

Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's awarded to the two students in the program with the highest academic mark each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those students in the nursing program, we requested that their funding be increased. Is there a misunderstanding here or did I misunderstand you?

We wanted their money to be increased. This \$20,000 of new money is that as a result of our request to increase funding for their, because I know he is very good Minister and he listens to us.

So, my question is, is that as a result of our request to increase and then we hear this is given at the end of each year if they had high marks, can you please clarify that? This increase, please explain it. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Chair of the Standing Committee of Health and a couple of years ago, they made a recommendation that we put in place for the other amount that he is talking about.

And this is the \$20,000 and the Member is correct. This is new money that was introduced this year on behalf for the visit of the Queen, it is called the Queen Elizabeth II Scholarship and it is an extra program for our nursing students, but it is just for the nursing students.

But the Member is correct, that is an extra program from recommendations that had come forward from the Committee. Thank you.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to my Colleague's question from page 10-6, it states here, well, it is written here in the explanation and we had asked questions to the Minister and he said that the larger communities would be receiving close to \$8 thousand and the smaller communities would be receiving \$5 thousand for community support for operations.

And we did not agree with that and we wanted to see the increase for all of the communities. My question is whether this has changed or if there was no change in this at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member on page 10-6, it did say contribution of \$5 thousand per community in writing. That is the typo, that is the error. We did increase the amounts to all communities.

The first time we did this was in the 2001/2002 budget. The member is correct, there is only \$5 thousand dollars for every community, no matter how small or big they were. On recommendations of the health committee, we went back and reviewed it based on what I had available, which was the \$200 thousand dollars, and then we increased it.

So, for example, Mr. Chairman, almost every community received an increase. Rankin Inlet, for example, went from \$5 thousand dollars to \$10 thousand dollars. Arviat went from \$5 thousand dollars to \$75 hundred dollars, Pangnirtung went from \$5 thousand dollars to \$75 hundred dollars, and so on.

So there was an increase last year and we've maintained the same amounts in those increases for this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I thank him for supporting the larger communities because they can have better services. And thank you for giving me the detailed figures for the larger communities.

Perhaps I can ask the Minister about my two communities, how much money they have received through this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if you could just give me a second, I'll add them up here.

Would the member want the amount over the last two years, how much has been given to the three communities, or by year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just trying to get clarification. A contribution of \$5 thousand dollars per community, whether this is annual.

For example, Arctic Bay, Grise Fjord, Resolute Bay, how much funding will each community receive annually,. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for Arctic Bay, they receive \$12 thousand dollars, over the last two years, that's 6 and 6.

Grise Fjord received \$10 thousand dollars, that was 5 and 5 and Resolute Bay received 10 thousand dollars also and that was 5 and 5. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought we were using these main estimates just for a year. I thought we planned for a full year. What I'm talking about is one year. I thought we were dealing with one year main estimates, not two year main estimates.

Is the Minister saying that the communities still receive \$5 thousand dollars but if they do make an application, they would be given larger amounts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification, the money that is in the budget there is the same as last year.

When we first put the money in the budget, everyone received \$5 thousand dollars. And the committee came back and said, Minister that's not enough and it's not fair that a larger community only gets \$5 thousand dollars when the smallest one gets the same amount.

What about the medium sized communities? I only have \$2 hundred thousand dollars to play with. So we went back through, looking on them based on needs, per/capita and so on and we increased the budget last year per community.

So for example, Arctic Bay went from 5 thousand dollars to 6 thousand dollars and so on. So this year, for example, Arctic Bay, will get \$6 thousand dollars, the same amount that they got last year.

That money Mr. Chairman, is to support the committee. It's not to hire staff. It may be used to pay honorarium, for example. Some communities use it to pay honorarium. Cambridge Bay, the people don't pay any honorarium at all, they use it to hold workshops and so on.

We give the money to the hamlets and they then with the community, it's up to themselves to use the discretionary funding for the purpose of helping facilitate the health committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the outline of the roles and responsibilities of the committees that the Minister just outlined.

My question was that, first we're not always happy about the Federal Government giving us funding per/capita. And we are doing the same thing as the Government of Nunavut to our communities.

So, that is what I am trying to say. My question is Mr. Chairman, if Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord wanted more money, if they got \$5 thousand, is this \$200 available for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is correct. The, we have allocated \$177 thousand,500 for this program, for this budget year, that is what we have allocated. When the total amount is available, there was \$200 thousand.

So, if one of those communities came forward, then we would have \$22 thousand,500 for that based on program, a proposal or a need. And that way it makes it a little bit fairer for any community to access or uptake on some extra funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I seem to recall when we started this Government; I will just follow up on Ms. Williams' manner of questioning. We dissolved the Health Board, Regional Health Board and the Education Board.

And I learn that from Coral Harbour that Education, DEAs are doing well, having a direct communication with the Minister of Education. We also stated that we wanted to do more at the local level, give more authority and responsibility to local DEAs and Health Boards or Health Committees.

Yet, other than small increase that my Colleagues are talking about and as the Minister is talking about, we have not really done anything to have more community initiatives and assistance.

And for example, we have not really hired a Secretary Treasurer for the Health Committee, we have not really increased any Honorariums nor have a better communication between health centers and the Health Committees. We lack resources to do that.

Will the Minister consider in the next budget to make the commitment that the Government made at the beginning of this Government to make that a reality by providing financial budget to do that?

Because when we are looking at, if we are looking at a DEAs funding for a year and the Health Committee's funding for a year, there is a very big discrepancy for the same promise, for the same intent when the Health Board was removed.

When are we going to see dollars to help the local Health Committees to be more active with resources that are provided by the Government? Thank you..

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I want to say that, when we looked at the dissolution of the Boards, the Education Boards as well as the Health Boards, it seems like a long time ago now that the Member who was the Minister at the time and is doing an excellent job and I want to congratulate him on the leadership shown.

Quickly, Mr. Chairman, on the Health Committees, I am honest to say that the Health Committees are really are active and again it depends on the community. The Health Committees are involved, for example, Brighter Futures, community wellness money that is distributed.

Some of the Health Committees get regular updates sent to my Office of the work that they have been doing. I must say that the majority of our Health Committees are very active member of the Hamlets and they have been working diligently on the whole range of community health issues.

After saying that, Mr. Chairman, we have also, over the last two years, have held the training workshops in most Regions at least twice and we are attempting, over the next two or three weeks to be rewarding a for, again the continuation of training in our community wellness committees across Nunavut.

So, I think they've done some really good work and they are active and again the budgets aren't necessarily for administration. They're actually there for support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Do you have any further questions Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that will change from a mouth piece to something that the community could stick with in the next budget.

My question is on the 10-5. Compensation benefits, \$10,824,000. Mr. Chairman, I understand that this is for providing leadership and direction to the department and to monitor Health and Social Services programs.

In other words, this is for payments to the staff of the Department of Health and Social Services of the administrative and policy making levels, etc. for \$10,000,000. What percentage is that in comparison to what you pay to the doctors and contract nurses, travel costs to the patients outside of their community, medivacs, etc.

I guess what I'm trying to get at here is, what is a service needed for having nurses, doctors, transporting patients to the hospital etc., to \$10,000,000 as an administrative cost to run the Health and Social Services. What percentage is that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is a difficult question. First of all when it comes to compensation and benefits, the \$10,824,000, that's for the administrative positions that are located in headquarters as well as the three regional centres, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, and Cambridge Bay.

They look at the percentage based on the doctors as the member knows, I believe we only have 10 or 11 base doctors in all of Nunavut, but on the physician costs themselves, they're considerably higher because every time we sent someone outside, for example, to Yellowknife, Winnipeg and so on, we have to pay those costs. It would roughly be about 11%, I believe, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no doubt then for 10 million dollars worth, almost 11 million dollars worth, finding out what is the best way to run Health and Social Services in Nunavut.

What is the most cost effective way under the leadership and direction to the department that will eventually, some day, down the road that we will be able to make more efficient

way of looking after the sick and health prevention etc., that we're talking about because at the moment the way, we've been short on nurses and very high cost of transportation.

I mean, that's for the year alone, for your sending the patients out you say was around 20 million dollars or over 20 million dollars for medivacs and etc. You know, I don't know how many planes we can buy with that, have our own planes just for medivacs like the cities do with their transit system instead of just running a taxi in Ottawa, they have bus services too and the rails in Montreal etc., owned by the city because they could run it more cheaply for their own citizens.

I hope we will start looking at our health programs in line like that at least to make the health programs and social services more affordable in respect of the total budget of the Nunavut Government.

I don't think any other jurisdiction in Canada, I understand that transportation comes at a very high cost but in other costs, like to run the program other than the finance department, that is pretty heavy, \$10 million dollars to run the Health and Social Services program.

That is, I understand, it's not a professional position, these are administrative and management director positions including our support staff, for management, other than doctors and nurses and transportation, hospital fees etc.

I as a regular Member of the Legislative Assembly along with my other colleagues here, have a very hard time. If I'm not a member of the Health and Social Services Standing Committee, okay, I have a very hard time reading between the lines of your budget because every page has very similar headings.

Compensation and benefits, grants and contributions. I think we talked to the finance Minister on that one before to inform him that it's very difficult to get answers unless we believe you. I don't know if politicians are easily persuaded by this but is there any way we can see, as regular members representing our communities, representing Nunavut, have a better picture as to where the doctors and nurses and transportation for sick people is being identified in this budget, where the management to run the Health and Social Services department is identified.

Where the health promotions and suicide preventions because we'll be going to suicide prevention down the road I found it quite shocking how small the suicide prevention money is because some of it hidden maybe in the compensation and benefits. It doesn't give you a good picture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The method that we're using is the approved format that has been in place for the last several years and I understand the frustration of the member because under health for example, when you're looking at, if someone went

out for respiratory track infection, we wouldn't categorize that as one specific type of illness.

For example, pneumonia, it would be covered under medical travel, we would have to send them out and then we'd have to pay for the bed and that would be medical services purchases outside the territory and so on.

For example, Mr. Chairman, on some of the costs, every time we send someone out for a hospital bed, when someone stays over night, right now the paediatric costs in Ottawa, just for example, is \$1 thousand 786 dollars a night. That's what your government pays.

So for every time we send a child out, we pay \$1 thousand 786 dollars in the hospital. For an adult, it's around \$1 thousand 600 dollars a night that we pay. So every time you have a patient that's in Winnipeg or Yellowknife, Edmonton or Ottawa and so on, we're paying \$1 thousand 600 dollars a night if they're at the hospital.

Those costs would be covered under different categories within the department. That's how you have to break them down so that for example, travel and transportation, supplies and so on and so forth, you'll make sense in the way of the framework of the costs are.

But I can do, Mr. Chairman, for the Member, is we have put together a new document that I will make available to the Members over the next week or so. I have to get it translated first, I had just gotten it today, and it gives me a breakdown by community of positions that tells me the top ten reasons for referrals.

For example, I am looking at Cambridge Bay right now, that tells me the population is 1,714. There were 2,184 scheduled here, passengers travelled since 1999. Last year, it was 626 and that was up by over a hundred from the year before.

And I also break it down, but you are asking for, James, in the capitation benefits and expenses for that community, then we can take that and then break it down into the budget, but that is a lot of detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Are you agreeable? You can ascertain the Speaker. Thank you, Minister Picco. We will see you again on Monday.

**Speaker**: Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Reports of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.



### Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 30 in the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. Also, 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. Nutarak will second the motion. The motion is in order, all those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills.

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

### Item 22: Orders of the Day

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to regular members that presentation with Minister of Finance on the supplementary budget is commencing at 2:30 p.m. but be there by 2:15. Thank you.

Orders of the day for Monday, March 24, 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
  - Motion 20-1 (6)

17. First Reading of Bills

- Bill 33

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 30
- Bill 31
- Bill 32
- 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. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 14:01 p.m.*

