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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Nattilik)
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday March 25, 2003**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Irgittuq, 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. Alakannuark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 146 – 1(6): Transportation Infrastructure Studies

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the members about the various projects and studies that my department has undertaken with respect to transportation infrastructure.

The Department of Community Government & Transportation is committed to working with communities and other partners on projects to improve our transportation infrastructure throughout Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, a critical component of transportation infrastructure is planning. Planning provides an opportunity to review the benefits, costs and impacts of proposed projects. My department has undertaken a number of studies ranging from environmental assessment to preferable locations of ports, roads and terminal buildings. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the members of the studies that are being conducted by the department.

Mr. Speaker, as part of the S.H.I.P program with Transport Canada, we have just awarded a contract to a consultant company to perform environmental assessments for the three airport terminal buildings (ATBs).

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the terminal buildings will be in Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven and Pond Inlet. This study has been commissioned to obtain environmental approval from the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) for the proposed construction of the air

terminal buildings. Once approval has been received from NIRB, we can proceed with the construction of the terminal buildings.

Mr. Speaker, in partnership with the Department of Sustainable Development the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, the Kitikmeot Corporation and other private sector partners we have conducted a feasibility study on the Bathurst road and port project. We are now waiting for the decision by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada on how they want to conduct the environmental review prior to moving forward on the project.

And Mr. Speaker, with regards to deep-sea port and road, at the end of September 2002, again in partnership with the Department of Sustainable Development we initiated a study into the Kimmirut Deep Sea Port and an All Weather Road project. The study is in the initial stages but we are looking forward to the results of the study.

Mr. Speaker, my department continues to make the development for the Kivalliq to Manitoba road a priority. We are pursuing the initial studies for this project in partnership with the Kivalliq Inuit Association and the Manitoba Department of Transportation and Government Services. While Minister Robert Nault of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has indicated support for the required initial studies, approval has been slow. My officials will be meeting with the members of the partnership later this month in Winnipeg to determine this projects next step. It is our hope that our federal partners can formalize their involvement in this project soon.

I would also like to focus on the studies currently underway in Pangnirtung with regard to the proposed airport relocation. In 2002, the Hamlet and my department jointly commissioned a study on the construction of the new airport in Pangnirtung. The current airport presents a number of safety concerns as well as hindrance to growth for the community. The current study will select a site for the airport and determine how best to access to it and will estimate the price for the whole project.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have just presented the members with a number of studies that are taking place with my department and government. While we are committed to working with communities and to developing a transportation infrastructure to serve Nunavummiut, we recognize that there are limited funds available to the Government of Nunavut. While studies are a first good step, our budget challenges will be a factor in determining which projects will proceed and which will have to be deferred.

I am committed to working in partnership with communities to improve the infrastructure in Nunavut and hope that these studies assist us in determining which projects are feasible and ready to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 147 – 1(6): Initiative to Advance Nunavut's Languages

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, at midnight on April 1, 1999, the linguistic map of Canada changed.

Canada suddenly had a jurisdiction where the majority of its people spoke neither English nor French. Nunavut is the only jurisdiction in Canada where the majority people speak an aboriginal language. Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun.

Now that Nunavut has been created it is no longer acceptable that unilingual Inuit be obliged to communicate with the government in English. When they enter a government office, or call on the phone, Nunavummiut expect that there will be someone there who can speak to them in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and French as well. Nunavut deserves to be served in their own languages.

Given the decentralized model of government of Nunavut this will take work, coordination and change in every department. The Languages Commissioner and Ajauqtiit have recommended that the department put together a group of senior officials to plan a work to achieve these goals.

Mr. Speaker, the government agrees with these recommendations and continues to be committed to the goals of the Bathurst Mandate. In 2020 Inuktitut in all its forms will be the working language of the government of Nunavut. In 2020 we are committed to be a fully functional society in Inuktitut and English, respectful and committed to the needs and rights of French speakers.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to announce that my department will now take the lead in two GN wide initiatives to respond to language issues. Both groups will be made up of assistant deputy ministers and other senior officials.

The *Official Language Service Group* will develop a strategy that will enable each department of the government to deliver services in public in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French.

The *Working Group Language by 2020 Group* will have a longer term and more comprehensive mandate. It is being asked to find ways to achieve the commitment made in the Bathurst Mandate to establish Inuktitut as the working language of the government.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, by establishing these two working groups, the government is taking historic steps, unique to Canada, in recognizing aboriginal language rights, and the language rights of French speakers.

I will table the terms of reference for both working groups later today. They will of course, be provided in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English and French. I will continue to report to you on the progress being made in this work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco

Minister's Statement 148 – 1(6): Counselling Gathering in Pangnirtung

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell you about an exciting project my department has initiated. We have approached the Qikiqtani Inuit Association and they have enthusiastically agreed to co-host a first ever gathering of Inuit counsellors and wellness workers. The gathering, to be held in Pangnirtung, will bring together approximately a dozen counsellors from the Baffin region.

Mr. Speaker, while my department has excellent staff, many have limited knowledge of holistic Inuit counselling practices. This event will give them an opportunity to learn to better serve Nunavummiut in a more culturally appropriate way. It will also create a venue for counsellors and wellness workers of the Baffin region to share and exchange counselling strategies with one another.

In addition to this special event, Meeka and Abraham Arnaqaq, counsellors from Pangnirtung, will conduct workshops on counselling skills for nurses, social services staff and allied health professionals in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, during April and May.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my department's continued commitment to the inclusion of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in the service we provide to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 488 – 1(6): Incorporating IQ – Wildlife Act

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I would like to talk about the consultation process about the Wildlife Act, I have not seen it and it has not been seen by the public.

They are making consultation tours in Keewatin and Qikiqtaaluk Region and I have seen the consultation group when I went to Rankin Inlet. One thing that I am concerned about every time we have Bills for Wildlife, they use Qallunaaq-style.

Who are the harvesters? Like for example, like they treat the hunters like non-native people, as if they are shooting. And also, we do get sports hunters into Coral Harbour and the harvesters point out this animal that the sports hunter will be shooting.

It is likewise in the Act. If they would like to incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, the Department of Sustainable Development, our drafters will have to consider Inuit traditional culture.

The father or the captain of the boat is the hunter and the rest in the boat are the subordinates and they are still harvesters, even though they may be hunters, but they are the subordinates of this lead hunter.

Whether it be walrus or bowhead, it is the captain who leads the hunt and they are shooters, even though they are called hunters. According to the Inuit culture, it is not a real hunter, they lead or the lead hunter or if there is captain did not manage them, they would not know what to do.

It is likewise with our father, would make us practise hunting and he would tell us where to shoot. I am almost finished my statement. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, my Colleagues. What I am trying to make a Member Statement on is that the Wildlife Act Bill, I know that we need to manage our wildlife and we need to consider the younger generation that we need sustainable harvest.

But we have to recognize the respecting of elders, the respect of the father and the uncles who are the hunters will have to be included in the Act because many Inuit people are not too happy about the Act when they are respectful of this elder, when the hunters arrive.

The son who is 14 or 16 or maybe 19 years old, is the one who harvested the walrus and this teen in Inuktitut is foreign. It is not the culture of Inuit people. We will have to revive the Inuit culture.

If we are going to call a big game hunter, an individual, cannot be a hunter because a group of hunters will have to harvest a big game. So, therefore we have to recognize the lead or the captain of the hunters. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 489 – 1(6): Counselling Gathering in Pangnirtung

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a Members' Statement that is not, oh, I am very pleased that my friend, Mr. Picco, made a Ministers' Statement on counselling gathering in Pangnirtung by counselors from Pangnirtung, Meeka and Abraham Arnaqaq will be conducting the workshops and counselling skills.

I am very pleased about it and my friend made a statement on the recognition of the Inuit people and I know these two individuals, councillors from Pangnirtung and they are Inuktitut-only speaking people.

For that reason, I am very pleased about the Ministers' Statement and I am sure that he did not want to make that Ministers' Statement, but and these two individuals of Nunavut have been recognized on their skills on providing counselling.

There are many individuals in all, most of the communities of Nunavut that are truly capable as such as these two individuals from Pangnirtung.

And I hope that the Department of Health and Social Services recognize these Inuktitut-only speaking counsellors more and I am very pleased about the Ministers' Statement on the counselling gathering in Pangnirtung. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 490 – 1(6): Transportation Infrastructure Studies

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of Pond Inlet residents, I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Transportation for making a statement on transportation infrastructure studies and Pond Inlet has been, for five years, have been working, and trying to get their airport terminal building.

On behalf of Pond Inlet residents, I would like to thank the Minister for working on the Airport Terminal Building in Pond Inlet. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 491 – 1(6): Government Projects

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I did not make a plan to make Member's Statement, but I do want to make a Member's Statement on the Ministers' Statements and every time they make Ministers' Statements, it is very good to hear these things coming out and we were expecting to see all these things being acted on and at least we are not being just provided with a lip service, this is being acted on.

On behalf of Nunavummiut, I congratulate and acknowledge the Nunavut Government because we are actually working on the or acting on some of the things that we wanted to see and I am now at least feeling peace at times.

And I am sure likewise with the other residents of Nunavut and I am sure they are looking forward to seeing these things actually being acted on in the communities and it would be ideal to see these projects go through. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 492 – 1(6): Travelling on the Land

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, spring is coming and the young people will start going out hunting. Mr. Speaker, once again, spring has begun, people will begin travel further into the land by snowmobiles, some will go fishing and others will be visiting relatives in other communities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to give advise, especially to the younger people, when you plan to travel on the land, tell your relatives where you plan to go and when you expect to be back. Even when you plan to travel a short distance, be sure to be prepared and have a good spring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 493 – 1(6): Thank Sandy Hicks and George Okalik

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Mr. Nutarak's Member's Statement, he reminded me of the airport terminal in Pond Inlet. They will be receiving airport terminal.

At least we are happy that we are starting to get the things that the community needs and Mr. Iqaqrialu had written me a note and gave me the Inuktitut terminology on environment, which are Avatalirijikkut and Nunavut Impact Review Board.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the two individuals from Whale Cove, Sandy Hicks and George Okalik. They are the instructors, especially Sandy Hicks, in Whale Cove, they were coaching the Minor Hockey Team and the hockey team went to Rankin Inlet.

The Whale Cove parents and grandparents had gone to gather in Rankin Inlet and I went to Rankin Inlet during the weekend and the games were very interesting even though people from the smaller communities such as Chesterfield Inlet had participated in that hockey tournament.

And the Whale Cove came and played against Rankin Inlet, and they were almost tied, but nobody would really lose. It was very enjoyable, Mr. Speaker. The parents were cheering on their teams. And the mothers and grandmothers were cheering their sons and they were yelling in Inuktitut and they were cooing in the direction of their grand children while they were playing hockey. They were yelling and cheering, and it was very loud.

Mr. Speaker, every time someone got checked, they would reprimand the hockey player, especially my daughter-in-law, Jacqueline, even though she may be small. She is my in-law, every time they checked her grand child or her son, she would yell back.

Mr. Speaker, I am almost concluding my Members' Statement, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. To conclude, Whale Cove now has a hockey arena. Every since they their arena opened they have been participating in all the tournaments. I thank them, and the children are very interested, and enthusiastic about playing hockey.

I would like to thank Sandy Hickes and also the parents for bringing their children into the hockey tournament, so I thank each and everyone of them. And also the children, and I also thank George Okalik. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 494 – 1(6): Congratulate Meeka and Abraham Arnakak

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I have not said anything to my own Kevin for a long time so, as well as Josie and Jenna. I would first of all like to congratulate Meeka and Abraham Arnakak for their achievements. And also I would like to thank them because, of course, they help our community, and provide counselling to their fellow community members.

I would like to recognize them. I am sure that there is other counsellors in the community who are doing traditional counselling. I would like to acknowledge them. And also Meeka and Abraham Arnakak, who have provide counselling services tirelessly on a volunteer basis for a very long time. I wish them the very best in the future. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 495 – 1(6): Kimmirut Training Program on Production of Sealskins

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to touch up on an issue that has been going on for a long time, but I just did not want to hear it and keep it to myself.

This is in Kimmirut. They have a training program on selling of seal products. They have a training program on the production of sealskin products. They started this project a few days before Christmas. And then the second set of students started right after Christmas.

They are taught in traditional Inuit methods, and undertook sealskin projects. It is part of enhancing and promoting the traditional usage of sealskin products. I would like to see more and more of that happen at the community level.

There were twenty students who participated in that program. It was very successful. It was not only Inuit students, there were Qallunaat teachers who participated in that program, and I would like to thank the instructors for setting up a very successful program.

We hope to see more of these types of training programs made available to the residents of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Minister Kattuk.

Member's Statement 496 – 1(6): Gun Legislation

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the issue of guns and firearms and I envy the people of Sanikiluaq who are now officially enjoying spring. When I called home this morning, it was +3 in Sanikiluaq. Spring is upon us.

When we were growing up, our fathers, our uncles, and relatives taught us about the safe use of firearms and what it should be used for and what it should not be used for.

As the older generation, we started using firearms when we could barely lift them up to our shoulders and we were taught that you were to use it only on wildlife and because the gun was too big for you, you put it under your arm instead of on your shoulder.

We were taught the proper use of guns, we were taught the safe handling of firearms and everything else about the gun, and where ever it would pose a danger to humans.

But I rise today as a regular Member to tell you that the firearm legislation is now being discussed again and I am telling the youth because of course, they will be going out on the land more frequently and must learn to properly handle and use firearms.

There will be birds coming, migratory birds coming into our land, and the seals basking under the sun, but Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say is that Inuit might be exempted from the Firearms Act, but I think it is going to have a huge impact on the Inuit and their hunting lifestyle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Celestine Irqijjuk, who is very well known in Nunavut, but the reason why I want to recognize him is when I first came to Iqaluit in 1971, Irqijjuk and Ben Ell, they were my mentors at that time.

I had apparently gave them something to laugh about when I went hunting with them in a snowmobile, I think we were going to Qairuliktuuq and we were going up a slope and I finally caught up with them and I just kept going so that we could fix up my snowmobile. And there I was, I went up without listening to my mentors because my motor was so weak and my track was not tight enough, it just kept rolling and I was not going anywhere. I would like to recognize Mr. Celestine Irqijjuk. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 486 – 1(6): Polar Bear Collars

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time that I'm first in question period. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Last week I asked the Minister about polar bears. I asked him how many polar bears are collared for survey purposes. It is possible for the Minister to find out how many polar bears are collared because he didn't respond to my question. Are these the same types of collars that were used in the past or are they newer models? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responses from the information have not been compiled yet by my staff but I'll try to get that for you today. I'm trying to get the information compiled so that I can give you the appropriate response to your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I initially started to ask my questions, I don't know whether it was this year or last year but there were polar bears that were collared with radios for survey purposes. Is it possible for the Minister to tell us what the life of these radio collars are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the information of the member, in 1998 we had seven in the Gulf of Boothia who were last collared with radio transmitters. But in 1999, all seven collars were removed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister stated that all seven of these collars were removed. Was it standard to remove the collars to remove them in the past like you did in 1999? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the collars, I could check into it and see what the usual practice was prior to 1998 and what kind of collars were being used. I'll inform the member of what the past practices were in regards to the collars that were fitted to the polar bears prior to 1998. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his responses. Could the Minister go back in to the GNWT and see what techniques were used, what kinds of collars were used and table those documents to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could compile the information in regards to polar bear collaring. Once we have compiled all the documents, we will make the information available to all the communities. I will make sure that is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 487 – 1(6): Update on Pangnirtung Airport Study

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. During the Minister's Statement the Minister stated that the Pangnirtung airport will be studied. There is a study currently underway in Pangnirtung in regards to the proposed airport relocation. Could you give me further information on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2002, the Hamlet of Pangnirtung, and their MLA jointly commissioned a study on the construction of a new airport in Pangnirtung. They also wanted to have a feasibility study done on where the location would be and so on.

We have been working on this for quite a while. And we are currently doing a study on the Pangnirtung airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The Pangnirtung airport has been discussed for quite a while now and that safety issues should be fixed up in the communities. The Pangnirtung airport was placed as a priority when it comes to safety issues.

The Pangnirtung airport, I am sure that we all know is situated right in the middle of the community. It is hazardous, and a safety issue. Are you about completed with that study that you mentioned, or is it almost done? Is it in the middle, what is the progress? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we initiated the study a long time ago, well maybe to backtrack a bit. There has never been a study done since the creation of Nunavut to determine the costs of making improvements. Due to that, the Member representing Pangnirtung, told our department to initiate a study. We did that with the Hamlet of Pangnirtung. It is almost completed, if it is not already completed. We do have to finalize the feasibility study. That is about the only thing that we are waiting for at this point.

I'm sure it must be just about completed. It was a huge task to undertake, but I cannot tell the Member exactly when. I believe that it is almost completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 488 – 1(6): DEW Line Site Cleanup

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Because his department is working with NTI in regards to the cleanup of the DEW line sites, I just wondered if the Minister is aware of the cleanup of the DEW line sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Ms. Thompson. There is an agreement between the federal government and NTI that was signed when Mr. Eagleton was here. What we can do is to try and find out about the cleanup of the environment in the DEW line sites.

As far As I know there is an agreement between NTI and DND in regards to the cleanup of the DEW line sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have received numerous correspondences from Broughton Island in regards to the DEW line site cleanup in Broughton Island. There has been work between NTI and DND. I just wondered if the Department of Sustainable Development will be kept informed on the work of DND and NTI about the cleanup of the DEW line site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our government of Nunavut is happy that there is going to be a DEW line site cleanup and we will keep up with the progress of the cleanup of the DEW line sites even though its DND and NTI that are doing the work.

I will make sure that my department is aware of the progress because it impacts on my department in regards to tourism. I will make sure that my department is involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister could talk with the Hamlet of Broughton Island and to talk with the wildlife officer as to what the progress is on the cleanup of the DEW line site in Broughton Island. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The mayor of Broughton Island informed me when we had a meeting in Broughton Island in regards to the cleanup progress in Broughton Island. The mayor is aware as to what stage the cleanup is at right now. If my department can be of any assistance we will be on hand to assist the Hamlets, especially when the site has to be cleaned up over in those DEW line sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 489 – 1(6): Garry Lake – Cleanup of American Military Site

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got a little distracted there by something else. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, we understand there are a lot of old DEW line sites laying around, that haven't been cleaned up yet because of some issues in regards to whether it's a NTI issue or something like that.

But I have to bring forward my question to the Minister today. Back in the 50s and the early 60s, U.S. Air Force opened up a base outside of Baker Lake, in the Garry Lake area.

They had a full operational airstrip, camp, and for some reason they just mysteriously packed up one day and left, and left all of the remains. They bulldozed the trucks, equipment and just buried it in the ground; we do not know what kind of contaminants are there. Can the Minister commit to me to maybe go in there and do some kind of environmental study to see if it is in fact it has to be cleaned up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to make sure that there are no contaminants in the land around Nunavut area because NTI and the Federal Government have been working together in regards to contaminants out in the Nunavut lands and how they have to be cleaned up.

And we will make sure that my Department is informed about those kinds of clean ups that are being done in Nunavut lands and we can, my Department can look into what places have been cleaned up this far, working with NTI and the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the 50s and 60s, the federal government allowed the U.S. government, who were a little insensitive when they went into certain areas of Nunavut to build these establishments and there was actually nothing said or done.

They just went in and built no matter what. You know, they did not take into consideration the ancestral hunting grounds and fur places and where people spent thousands of years living.

And to date, I have not heard any priority at all being put on the Garry Lake area in regards to any kind of environmental study or clean up.

Can the Minister commit to me and this House today that he will let the Hamlet of Baker Lake know that they are going to go in there and do some kind of initial study to see if in fact it has to be cleaned up, or is it a priority of his Department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is an agreement whereby the DEW line sites and the contaminated areas have to be cleaned up by a certain time.

I could talk with the federal government and NTI as to what the conditions are for the study and clean up of those areas that the Member mentioned because we have to make sure that lands around Nunavut are, the contaminants are cleaned up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not a DEW line site, this was a secret site that was established by the U.S. Navy or Air Force back in the 50's or some kind of, nobody knows.

So, you know, the site has been kept secret back then. Nobody knew what was going on there and today, I do not think anybody knows. You know, today, it was not a DEW line site, it was some kind of base that was established there for some kind of testing, for God knows what.

So, can the Minister commit to me, again, and the community of Baker Lake, to look into this issue of the Garry Lake air base or whatever it was and report to the community ASAP because this may not have anything to do with NTI or DEW line sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would direct the NTI and DND to look into the area around Garry Lake and to find out what contaminants there might be in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my knowledge, the last forty years, nothing has happened. Can the Minister responsible let me know when this will happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we have a meeting in Baker Lake this June, I will look into that area to find out exactly the location of that area and after we have found that out then I will direct the people involved to look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 490 – 1(6): New Wildlife Act to Incorporate I.Q.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is the Minister of Sustainable Development's day for questioning.

It is in regards to my Member's statement earlier on Mr. Speaker. What is going to be a new wildlife Act drafted for the people of Nunavut and there will be community consultations being held at this time from the staff of the department.

I would like to know if Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be fully utilized in the new wildlife act and how it will be incorporated into that act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to say that we are going to be drafting a new Nunavut Wildlife Act in conjunction with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and NTI.

All the concerns that have been expressed by the Nunavummiut will be considered. The old wildlife act that was drafted in 1978 does not recognise Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but I want to assure the member that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be put into the act for the new Nunavut Wildlife Act and as soon as the draft legislation is ready, it will be in the committee stage and the members can take a look at that draft.

The members will note that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be incorporated into the new Wildlife Act and it will give the members a chance to ask questions on the new act once it is finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the new Wildlife Act, when you do legislation, there are also things that are written in there, what you can and can't do, especially in regards to big game. We're not talking so much about little or smaller game, but I'm especially talking about the big game such as walrus and bowhead whale and the other ones.

In regards to the enforcement of the big game and the definition of a hunter or a harvester, are those going to be considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the members question about big game such as bowhead whales and others, those are the responsibilities of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. But, the other big game that the member mentioned, they will be considered when we draft the act.

We can deal with the big game on the land that is written in the wildlife act but the rest are the responsibilities of the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased that the Minister for Sustainable Development is also the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I'm sure he understands what I'm trying to talk about because the departments separate the responsibilities between the land and marine animals.

Marine mammals are the responsibility of the DFO and also they have to work with the Inuit organizations. Can the Minister tell me when you are working on the drafting of the Act, if you can ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to make sure that they make changes to the Bill to respect the needs of Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His question is clear. There are a number of concerns within Nunavut because some other levels of government are responsible for some parts that are contained in the provisions of the Wildlife Act.

We'll have to work with NTI and follow the agreement and also work with the federal government and I know that it's going to be awhile in dealing with this act because the federal government do not come up with results the very next day so it's going to be a slow process.

Mr. Puqiqnak asked me a question in regards to the Act, in regards to the concerns of Nunavummiut because there are quite a number of concerns out there from the public of Nunavut in regards to the Wildlife Act, to make sure that we incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Act. During the review we have stated that we will include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. The Wildlife Act, when they are at the drafting stage, the federal government legislation on marine mammals and NTI land Claims Agreement have to be reviewed very carefully. If they set it up this way they, they're stronger than the provisions in the Land Claims Agreement so they have to be on equal footing with using the regulations by using the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement so that the act will coincide with the Land Claims Agreement. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a good question because the Department of Fisheries and Oceans do not have any issues that are contained in the Act. We will work carefully by reviewing both documents from the Land Claims Agreement. NTI along with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and NWMB and Nunavut Government have reviewed those documents and they have been working together to date.

It's evident that we are working to recognize Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Act and select the best parts and incorporate then into the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 491 – 1(6): Plans to Keep Mining Area Near Kugluktuk Contaminant Free

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, there seems to be many mining companies coming close to Kugluktuk and we have many rivers in those areas where the mining companies are operating. Many people use these rivers for hunting and fishing.

I would like to ask the Minister if he has plans to keep these rivers clean from the activities of the mining companies to ensure that there are no environmental impacts on these rivers and lands. Has the Minister checked into these lands, to be careful not to pollute these lands when these mining companies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government are responsible for the mining centre in that area and also the Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Nunavut Water Board, and they are now working on this issue as to how they will be dealing with that issue.

As Government of Nunavut, it is our responsibility to monitor and make sure that the environment is not being contaminated. So, therefore in regards to the Member's question, it is the federal government that is responsible for ensuring the rivers are not being contaminated in the Kugluktuk area from the mining centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. The community of Kugluktuk likes to hear that the environment is not contaminated because they are not hearing anything from the federal government. I wanted to hear the Minister state that the environment is not contaminated from the mining activity.

Regardless of whether the federal government looks after the environment, I was wondering if the Minister's department can monitor these activities in the rivers and lands in that Kugluktuk area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our government can monitor to make sure that they are not contaminating the environment, to make sure that mining activities do not contaminate the environment.

I'm sure NIRB and the water board will work very closely and will be consulting with the communities on the progress of the mining development in that area. Also, the Inuit association, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association will be a signatory to the agreement if this should go ahead and Inuit will be informed on the process.

Not too long ago, the environment in Nanisivik was repatriated, and we could use that model for the Kugluktuk area as well. We have worked closely with the mining centre and also the environmental entities in Nunavut.

They will work closely with the communities that are concerned with the impacts of contaminants to the environment. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would like to know, I would like to hear that the Minister will suggest that they will be monitoring, maybe for next year. I would like to hear more of environmental contaminants prevention in the next few years when the mining sector is in the region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the federal government and the Nunavut Impact Review Board and Nunavut Water Board will be submitting reports after they complete their study. The Nunavut Government will also review the report whether there will be an impact on the environment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on, he had mentioned that the Nunavut Water Board and Nunavut Impact Review Board and the Federal Government will be monitoring the environment. I would like to ask the Minister if your Department can monitor this. I know we have set up a Committee to monitor the environment from your Department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we will work to the best of our ability on how to save the environment. I am willing to work closely with the Member here on this issue to make sure that we work with the Federal Government because mining is very important to Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Question 492 – 1(6): Plans to Construct Women’s Facility

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice in regards to women being incarcerated. Mr. Speaker, the Minister had made a Minister’s Statement because it is very expensive to house inmates outside of Nunavut. I would like to ask the Minister to update me on the plans for constructing corrections facilities for women inmates. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are in the process of reviewing it. We have not made a concrete decision, but we are reviewing it and doing

a study and we have communicated with the organizations here in Iqaluit to see how they would want it set up. But to date, we have not made a final decision. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When would you be making your final decision? Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we can agree with the entities that are here and also, we will have to find new funds. To date, we are pleased to see that there are not too many women that are being incarcerated, but we regret that we do not have such a facility, but we are looking into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am also very pleased that not too many women are incarcerated in Nunavut and I am sure that we are all pleased about it. Who are the entities that you will be consulting and planning with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I cannot dispose all of the information right now because I am in the process of having discussions. I have to inform them first before I publicize this. It is a confidential matter at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister for Justice inform us during the Baker Lake Session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, I will speak with the organizations involved, if that is okay, and if I can get an agreement with them, than I will be able to make a statement during that session. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 493 – 1(6): Update on Collective Bargaining

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister currently responsible for collective Bargaining, and that is the Minister of Finance. Last

week, I asked the Minister of Human Resources where things are at with the negotiations with the Nunavut Employee's Union. It's within a week now with the collective agreement that we have with our employees is expiring.

The Minister of Human Resources indicated that the Minister of Finance was leading that. I was wondering if the Minister of Finance and Collective Bargaining could provide an update as to where things are at with the negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there hasn't been any schedules set yet for negotiations from my understanding. I believe we're waiting for a formal notification process to initiate anything. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that they're waiting for formal notification. Do they have to wait to get that notification from the Employees Union or is it something that the department has to notify the Employee's Union on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Nunavut Employee's Union has to start the process, giving notice of intent to negotiate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that our government tends to sit and wait for things to happen. I'd like to ask the Minister if he has any plans in place as to what they have to work with when they do receive that notification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't wait for Committee of the Whole later today.

Mr. Speaker, we have appointed a chief negotiator on behalf of the government. We have a bargaining team on behalf of the government of Nunavut as I indicated. They're in a preparation of the process of preparing a bargaining mandate that will get out to the Financial Management Board in anticipation of starting the collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, is the Minister indicating that they basically don't have any position yet. That there is this group that will be bringing a proposal forward to the FMB to decide whether or not that's something that they want to bring forward to not. Is that what the Minister is indicating? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister NG.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, What I've indicated is that there are different options that the bargaining committee has put together. It hasn't been formally adopted yet or approved as far as the bargaining mandate. It has to be approved by the Financial Management Board, the parameters under which they can negotiate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 494 – 1(6): Research on Caribou

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Sustainable Development.

Yes, they conduct various studies and research on terrestrial and marine mammals. Also, we used to hear about the research on caribou, but we have not heard anything about research on caribou for a long time.

In fact, I was wondering if there was such a research on caribou nowadays. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we still continue to study the caribou in Nunavut and they do their migration route study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the research on caribou, have you found out anything unusual or something about them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the member's questions, I don't have any information on the findings or the results of the research.

It's evident that if we had problems in the past, the biologist had made solutions and we try to work with wildlife to make sure that there are not problems with them. It is clear that if there was such a problem or concern about the caribou, that this issue has been resolved.

We try to work to the best of our ability to make sure that we don't mishandle the wildlife. I am sure if there was any concerns or problems in the past, that it is now resolved.

I'm sure that we'll want to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit on the research of wildlife. To the member's question, if we have the details on the results of these studies, I will be able to give him the information in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The caribou that have been researched, I know what kinds of problems and concerns people have and the elders don't really like to eat caribou meat if there's something odd about it.

So I was wondering if you will undertake proper information and research activities in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I have stated, we try to deal with these animals to the best of our ability.

It's evident that if some better method shows up, that we will be using it. I know that we have been working on these issues for a very long time and I'm sure the new methods of research are being developed in the world. So, we will try to use the best methods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 495 – 1(6): Diesel Fuel Testing in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Public Works and Services.

Over the last couple of days in this house, we've been hearing questions from members regarding fuel quality, P-50 heating diesel. Yesterday, I got off the phone with a couple of mechanics at the hamlet in Baker Lake and they expressed to me that we're having

serious concerns with fuel injection pumps and injectors clogging up and plugging and malfunctioning.

Can the Minister commit to the municipality that he'll have that diesel fuel tested in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk to my staff and deal with your question at a later date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little confused with the Minister's response. They're starting to have engine problems at the municipality, with their heavy equipment, water trucks and sewage trucks. We don't want a repeat performance of what happened last year because it could cause major problems with fire fighting equipment, water delivery vehicles, sew delivery vehicles, heavy equipment clearing vehicles. Can the Minister commit to me, to go in and check to see if there is a problem with the P-50 and the diesel fuels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

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

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When?

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): I'll inform my staff right after question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 496 – 1(6): Rental Scale

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing Corporation. On October 24, 2002, I asked a written question regarding the rental scale. At this time, the new rental scale is going to have a huge impact on the people of Nunavut. I have yet to get a response to my written question. Is it possible for the Minister to give me the plans for the Housing Corporation's new rental scale and it's implementation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing Corporation, Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I've indicated, the new rental scale was put in January 1, 2003, this current calendar year for those that individuals that may have had decreases to their rent.

For those that have increases, that will take effect next week, April 1, 2003. Of course, as member's know as well, we'll be in Committee of the Whole this afternoon with the Housing Corporation's budget and we'll be more than glad to get into more detail on that particular matter at that appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Minister made some statements about the rent scale but there is no information available at this time. Are we going to be able to get all the information during Committee of the Whole? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we usually try provide as much information that is necessary and that is practical. That's a key work Mr. Speaker, that is practical. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 497 – 1(6): Number of Communities Contacting Public Works and Services on Heating Fuel Problems

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was getting a little cold so I put a different jacket on that's a little warmer. The House is pretty cold this morning.

I will direct my question to the Minister of Public Works and Services in regards to the P-50 heating and diesel fuel. It's becoming more and more evident that the quality of the heating fuel is of low quality. How many communities have informed your department about the poor quality? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard from two communities that have contacted our department. In the House, Pangnirtung and Baker Lake representatives have made statements. Those are the only ones we've heard of to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that two communities have informed your department. Are you going to be going to those communities to look at the quality or are you going to be going to all the communities in Nunavut to check the quality of the P-50 heating fuel and diesel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's been approximately two days that we've been dealing with the quality of heating fuel and as I mentioned earlier we are going to look at the documents in regards to the landing of these fuels, when the fuels were delivered. Because they were of lower quality we are currently studying the quality at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I didn't quite understand your response. Are these two communities the only ones who are getting the quality studies done or are you going to be doing studies in the other communities as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The two communities, Cape Dorset and Repulse Bay are the only ones that are having their quality studies done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 099 – 1(6): Terms and Reference on Language Issue

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table two documents in regards to the terms and references for the issue of language. Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 100 – 1(6): 2002-2003 Implementation Activities for Nunavut Tourism

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table this year 2002-2003 Implementation Activities for Nunavut Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

Tabled Document 101 – 1(6): 2001-2002 Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the year 2001-2002 Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration to the 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.

In accordance to authority provided to me by Motion 2-1(6), Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Before we proceed, we will take a break for lunch and report back to the House at 1:00.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed 11:37 a.m. and resumed 13:04 p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. We will be dealing with Bill 30, Bill 31, Bill 32 and Ministers' 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 start off with the continuation of Bill 30, with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Once that department is completed, we would like to review the Department of Human Resources, and also Minister's Statement 126-1(6). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. The Committee would like to start with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Minister Ng, whenever you are ready, you can move on down to the Witness Table. You can bring your officials and introduce them.

Thank you for going down to the Witness Table, Minister Ng. If you can introduce your officials, Minister Ng? I hope that you can understand me when I speak.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I knew that was coming. To my right is Pam Hine, the President. To my left is Mr. David Akoak, the Vice President. In the Gallery is Mr. Chris D'Arcy, the Director of Policy and Planning. All with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Yesterday the Minister made his Opening Remarks, and also the Chairman of the Standing Committee made his Opening Remarks. We can move on to general comments. We will have ten minutes to speak on general comments. And then after the general comments, you have ten more minutes of questioning. Are there any comments from the Members? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I just want to ask, Mr. Chairman, before I start my general comments. Perhaps I just cannot find it. On the Business Plan, I think that it has been two years that we said to the Housing Corporation that we want to have their Business Plan. If you can tell me where the Business Plan is for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. They are on separate documents. Everyone needs a copy of the Business Plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On page 12-5, that is where we will start. For those of you who do not have a copy of the Business Plan, they need a copy. The copies of the Business Plan were already handed out previously, and I am sure that some Members did not get a copy. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't here yesterday so I have a few questions. I wanted to ask the Minister yesterday, the people of Kugluktuk

wait too long for a Housing unit. There are people who are suffering from overcrowding in their units because family members do not have any housing available to them.

Most communities have asked me to mention that because some of these families, that are raising families, they should have their own separate houses, rather than living with their parents, because people suffer from overcrowding in their houses.

I am wondering how we can alleviate this housing problem in our community because a lot of people are waiting for housing in the community. A lot of people suffer from overcrowding and it causes a lot of tension between families.

A young person and his wife, as a couple, they stayed together for a long time, they should be able to have their own housing, but because people are suffering from overcrowding.

The rent scale issue has been raised many times. It would be nice if we had an idea of what kind of rent that people are going to be paying. For the next year, I would like to see more improvements on the rent scales for the communities and people, I would like to see how much rent are they going to be paying for their units.

It has been a year since we have seen the housing prices for staying in rental units, but I would like to see further improvements on rent scales, because a lot of these people that are employed, they pay a premium price for living in the housing unit, but they should have some kind of an idea of what kind of rent that they are going to be paying for their units.

Last year, I had brought up last year, but I see some improvements coming on this, but I would like to see further improvements. But there are some questions that I have at this time, but once the items are being discussed item by item, I will ask further questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I would like to welcome each and every one of you to the Witness Table. I have a very brief general comment to make. I do appreciate, on behalf of my mother who is an Elder person who lives in a very safe unit.

The homes that we rent through public housing, they are beautiful. If we look at the communities because there are quite a few housing units that are maintained at the local level who are rented out by the residents of Nunavut.

Last Saturday, we were in Sanikiluaq. There was an Elder who wanted to her express her gratitude about being given a proper shelter. Yes, we have to let the Government know about the positive issues that they have worked on and yes, we should be focusing on some good things along with some of the concerns that we have.

But, since the population in the communities are increasing and the number of staff is increasing, we need to provide proper shelter for them, especially the staff, the Government staff housing.

Since the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken on the responsibility of staff housing, it has to improve. For example, we do provide housing to the staff with new units and also staff of Government are provided with new homes.

In the smaller communities, the Government staff live in old run down units and their price for the rent for the new unit and the old unit are the same. This has to be reviewed because they have to pay a premium price for an old unit where the other staff pays for premium price with a brand new home.

So, therefore the Government staff should be provided with proper staff housing and if we treat them well, they would be more willing to work without having to worry about lack of housing, especially for the teachers, so that they can go on doing their duties without having extra worries, especially in the smaller communities and also in the decentralized communities the staff are provided with good units. Also, Mr. Chairman, you mentioned there was a lease to own program. In the beginning the Housing Corporation provided training on furnace maintenance program and how to maintain your home.

People in the communities are always asking for more maintenance workshops because more and more people are now starting to own their own homes and they need to know how to properly maintain their homes.

There is interest out there for people who would like to get that training, so I will have questions to the Minister to see if they have any plans in place for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make my general comments.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After reviewing the business. I apologise Mr. Chairman, I was looking for the business plan in the big binder.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation, yes we're very proud of the department. We wouldn't want to have the responsibility of supplying units because it's very hard provide adequate housing.

I know that we have a housing shortage crisis, although we talked about the task force on housing, because wording is cheap, when it comes time to act on it, it becomes very expensive.

In his statements, we have made a few mistakes to date. For example, design of the home and the price of the home. The public housing units that we currently use today, their

floors are really cold now because of poor insulation and because many individuals live in that same unit.

It's impossible to have wall to wall carpeting, especially when there are many people living in the home. The units that are being used for lease to own are very old units and they're very cold and they use a lot of heating fuel to keep them warm.

The units that were built through the assistance program, which were constructed by the home owner, the design of the home and the person who constructed it and who owned the home was the best program that we've ever had.

For example, in Coral Harbour, in the first HAP program, they have wood stoves and a furnace. They have two types of heating homes. We did a study. I have a home which is built by the government. It was my private home. I had to fill up the tank a little bit over two times within one month and my friend who owns and who constructed his own home, he said that at times, the full tank filled four times a year is good enough for approximately a year.

We stop using the heat at the end of April, but myself, I had to use my furnace until the end of May and start lighting it up in August in the evenings, but my good friend did not turn his furnace on until October. As soon as the weather gets cold, he would turn on his wood stove.

We now see units being sold privately, private homes are bought, the cost of \$250 thousand. The contents of the home like the 2X4's, if we take it all apart, if we try to sell it down south for \$200 thousand, they would not take it and say that it is worth only \$40 thousand.

We have to find ways, a cheaper way to build units cheaper than NWT. If we had to purchase the material and give it to the applicant and the applicant can construct their own homes. That was the cheapest way, cheapest program for the Government and if they purchase the material for approximately \$60 thousand and the Government would not have to pay additional funds.

If they purchase \$140 thousand or \$150 thousand worth of material, the individual cannot afford to pay for the heating. Perhaps, I think we charge rent for 24% and on top of that, the Government subsidize the heating and electricity bills.

We have to incorporate and include Inuit knowledge and to find ways because they know which way would be the cheapest way, how it would be the easiest way to construct. Yes, we understand that, I think it was access homes, when they were being constructed, it would be cheap to purchase, but it is one of the most expensive units to heat.

So, that is why many people who have to pay for 24% of their wages on top of that, according to the regulations of the Housing Corporation, they have to pay for their heating.

So, for that reason, I think we all understand along with the Department that if we want to get a unit that is well insulated. The applicants for the homeownership program would save a lot of money for not having to pay for so much heating fuel.

On page 12-10, I am talking about the priorities. I am running out of time. I would like to move onto 12-17, after the Task Force had done their work, they would like to work with multi-sectoral groups and they would like to have a diverse proactive work.

I know this is just words; we have to work with the Department of the Housing Corporation to make sure who we should involve because the Task Force had already completed their work.

If we need to go back to the homeownership program, like those programs we had in the past, we could revert them back.

Just looking at cost effective, viable solution for hunters and housing shortages. If we are just going to be working through that, I think it would be more expensive on the heating side. If we are just going to be focusing on that, we will be making the same mistake again.

If it is going to be the sole responsibility of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and if it is just going to be the Legislative Assembly Members working on that, it will be difficult. We will have to find other involvement, so that we can construct the cheapest and the best units. That way we can keep up with the housing crisis.

Individuals out there are willing to construct their own homes. I am not saying that we should provide free housing, at least let the applicants pay for half of the price, and let them construct it. There are all sorts of considerations to do, but I am all out of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk you will have another chance during Question Period. At this time I have Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the work of the Housing Corporation. We all know that the cost of housing is very high in Nunavut, especially if you have to run your own home. You have to pay for your own heating, and pay for the electricity, and so on. If you have a wood stove, you have to try and find your own wood to heat your home. And other expenses that you have to pay when you own your own home.

With all those, Mr. Chairman, it gets pretty hard for a family to try to have enough money for other expenses such as groceries. Some people who are elderly and they have their children in the same household. Some have chronic illnesses, but they still have to provide for their own expenses.

We have to look for some way in order to make it a little bit easier for the families in Nunavut. For them to have a bit of comfort, and at the same time, keep up with their expenses.

Due to the fact that there are so many family members in the same household it gets very hard for them and they can get sick easily, because there is a large family in the house. I know that it is hard for the Housing Corporation because there is not enough funding to provide for more housing.

Some units are not energy efficient. They are expensive. At the same time you have to pay a lot of money for energy, especially in the wintertime. I think that we have to start doing some studies on them to make sure that they are more energy efficient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not know where to start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister and his staff, Ms. Hine, and David Akoak. I do not know the person in the middle.

We all know, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, that providing houses for Nunavummiut is very hard, and very expensive. The Public houses that are provided to the majority of Nunavummiut, we all understand that the Public Housing are for people that are out there that cannot afford their own homes.

There are also houses that we have to provide for the Government of Nunavut. Quite a while back when I was a member of the Housing Task Force, we had a lot of recommendations that we made to the government.

What we did was we made recommendations and I thank the Minister and his staff for some of the recommendations that have been implemented, such as houses that have been occupied for some time that people can purchase now.

At the same time, one of my colleagues mentioned the fact that access housing as well as HAP housing, that are being acquired by Nunavummiut, are the ones that are more popular now a days.

They're not energy efficient enough, especially if you have to pay for all kinds of expenses. Homeowners have a hard time although they wanted to be self-reliant and not want to live in public housing is how they acquired access or HAP houses.

I know that they were given assistance by the Housing Corporation and from there they did it on their own, for those people that have access and HAP housing. We appreciate the Minister and his staff for letting the people of Nunavut to be able to do that.

Some of them though, when they can no longer provide all those expenses, they seem to want to get rid of it. Once that happens, they have a hard time selling their homes and I have heard of a lot of people in that situation in my constituency.

Perhaps, if they can get a mortgage that's a little bit longer than the present situation right now, it would be better for them. I think it was quite a while back where some people had bought a house and they didn't have to pay for the expenses when they got a HAP house at the beginning except for the rental expenses that they have.

The person had the choice of paying the contractor. Those people are in a good situation and they're not the responsibility of the Housing Corporation right now. Individuals that own their own homes, appreciate the house that they got through access housing. They're much happier.

I'm happy to say that they don't have to pay for their homes anymore and the Housing Corporation doesn't have to worry about them anymore because they were treated so well that some of them even get their income support right now because of a lack of employment in their community.

Those people that got their houses quite some time ago are in a better situation and I think we should consider what Mr. Arvaluk said. Say, Housing Corporation paid half of the expenses and bring back the HAP program for housing again to the communities in Nunavut.

There are a lot of people who are unemployed in the communities. It's getting kind of hard for them to pay for their monthly expenses and that's probably the reason why not many people are happy with what they're getting today.

There's also the public housing that is provided to the people of Nunavut and the government pays for the monthly rent and the energy and everything for the communities that don't have employment.

At the same time, for those people that have jobs, they have to pay for their own expenses, but it would be better for them if they were some from the Housing Corporation in terms of paying some of their expense and then in turn they can do their monthly expenses.

For the people that have their houses through income support, they get help for everything. I just thought maybe, I wanted to mention that because of the different ways the people are finding it in the communities, some with HAP housing and some with their own homes and some in income support.

I just wanted that to be considered by the Housing Corporation. Mr. Chairman, my time is almost up and I just want to stress again that if you're considering providing more home ownership that they should pay for half of the house and then the homeowner in

turn would pay for their own expenses there after and then the Housing Corporation doesn't have to pay for them from there on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq. At this time I don't have anymore. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Sorry to disappoint you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to see you with a smile on your face. Just a few comments that I want to make on this and I know that the Minister indicated in his opening comments that he uses the word acute shortage of housing and I think we're probably in more of a crisis situation with housing.

I know that the corporation has been doing what it can with what it has to provide housing and maintain the housing that we have out there. I think that more efforts that we need to try and find a way, something that's palatable for the Federal Government to be able to assist us in providing more housing units on the ground for people through out Nunavut.

I think this is a fiduciary responsibility of the Federal Government that they've ignored for years. If you look at the recent agreement on healthcare, they admitted that the fact the formula in the way that the funds are distributed is not adequate for Nunavut.

I am sure our housing agreement is pretty much the same as every other jurisdiction in the territory. I think the same argument can be made for housing as well; we are funded in the same way that the other jurisdictions are funded.

We have been operating under that for years and we are way behind the eight ball on that and there is a lot of catch up to do and maybe that could be a way in which we can try and convince some of those people, I will use nice wording, people in Ottawa to realize the situation that a lot of Nunavummiut face.

If you look in the Business Plan, I think it was 3% of our homes are over eight people in them. How many places in Canada is that allowed to happen? I am sure more than one family may be living in that house as well, which is something else that is not too common in the rest of the country.

I really think that we need to do something to convince our Federal counterparts that, like the Minister of Finance indicated in his Budget Address, that we cannot continue like this unless we get more money from the Federal Government. I think that is something that we really have to push in housing.

As well, one of the other things that I would like to mention over the last week or so, there has been comments made to the Minister and today here as well, in regards to the recommendations of the Task Force made and I know that the corporation has done their best to implement most of those recommendations and I can commend them for that.

However, one of the biggest ones that I am sure that the members of the Minister's staff can recall that, when I was on that Task Force, one of the biggest things is housing, we can only afford to pay for housing now, maybe we need to get out of the hidden subsidies. It is also mentioned in the Business Plan that housing subsidizes so many other areas as well and I think that is something that we cannot afford to sit and wait on.

If we can free up more dollars for housing other than hidden subsidies, then we can provide more houses on the ground for people out there that need them. I think that one of the other things I have noticed in the Business Plan is that the LHOs have not received any increased funding since 1996, I believe, for other than forced growth, for money that they got for the new units that have come in line since then. I think that is probably something that needs to be addressed in the budget to ensure that, you know, the LHOs we are giving them the resources that they need maintain and operate the stock that we have.

We all know that it is getting older and as these things older, they are not as cheap to operate and maintain. Are we setting these organizations up to go into a deficit if we do not give them the adequate resources to operate? I think that is something that should be looked at in here and I know once we get into that section in the budget, I will be asking questions on that.

Mr. Chairman, that is it for my General Comments and I will have more questions as we go through the rest of the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Just a short comment Mr. Chairman, about the problems, because we all have the same kinds of problems in regards to housing in Nunavut. The problem that we have are mostly has to do with over crowding and the rents that we have to pay for public housing. One of my colleagues said that HAP and access housing should be looked into a little more carefully. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think Mr. Nutarak gave me part of his time so I'll make my general comments again.

I think we have to find a way to improve the over crowding in the communities. Housing Corporation builds houses that are very expensive to operate in the communities and they're very expensive to build in the communities.

The contractors have to make money and Housing Corporation has to pay for the contractors and they're bought by the Housing Corporation. I just want to make sure that the private home owners become more in numbers, rather than building more public housing, people should be encouraged to own their own homes but make it easier for them to acquire their own homes at a cheaper rate.

I just want to say we had a meeting at one time with Inuit Tapirisat Kanatami about housing. They had a lot of advertising for housing that they could provide to the communities at cheaper rate. We also talked about bringing in modular homes that could be stick built once they reached the communities after being shipped in by the barge. You have to bring them in by barge from the south. If they only cost about \$40 thousand dollars, they're sort of like modular homes and they can be built right away. Perhaps you have to pay for the energy and the power at the same time but sometimes the houses that Housing Corporation builds becomes very expensive and it would be better if we're able to get those modular homes brought up to the communities rather than just bringing in lumber to build houses.

This way, the Nunavut communities can have more housing at a cheaper rate because even if the modular homes are cheap, you can make them very efficient rather than hiring contractors, I think you could just ship some modular homes and have them built and it would be cheaper for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. I do not have any more names on my list. If there are any questions before we go into the Main Estimates, I am waiting for questions. We will then go on to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. They are a stand alone corporation for the information of the Members. I believe that Mr. Arvaluk would like to make a comment.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to go into the Business Plan, first of all, if I could. I touched a little bit on page 12-10, Homeownership.

Chairperson (interpretation): No cameras are allowed in the Chambers. That is for the information of the individual who is carrying a camera. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the energy conservation in the home, I would like to know exactly what you mean. When we mean energy conservation, are we talking about energy efficient architecture? What do you exactly mean by energy conservation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be in respect by either the capitals to make them more efficient so he uses less fuel, less power, or other conservation items such as light bulbs, etc., it has anything really with decreasing the cost of operating the home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that include the design of the building? The materials that are used? My question in this regard is to do with at least looking at some other designs that are not traditional by nature in southern Canada.

Non-traditional that is new or more efficient. For example, approximately, five, six, seven thousand years ago, Inuit architects developed a dome shaped house out of snow, not just snow, but it has to be the right kind of snow, otherwise other materials from other types of snow will not do. Then this was found by the architects around the world that this is one of the most durable, heat efficient building designs.

What I am getting at here is there are some very good ideas still around Nunavut that can help you to determine, not from the traditional southern design, but something that can withstand or at least be heat efficient and more durable than the present system.

Right now because of the terrain that we have permafrost, although the Fire Marshall stated that you have to use jip rock, or drywall for the purpose of fire fighting, or fire retarding, etc. I think with the fire marshal, the ordinary citizen, Housing Corporation, and traditional engineers and non-traditional engineers will have to come up with something that is more heat efficient. Considering that because of the housing shortage that the doors are open almost every five minutes and that can't be helped, especially after school, through most of the evening probably until 8:30 or 9:00.

You could have a brainstorming type of plan. How do we make housing more cost efficient or energy efficient so that we will save some money in the long run, not just for Housing Corporation, but also for government as a whole? If that kind of discussion can develop from this way. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're open to any suggestions provided they're cost efficient.

Obviously, we're trying to maximize the dollars that we have available to us and we're trying to maximize the efficiency for the home owners and the tenants that we're trying to serve.

So, from that perspective, we are open to any suggestions and looking at working with developers, architects, and the industry in general. I think a lot of the discussions around those areas have taken place.

We have, as members know, major initiative with the building connection symposium, where we've got a lot of players from different governments and organizations at the table to try and talk about options and solutions to make housing more affordable, more efficient and really just to try to deal with the issue of housing requirements in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome that because a lot of northerners probably have an idea about slanted roofing that you could pile the snow on the outside for the winter.

On page 12-17 of the business plan, you talked about discussing and finding a solution to Nunavut housing needs or the housing crisis. You recognised that, so can you tell me what really is meant by, in real terms, not just in the phrase, but in real terms using an example as to what multi-sectoral and diverse and proactive work is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. For your information, there is a difference in the Inuktitut numbers and the English. If it's 12-17 in English, it's 12-18 in the Inuktitut. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's really to take away any restrictions in trying to deal with the issue of providing housing for what the community wants throughout Nunavut.

For example, in Baker Lake, there was an issue about the community wanting to establish a seniors residence. There, we worked the CMHC with the hamlet and the Housing Corporation itself to put together a plan that happened for that community to address their specific needs at that time.

It's really, again, bringing to the table as many partners as you can to try to maximize the involvement and maximize the opportunities for funding and work together really, to solve the housing issue for a particular community at any particular time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, on the second paragraph, encouraging the business sector as a means of developing cost effective and a viable solution for additional housing shortages.

I do not want to be leery about this much; it cannot be interpreted in a whole lot of ways. It cannot be interpreted as cheap housing, but cheap housing sometimes if it is not properly designed; sometimes it is more costly in heating. So, I am wondering cost-effective has to do with the cost of that building itself or does it cover more than just the building itself, like heating costs? Thank you..

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would be for both really. We are trying to maximize how far in the top effective with our limited capital dollars goes and at the same time, we recognize the high operating costs for operating a house in

Nunavut as Member have pointed out. So, we are trying to make it as cost-effective as possible for the homeowner or the tenant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the creation of Nunavut, there has been quite a bit of jobs distributed throughout Nunavut, especially in decentralized communities.

There are a whole lot of people working now that would love to own their own homes if it was affordable. Would you consider, as part of this discussion, exploring the possibilities of potential homeowners pays half of the material cost and half by the Housing Corporation.

I am not asking, HAP house that was 100% by the Housing Corporation, but maybe half or whatever, so that the mortgage would be lower or at least affordable on a monthly basis and have the potential homeowner to contribute in the equity, like with the HAP housing that would address more than now to housing shortages.

In other words, more people who are working in moderate income will be able to get mortgage at half of what is being done now. Secondly, they will be pride in ownership, again, so that the house is built by that owner, new owner because it will be his own home to be able to take every due care to build it properly and efficiently because if he did not build it properly, he would pay more for fuel in the long run.

So, the combination of these, not psychological, but the human behaviour into it because I know that I have seen HAP housing today after 25-30 years, I think it is about 25 years, the house is still in a very good condition, excellent condition. Most of them are because they have been properly maintained, they have been taken care of, and they take the responsibility for it. I am telling you that there is still a whole lot of potential homeowners, but they cannot afford very high costs of mortgaging right now from the private sector and also from the Governmental staff housing. Would you consider exploring in order to attract new home owners on the affordable system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think that's a valid point that the member brings up. From the Housing Corporation's perspective, it's a matter of timing. Right now we're focussing as the member knows, and all members know a tenant to owner program which we think will be able to provide some pretty substantive additional private housing to our residents throughout Nunavut.

Of course, once we get that program under way, we have a chance to assess it and free up some additional capital whether it's for replacing public housing or possibly shifting that into another type of home ownership program.

That is a little ways down the road yet but having said that Mr. Chairman, I recognize the value of the member's comments and particularly about the possibility of having an expanded homeownership, expand it into that program really, or something along the lines of the former HAP program that the member refers to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For my last 25 seconds, what you're saying that, is that includes from the task force, building connections, affordable housing made by and for Nunavummiut. Is that what he means? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think what we mean is that we're flexible really in looking at any type of program that would expand the opportunities for individuals to get into private home ownership.

Recognizing it will alleviate it along with our shift certainly, if providing additional housing that is much needed in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you. I just want to go onto the business plan. One of the priorities that you have on page 12-7, continue to raise awareness of the housing issues.

I talked earlier on my opening statement about the couple, or common law husband and wife; they have two units for example. This issue was brought to my attention and people are saying look we have a long waiting list and here the couple has been together for at least six months or more or at least a year or more and they having two units.

Do we have some type of policy where if they're common law that they stay together for six months or more, or one year, that they give up the other house. I don't know, we need to figure out how we can tackle this in the future because like I said, we have a lot of people on the waiting list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the Local Housing Authorities have that policy making authority and certainly if it's an issue that the member thinks, the Housing Corporation would take a look at that and give some direction to the housing authorities on how to handle situations like that. I don't know if it's prevalent throughout Nunavut or if it's specific to the member's constituency but we'll certainly take a look at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you have any further comments? Are you finished? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. Maybe I am going a little bit too fast. The Housing Association is aware of it. Using some concerns that my constituents brought to my attention they do not have the policy in local housing. I am just wondering of the Housing Corporation can do something. I think that the local Housing Association are already aware of this situation, but they are not doing anything about it. That is why I am bringing it up here today. See if they can be of help to try and drop something that can be used in the future.

I can understand some situations where a couple have many children so they have two units. They bring all the kids together and they keep the other one for their own usage. That situation is happening. When they bring it to my attention, my constituents saying to me, can the Housing Corporation do something on this? Are they going to have a long term policy that can help the local Housing Associations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, like I said it has not been brought to my knowledge, to our attention, by the local Housing Association in Kugluktuk. If it is an issue, we will certainly have our district office follow up, or we will now that the Member has raised the issue to see what can be done.

One has to respect though, Mr. Chairman, the fact that there is a Residential Tenancy Act that protects tenants in all our Public Housing tenants. We have to abide by that Act as well. There are right there as far as giving proper notice, etc., in dealing with our obligations through our tenants, the Housing Association has to abide by that as well. Having said that, we will see what can be done to try to rectify the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you as well Minister for your response. (Interpretation ends) We will take a look at it to see what can be done. I want to go onto another one, on the Staff Housing. Just for an information update on the staff housing for decentralized communities as to where they are today.

Again, using Kugluktuk, as an example, maybe not only Kugluktuk, maybe other decentralized communities, they were short of staff housing. Due to staff housing they were not filling up some positions. Just an update from you how you are doing? What is the plan to make sure that we are at the level where we can set up positions in those decentralized communities? At least work towards that to make sure that we have needs of staff housing to fill up positions in the decentralized communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the Members know last year, the Housing Corporation undertook a fairly aggressive campaign to establish a condominium program targeted towards the decentralized communities to address some of the immediate needs there.

It is a matter of assessing now the ongoing needs in trying to pay for some possible solutions to deal with that. What we will do at the Corporation is obviously speak to the Human Resources in the district headquarters to try to coordinate what the needs and hopefully, try to meet some of those needs in the upcoming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, on your Business Plan, 10-12, we have some of the programs there. If the emergency repair or home renovation programs, I might have missed it somewhere when I was going through it, does the applicant have to have some type of equity to qualify for under these programs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I mean it is based on needs. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Joanasie Akumalik, I would like to welcome him to the Gallery. He is the Mayor of Arctic Bay.

>> *Applause*

Welcome to the Gallery. And I have no more names on my list. We will move onto the Main Estimates. Mr. Nutarak, I am sorry.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The person beside me who raised her hand earlier on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we move onto the Main Estimates, while the Minister has his Officials at the Witness Table, I would like to ask my question. If there are any communities in Nunavut, if they wanted to get an Elders' Facility, where would they have to go? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Chairman, they would first have to identify what type of Elders' Facility they are speaking of, whether it is an expanded or enhanced care facility, which falls more under the responsibility of the Department of Health or if it is an independent living units for seniors which would more directly responsible in regards to the Housing Corporation. But then, certainly they could

approach the Housing Corporation and we could work with them to try to meet those needs, for the need or the request of the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I have no more names on my list. We will move onto the Main Estimates. Page 12-5, 12-6, Main Estimates. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you. Are we talking about Corporate Summary, 12-6? Let me get some clarification. In the first few pages, I think we will move back to 12-4, Total Operations, \$77 million, 516 thousand. For Capital, \$97 million, 801 thousand. On page 12-6, Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation has provided \$60 million, 465 thousand and also, Nunavut Government had provided \$97 million, 810 thousand. Total, \$158 million, 266 thousand in total.

So, my question would be that the figures in 12-4, are we missing some figures? Are we just using the Government of Nunavut figures into the Main Estimates? But 12-6 is more reflective for 2003-2004 expenditures. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct, on 12-4, is the actual Government of Nunavut contributions to the Housing Corporation. On 12-6, it includes the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation funding is provided, to let the Members know, that at full extent of the funding of the Housing Corporation. You will note that on 12-6, it is actually on the heading of the Information Item for Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the clarification. Then, how long ago that Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation will be able to provide funding and their funding is reducing and when would the term end? When would they stop giving us funding for Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By the year 2037, is when the CMHC funding will be zero. As I indicated in my opening comments, this year, there's a reduction of \$22 thousand dollars, which isn't significant in the overall scheme of things, but like I said, it's the start of the erosion of some of that CMHC funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So do you have a contingency plan up to 2037? One can only imagine what kind of population growth we are going to have if our trend is the way it is. The birth rate has dropped down a little bit but not significantly enough for it not to matter. Will the erosion of the CMHC contribution, in your business plan, will

that be included in your contingency plan, in terms of how to continue to build affordable housing and home ownership? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess that's the issue that we're trying to deal with is how do we meet the needs and the ongoing future needs for Nunavummiut given our demographics and the future erosion or reductions of CMHC funding.

There is no contingency plan today. Let's face it; the reality is we have to continue to articulate what our needs are, hope that the Federal Government will recognise that and provide an injection at least to minimize the overall needs across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Is the CMHC also responsible for other housing needs in other parts of Canada. For example, Davis Inlet, the Dene people moving from Churchill, the Tulane, I think they're called, complete relocation from Akulliq or Dene Village, or are these strictly under Indian affairs under the Indian Act. Where do we fit in for those kinds of crisis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, Mr. Chairman, that's another one of the issues that our government is trying to tackle in all aspects of federal programs, that are targeted for Aboriginals for on or off reserves and we don't fit into either category with our predominantly Inuit population.

If there is going to be any interjection of funds, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada would have a significant role there given that they are the federal department that are directly responsible for Nunavut.

Also, from the perspective of the Davis Inlet situation, as members may recall a few years back and the problems they were having there and the special federal interjection of funding that came also through the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to address those specific needs there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That phrase, or on and off reserve policy, is it specifically to exclude Inuit contrary to the Indian Act that specifies that for the purposes of medical and other Inuit needs north of 60 shall be included. Did they say that for the purposes of exclusion or did they tell you anything at all? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not the Minister of Inter-Governmental and Aboriginal Affairs. It may not be appropriate for me to speak on the specific issue of compliance and non-compliance or recognition or non-recognition under the Federal program.

I can tell you, I think that it may not be so much Federal exclusion that Inuit so much as non-inclusion on how they designate their Federal programs for on reserve or off reserve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Main Estimates; we are dealing with Main Estimates for Nunavut, please keep to the topic of Main Estimates. While we are on the topic of Nunavut Housing Corporation, please be careful when you are asking your questions.

Perhaps, it would be a good idea to ask that question during Question Period. So, we are on Main Estimates for Nunavut Housing Corporation. Anything else? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for putting me on the right track again. I think that would be a good topic for discussion when we are exploring what went wrong somewhere.

Mr. Chairman, I am specifically talking about in that particular page 12-6, the erosion of Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation contribution to 2037, which is also stating here, \$60 thousand, 465 dollars.

I think a lot of things will have to be explored now because we, there was never an announcement that with all of the rewriting of the Indian Act, we have to watch it very carefully that it does not have exclusion clauses after 1860 or whenever it was.

Mr. Chairman, on the page that you announced on 12-5, the cost to the Housing Association is \$77 million, 516 thousand. What is our revenue from rent collection and things like that in comparison to our cost of \$77 million?

You know, if you pay for, I think that you said that there were 4 thousand units and that we pay an average of \$700 a month. I think it may be less; it is approximately \$4 million. At the same time the private sector have units for rent and yet, they have maintenance garages and workers to maintain those buildings and they have administration to look after the rent that is still big money. Is there anything we learned from that, we could learn from that? Thank you..

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are Local Housing Authorities, Associations, Assessments are approximately \$5.9 million dollars in total. Of that, we receive approximately \$5.1 million.

So, the collection rate is approximately 87%, which is a far cry. It has improved considerably over the year and of course, it could always get better and we continue to work with them to try to improve their collection rates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? Are you finished, Mr. Arvaluk? I have no more names on my list. We will go back to page 12-6, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Main Estimates. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have not looked at the Housing Policy lately. Does the Government have a buy back in their staff housing policies and has it been used much in the last two years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now Mr. Chairman, we only have a buy back policy for those individuals impacted from decentralized positions but having said that, it is one of the issues that are being considered for the new staff housing rental policy that's being prepared for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know originally if somebody left the community, like a teacher or a nurse or government employee and they had their own house and they couldn't sell it after I think it was 90 days, it was 90 or a 120 days, it was purchased and then it was on the market for someone else to come along and buy it. You were saying that you're looking at this policy. Is that going to be in the policy that you expect to see or we expect to see soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would not want to pre-judge that might come from the appropriate standing committee or members in review or my cabinet colleagues. What I can tell you is there will be some consideration for that as an option of development or the establishment of buy back policy to try to encourage more employees to purchase their own units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. I have no more names on my list. We'll go back to page 12-6. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister if this grants and contributions section here is the funding that goes out to the Local Housing

Authorities to provide them funding to administer the social housing programs in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just following up on comments I made in my opening comments.

There's really been not a significant increase in this funding. The Local Housing Authorities probably have increased collective agreements, increased costs; the costs have gone up over the years.

Also, the fact that the units are becoming older and more expensive to maintain. I wonder if the Minister could give us a little bit of history on how often and how much that funding has been increased and it's been increased for anything other than the new units that have been put on line that they get their funding for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it has basically been non-existent as far increases to the Local Housing Authorities. We recognise that. There was one year, a fuel rider or fuel assistance for the increased cost of fuel in that one year where there was a considerable jump. One of the things that the Housing Corporation is planning on completing this year is a review of the funding formula for housing authorities, housing associations to meet, hopefully to try to address some of the needs that they have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess if there have been non-existent increases in funding, what do the Local Housing Authorities have to do to get the funding in their class go up. Do they pretty much get less on their own to try and find places from within where they can no longer spend money on things. If they're supposed to renovate ten houses and because of the increased costs of operating, they can only afford to do five of them, is that the kinds of decisions that communities are being forced into making because they're not being given adequate resources to keep up with inflationary costs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I should clarify first Mr. Chairman, there was, as far as forced growth goes, and I think Mr. Tootoo, mentioned that as well, in

respect of new units coming in line, they were provided funding for that but overall, in the existing stock or existing programming, that was an area where there hasn't been any significant increases.

Basically Mr. Chairman, they've made due with what they have. They've streamline their own operations. I'm sure that there have been negative impacts in the respect of not being able to do everything that they've wanted but I think it's no different as the government in other departments in that you make the best due. You make the best with the available resources that you have and do the best job that you can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as a result of these financial restrictions on the Local Housing Authorities, are there any of the Local Housing Authorities that have gone into deficit problems as a result of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are about 13, about half or just about half of the Local Housing Authorities that are in a deficit position. I couldn't say if it's a direct result of this or other operating issues. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I was going to say, half of them are and half of them aren't in the red. For the half that aren't and they get the same level of funding, if they're able to be more efficient and more streamlined, more effective, and they don't go into a deficit and they even have a small surplus, are they allowed to take that surplus and do what they want with it.

If they've taken the initiative to show that they can provide the service out there and save money doing it, are they allowed the flexibility to be able to spend that money on their own in their own community or does that money get sucked back into the general revenue of the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the Local Housing Authorities that do accumulate an operating surplus they're allowed to maintain 50 percent of that to deal with what they feel is their priorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If they've have to give half the money back to the corporation, there's no real incentive for them to try and do it. What happens to the

ones that have a deficit? Are they allowed to have a deficit? What steps are taken by the corporation to make sure that they don't stay in a deficit situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our officials have worked with them and tried to put in place a deficit recovery plan to deal with that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going back to the 50 percent of the surplus that they're allowed to keep. All our housing associations are funded on the same formula, based on inventory or bedrooms or whatever the formula is, I'm just wondering what the rationale is if the association has been able to save money, why they can't keep that money if they're funded the same as everyone else. What's the rationale of having to give 50 percent of that surplus back to the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well I guess the rationale would be that the Housing Corporation may require that there are just other housing authorities any particular time.

I would like to say, as I said earlier, we are already reviewing the funding formula because it has been inherited and we do not know exactly what components there are, if there is fairness in the allocations or not.

It is no different than the Municipal Funding Formula that funded Hamlets and how that has been reviewed through the Department of Department of Community Government and Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, hopefully in their review they are funded on one basis and they are able make any surplus, that they would be able to keep them. Although there would be no incentive for them to try and become more efficient, like I said, if their funded I guess, they are funded the same as everyone else. Hopefully that is something that they can take into account in their review. And just maybe just ask them is when do they expect to have any results from that funding review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot give him the date on that right now, given that there are a lot of other policy program areas that we are working on, whether it would be sometime in the course of this current year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Mr. Tootoo. Going back to 12-6, if there are no comments on 12-6? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lately I overlooked my notes. This \$28 million, 606 thousand is a loan from Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, not a loan, this is a payment for the interest and part of the principle, I understand. However, since 1999, we have not gotten any loan from Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is the annual amortization of the cost of the public housing over the years of the inventory of the public housing stock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Anything else? This is an information item on page 12-6, turning to page 12-7, Information Item Headquarters. Any questions on 12-7? If not, Information Item 12-8, Debt Repayment. James.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you. Those amortization charges go into that payment of principle and interest on long-term loans, Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation, who has a contribution to Housing Corporation to pay for the additional charges of \$28 million, 8 thousand.

I am trying to get clear on this one; Housing Corporation provides contribution to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. So, what they do is they give you \$28 million and what is it with the \$28 million? Can you tell me in my language? Thank you..

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, it is for their reporting requirements. They provide the \$58 million dollars to us as a contribution and part of that is a repayment of the \$28 million that funded is debt repayment information scheduled as our portion of the repayments on the amortization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: So, what they are saying is that they give you \$58 million and the, we'll give you the \$58 million if you are going to give us the \$28 million of that back and for bookkeeping purposes and there is no flexibility whatsoever in that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Member is correct; it meets on mortgage and obligations with them. And again, for them, it is really their treasury board requirement for the Federal contributions that they receive for operations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how much more do we have to complete to erase the loan off using this method? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. It's the 2037 is the time where it would all be paid off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Arvaluk, any else? Going back to page 12-8. Information item. Turn the page, 12-9. Information item. District offices. 12-10. Information item. Affordable housing programs. James.

Mr. Arvaluk: Grant and contribution is that part of the \$77 million or is it different? Grants and contributions, \$63 million, 219 thousand, is that above and beyond the \$77 million that you gave out to LHOs Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the contributions to the LHOs, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: You did not answer my question. How is that comparable to the page 12-5. \$77 million, 516 thousand? Is it part or how is that related to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, \$77 million, 516 thousand is what the housing, Nunavut Housing Corporation gets from the Government of Nunavut on page 12-10 the \$63 million, 219 thousand is Housing Corporation contribution to local housing authorities kind of two different issues or items here Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, I know the minister is in a rush but I also have a responsibility to make the Nunavummiut to understand the budgeting system here. It's a little bit more complicated because it's a corporation. \$77 million even out to the Housing Associations in Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq, Kitikmeot, etc. is \$77 million for them to operate O&M in those respective communities. On page 12-10, Grants and contributions, \$63 million, 219 thousand is for the maintenance only or is it. How is that compared, why are they in different pages? Maybe that's what I should ask. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all I clarified for the member that I'm not in a rush. We have all afternoon. Mr. Chairman, what I was trying to explain to the member is that on page 12-5 of the \$77 million, 516 thousand is the money that the Housing Corporation receives from the Government of Nunavut. That's the amount we're approving today.

On page 12-10, the Grand and contributions that the member refers to the \$63 thousand, 219 thousand is part of the Housing Corporation's contribution to the local housing authorities for their operating and maintenance and a lot of that amount is actually from CMHC funding that we receive to operate our public housing units Mr. Chairman. So, it's part of the overall bigger total revenues that the Housing Corporation receives. I don't know if that clarifies it to the member or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that clarifies it except I couldn't balance it. \$77 million dollars from the Government of Nunavut and we give out \$63 million dollars to the Local Housing Authorities.

That leaves me with \$14 million dollars but the headquarters gets \$7 million dollars or is it written somewhere else. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I missing \$7 million and it must be placed somewhere else. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the easy way to try to explain this and I don't know if the member, without getting into all the details if he wants, but I certainly can.

Up to \$63 million, 219 thousand dollars, roughly half of that would be CMHC funding and the other half would be Government of Nunavut funding to operate the public housing programs to pay for the Operations and Maintenance to Local Housing Authorities.

That's the simple way of explaining it without getting into the details of exactly what figure and how much. Certainly, we're prepared to do that if that's what the member wants. I'm trying to make it as simple as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the Minister on page 12-10 is I think and correct me if I'm wrong, do the people that are in government staff housing get subsidies when they pay rent? And, what about the people that own their houses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, public housing tenants get subsidised. They pay less rent than it costs to operate.

Staff housing, employees in staff housing get subsidized because they pay less rent than what it costs to operate. Private home owners, some of them, depending on the program, also get subsidized by the Housing Corporation. Not, by and large, there are a percentage of private home owners that are subsidized a lot less than the staff housing or public housing tenants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So let's say for example, three different things that the Minister just explained, if we have the same staff, all three secretaries, if they get the same pay, but one's in public housing, the other is in a different one and the other owns their house, with the same pay but they would get different program. Is it different? Maybe that's how I would ask it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would be different because we have different criteria for all those programs right now depending on which category you fit into.

That's why, when I've said in the past and I'll say it again, we've done the first phase and that's the new public rent scales. Now, we're trying to match some of the criteria of that with our staff housing program and our home ownership program so that we make it all over more coordinated as far as the programs we're trying to deliver.

That's why the government moved staff housing into the Housing Corporation for that exact reason in trying to coordinate. It's better in the long run, the consistency of our programs and how we treat our tenants and how we treat home owners etc. all across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that, what the Minister just explained would be very much welcome by everyone, because the Housing Corporation promotes homeownership. There is an incentive to buy your own house. To live in your own house so you are free up Public Housing to other people, if you can. Right now when they do that, they have to pay more to live in their own houses, because now you are paying for all your utilities, maybe there are also a little bit subsidized.

What I am trying to get at is when I am in my own house and someone else is in and I see GN staff in a rented staff house, they get subsidies, and I do not because I live in my own house. What I am trying to get is if that is what they are working towards, when do they think that they will have that program implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I said I believe that we will probably have within the next thirty to sixty days in respect of staff housing rental policy changes from options for the Standing Committee to review to see if we are going in the right direction. Of course, my Cabinet colleagues to see if we are going in the right way. And then we will work towards a timeline as well as far as implementing that, if we are heading in the right direction.

At the same time, on the homeownership program criteria, we are again, I would think, along the same timeline in trying to make some revisions, have some option available in the next thirty to sixty days again with some potential target dates for implementation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go onto another question. The matter that I was speaking on before, that if we promote people to live in their own houses. It is always the people in my community, especially in Arctic Bay, always miss the part that they would like to go back and take some Maintenance courses so that they can know what to do about their furnaces when something happens to them, or basic carpentry. Is the Corporation thinking about any plans about doing those very good training, or services that they used to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we are. We have funding available for local housing authority's personnel. As well we are working with Nunavut Arctic College right now on the possibility of a Housing Maintainer/Service Pilot Project in order to expand the accessibility and the availability of that type of training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to elaborate a little bit on it. I am talking about the people that live in their own homes, not so much on for the Maintenance crew from the LHOs. I am just trying to make sure that the Minister understands my question that I am seeking for the people that own their houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I quite frankly do not know if it is practical. If individual homeowners want to go through extensive training, or to become a technician, oil burner mechanic, whatever the case may be. They are certainly able to do that, but it is more profession related, in trying to provide these skills for an occupation. I think it is more along the lines of trying to make sure that there are services available for individuals.

I do not know if every private homeowner wants to be oil burner mechanic, quite frankly, or a carpenter or whatever the case may be, because they probably have other occupations that they are involved in that takes up families, that will take up a lot of their time.

But having said that, I think the issue is really trying to make sure that the services are available for those homeowners that require having the accessibility of individuals to maintain their homes further.

Certainly programs are available and we would support individuals that wanted to go that way, but I do not think that the majority homeowners that would want to look at that option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be asking those questions to the Minister of Education if I was talking about people wanting to be oil mechanic people or professional carpenters.

I am sure that the Minister knows because I think he was in the Government of the Northwest Territories at the time that they had a program to give some kind of workshop to the homeowner so that they could at least do basic maintenance at their homes because right now, I do not think those kinds are available and they come in the smaller communities.

They are available here, you could call up somebody and they could come up and do something to your furnace and fix it, but I am not sure that it is happening in the communities. Maybe the Minister could tell me, yes, these resources are available, maybe I am just missing it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand the Member's question. That was more on the area of basic maintenance for homeowners and we do not have any plans underway for that. It is certainly something that we can take a look at to see, you know, if there is something that can be put in place, certainly for some of the smaller communities where they might not have the network of private sector support for the area of policy maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last one on that, if Housing Corporation is promoting for people to have their own homes, what is available for them right now in the communities, let us say in Grise Fiord? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the smaller communities, they may be more limited than the larger ones where they have some private market established where individuals could access that in that program that we have.

I think in the smaller communities, it is probably more ideally suited for the tenants to owner program that we recently announced and trying to get off the ground this coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, I own a home in Grise Fiord and my furnace breaks down, who do I call? Is that service available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I have missed the Member's question because again, I think she has gone from housing maintenance to homeownership and not talk about the housing maintenance.

Maybe I misunderstood it, but in respect of the homeowners requiring maintenance that their most recent question in the smaller communities, it is not available privately, but certainly the Housing Authority personnel would be able to assist in an emergency situation.

I think in our smaller communities, it is almost traditional I think that people help each other out in a situation. I know in the past, where I mean some of the larger communities, if somebody is stuck for something and there is a private business that can provide it.

You can certainly go to the Housing Association for some assistance on a short-term basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's my English. I'm talking about if you own a house and your house need some maintenance, that's what I'm trying to get at here. If that happens, how are the charges made. Are they charged, are there costs for a home owner to call upon the maintenance person from Housing Association. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would hope that there was some private sector business or individual that could do the work having on a regular maintenance issue.

If there wasn't, it's not the responsibility of housing association staff to work on private homes. Their first priority is to deal with the public housing units. As you know, many communities require attention.

But, having said that, if there was an emergency situation, they would be more than likely able to assist the private home owner. I don't have the answer and I'm not prepared right now to tell housing associations to enter into the private sector to provide regular maintenance for private home owners.

I would think that if there's a market there, that no matter what the size of the community, that somebody would be able to do that on the private sector side. I know in the past, that's how a lot of small businesses have started up.

A housing maintainer in his off hours for example, would assist a private home owner that required some assistance. But that would be after hours on the individuals own time and obviously with the employers consent, that he or she do that work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my colleague was talking a little bit earlier about subsidies for staff housing. I'm just wondering if the Minister can indicate what the range of subsidies is to people living in staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know, the Housing Corporation just assumes responsibility for staff housing in its current fiscal year and we haven't even completed a full fiscal year yet. That's coming up next week.

We'll have a better idea of the full costs and that. But I can tell you generally that if you have an employee that's paying, and of course, members know that in staff housing it's per unit, it's not based on income right now.

If you have a unit of a thousand dollars, the government could be paying a lease rate of \$2 thousand dollars, \$25 hundred dollars in some other situations for that same unit, not including utilities.

So, we're looking at generally an average of \$1 thousand dollars to \$1 thousand 5 hundred dollars a unit that we're subsidizing right now. That's kind of a bench mark. Like I said, we'll have a better sense once the full fiscal year is completed. We'll have a sense as we work towards developing a new staff housing rental policy of some of the impacts of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like people that are in staff housing are anywhere from 50 percent and up by the looks of it, by the sounds of it.

I guess the point my colleague was trying to make earlier is that people that own their own homes don't get anywhere close to that same kind of subsidy. I'm just wondering if the corporation is going to be taking on or looking at all the housing related stuff in one area, the employee rent assistance program or whatever it's called is handled through the department of Finance right now is something that would be looked at going to the Housing Corporation and that these levels, I think that one right now, the threshold is 30%.

If they're looking at streamlining it or trying to make something out there so that people that do have made in investment and into our territory and purchased their homes and made that commitment that they'll get some kind of subsidy to assist them in the cost to maintaining their homes.

I think in the back of the business plan the average monthly shelter costs and that's probably the average, below average, higher in most places, just around \$550 dollars not including mortgage costs and especially here in Iqaluit where the demand is quite high. Probably can't find anything on the market under \$225 thousand dollars.

They go up to \$3 hundred and something and it's not too many people can afford to buy a home like that without any kind of subsidies and I wonder if maybe it might be better to have a subsidy on home ownership and the thing for home owners rather than providing all the subsidy for staff housing it might be more of an incentive for people to get into home ownership.

We need to help take off the burden on the demand for staff housing that they're I'm pretty sure that there is a huge waiting list right now and you see by all the jobs they could advertise with no staff housing. That might be a way of looking at providing some kind of incentive to get people out of staff housing and into home ownership. I'm just wondering if that's something that the minister or the corporation is looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think the minister has been sitting too close to the Minister of Health; he's starting to answer like him. It's good to see that some of his good qualities are rubbing off. Can he indicate that it's something they expect to see like in the next fiscal year or when we can expect to see any changes that's just come about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's hard to say and I could say that, like I said it is under consideration. I don't know, like I indicated in the past under what option it's going to be coming forward in the next couple of months for consideration for the appropriate standing committees on the cabinet colleagues.

But I can tell you that it is being looked at internally at least right now prior to having some presentations of options for the standing committee and for cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, also under this area here it mentions that several of the communities and LHOs have responsibility for part or all of the home repair and home ownership programs.

These LHOs have basically been empowered or that responsibility devolved to the LHOs so that they're the ones that are administrating those programs on behalf of the corporations that what's happening there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is ongoing work. There isn't anything in place yet, from what I understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if he misunderstood my question, it says under here, it says several LHOs have the responsibility for part or all of the repair Homeownership Programs in 12-10 of the Main Estimates. All those LHOs, are they delivering those Programs and Services on behalf of the Corporation. I hope that makes it clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is if the Local Housing Authorities or Associations are willing to do that. We used the example of here in Iqaluit where the District Office has moved now based in Cape Dorset.

It may be something that the Local Housing Authorities may be interested in doing, but certainly the Act is one of the first contact points for access to a lot of the Housing Corporation's Programs, I mean from general information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am specifically talking about the Iqaluit Housing Authority here. When I look at that concept of having a community based organization delivering Programs and Services for the Corporation.

I was just asking if that was the case, have there been something that has been working out. Is it been going quite well. Or have there been problems with it? Basically, how is it going?

What I am getting at, Mr. Chairman, if it is working out, fine there. Maybe it is something that the Corporation could sell an idea that it could sell to some of the other government departments in finding ways to become more effective, and more efficient, and more streamlined. If we could be able to deliver Programs and Services in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally, Mr. Chairman, it probably reflects fairly good relationship that the District Offices of the Housing Corporation have with the Local Housing Associations, or Authorities. Over the years, there has been a pretty reasonable information flow back and forth and there is cooperation assistance in trying to help the clientele. It is really just a natural progression in trying expand that when the request is there and the support is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister is aware, that I worked with the Corporation in the Baffin District here, prior to division. At that time all of the communities were delivering the Capital Programs for the Corporation through an agreement that they had with us. I am just wondering if that is still the case, that the communities are still delivering these Programs, or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is more community specific depending on what their desires are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if he can be more specific. Can the Minister indicate which communities in the Baffin are delivering those Capital Programs through the LHOs in the Baffin? I am pretty sure that all of them were pre-division. I am just wondering if that is still the case, if not, which ones are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe that they are all involved in one form or another. Just the degree of which parts and how much that they have taken on. I do not have all the details here, but I can commit to providing that to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed looking through the old Chart; I know that the true division there used to be I think 25 or so divisions in the Baffin District Office and down to 19 and the other two regions did not have quite the same ratio drop in PYs within the region.

But I know before division, every single community in the Baffin was delivering all of the capital programs and when you look at Clyde River, in one year, it was \$2 million dollars worth of capital that they did.

I think a year or two before division within the Baffin District alone and that the number that they have used before, you know it is \$25 million dollars worth of capital delivered and almost all of that was done through the LHOs in the communities.

And one of the things, hopefully that I would see that this drop in staffing levels that provided the support to the communities to enable them to do that has not disappeared and the will to try and work with them to be able to provide the LHOs with the capacities to be able to deliver those programs and services, which puts, in some cases, the ability

for the LHOs to be able to hire more people that puts employment into every single community.

As a result of that, delivery of those programs and services are still in place and that it is not being, like we have seen in other cases sucked back into the Corporation level and we have seen actually community de-parliament taking place. And I just want to make sure that that is not the case here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would agree with the Member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister had stated that the homeowners are given some support or assistance. I did not quite understand his response. So, if he is willing to clarify that, I would like that clarification. He spoke about homeowners being given some support of some kind. So, if he can elaborate that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the Member was referring to my answer to Ms. Williams in respect of homeownerships, homeownership programs besides what we have available for potential homeowners. For existing homeowners like where the Housing Corporation actually holds the mortgages such as the access programs where we provide subsidies based on levels of income of individuals.

The tenant to owner program that we are putting in place is the same thing. The less income that family makes, there homeowner's makes than the more of a subsidy from the Housing Corporation would provide to that family or individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): What percent is the subsidy for the homeowners? How much percent do you provide the benefits? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It differs, Mr. Chairman, depending on the level of income of the homeowner, I mean like I had indicated the less they make, the more subsidies that Housing Corporation provides, but it varies depending on you know, community cost, it varies depending on the family income situation of the homeowners, etc. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The homeowners, where do they get subsidy, is it for the land lease, what kind of support do you provide for them? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a report provided in there, the mortgage, the principle repayments, in other words, the less that they make, the more that we would carry the difference in the payments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In reading the explanation, where is lease to own or staff units? I was just asking questions in regards to the explanation here. Perhaps if there was another explanation here that the home owners do get mortgage through the banks too. It was never the case in the past so if you can give more detailed information and the explanation of this in the main estimates are that's why I was kind of thrown off. That's why I was asking those questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the home ownership programs are a part of the capital estimates that we went through in the fall; this is more the operating and maintenance side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you have any further questions? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a question to the minister. There is more than one unit in one of my communities that I represent, is not being used by staff because of the condition however; housing corporation or government is still probably leasing that, paying lease to this unit. If that's the case in a small community, are there many of these cases throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say that generally no, that would be the exception versus the normal. There is a high demand for staff housing. There are problems with the particular unit or units in a community or throughout Nunavut I guess, we would try to work with the landlord to rectify those problems and they couldn't be rectified obviously to see what recourse we would have as a government in respect to that unit with that particular landlord. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Going back to the page 12-10. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, contract services. Is this for the unit that private owner that are leasing to the housing corporation to house public or staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is the staff housing unit payments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staff housing unit payments to the private sector, are they mostly in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All across Nunavut, it was the staff housing portfolio that was transferred from public works and services for the housing corporation on April 1st of this past year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Are these \$30 million dollars worth, all to the private sector or some to the public works? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, its for all the cost in respect of maintaining the staff housing portfolio of that \$28 million 310 thousand 865 is for leases.

There are other contract services. \$1 million, 975 thousand dollars, these are for the utilities for those and it's also \$265 thousand dollars in there of staff costs for the staff housing tenant officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Are these leases to the private for your staff housing all negotiated or do they have a standard rate to their rents because especially in Iqaluit, private sector lease rates are incredibly high. An individual person coming from the community cannot, unless you put 100 percent of his salary on average, so the subsidy is quite high in others words. It probably costs 2 or 3 times of that by the staff member who pays to the Government of Nunavut or the Finance Department and 30 percent of that or a part of

that is coming from Housing Corporation. Is there anything you can do to reduce the rent that is being charged by the private sector? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, all the lease arrangements were secured through requests for proposals from a public process and so given that, the competition and the market place, it's reflective I think of the business climate environment here, particularly in Iqaluit.

In answering your question, it's a market and supply issue really and once more units hopefully come on line, hopefully some of the pricing will go down but it's more of our medium to longer term solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I did not raise my hand again. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Going back to page 12-10, information, information item. If there are no further questions, turn the page to 12-11, information item. And page 12-12, information item. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I would like to get clarification on other fees payments or other expenses, \$8 million 327 thousand dollars for headquarters. Is that the same funding for CMHC? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes it is Mr. Chairman. That's the amortization payment we spoke of earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the contract services, is that \$31 million dollars that we just talked about on the previous page and the total \$31 million 390 thousand dollars, and here we have \$30 million 991 and that \$19 million is slated for Qikiqtaaluk, is that mostly because it's in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, the member is correct on all his statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. 12-12, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Grants and Contributions, \$30 million dollars, Baffin, is that to construct units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: That's the portion for the Local Housing Authorities in Qikiqtaaluk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Any further questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Also under contract services, what are they for? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the leases for the staff housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. Do you have any further questions? 12-12. We'll move back to 12-4. Do you agree that Nunavut Housing Corporation, I'm sorry, that Nunavut Housing Corporation, Department Summary, Housing Corporation. Total Operations and Maintenance \$77 million 516 thousand dollars. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last comment on page 12-4. I know there is a shortage of housing everywhere, especially in Iqaluit, however, with the housing shortage, isn't there a sort of encouragement by the investment groups like Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and others who are in a position to get into housing investments.

Don't they recognise that there is a housing need, so there is money to be had in housing? Or is it because the utility or lease on the land is so great, that it's not attacking house builders for lease or sale on the reasonable or affordable prices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's really an issue that beneficiaries should take up with their own designated Inuit organizations or Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I don't think it's appropriate for myself as a non-beneficiary to speak about potential investments.

I can tell you that I met recently with the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to speak specifically on issues surrounding housing and housing needs, housing investment and I know that she's quite concerned about the issue as well and is going to consider some possible options involving land claims funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might not be very popular with the business sector of Nunavut but I think it has to be said that right now, if you look at the Bank of Montreal, the actual costs of building, not including the import labour, but if we had local labour, that building apartments or houses or whatever, homes, it's not that exorbitant at cost.

Right now, we've been had by the private sector a lot of times, on housing, by the exorbitant rents prices, exorbitant private housing prices. I have a very ordinary bungalow for \$300 thousand dollars.

It's a one story basic three bedroom. I know it's not made out of gold. I looked at it. But because of some mystery reason they are very highly priced that only the government can rent and sublease it to their own staff, but with a subsidy.

There must be a way to rectify that. There must be a way to say, okay, local municipal government or the town or the city of Iqaluit, we cannot really afford to build housing for rent because of your lease costs.

There must be something that that the Housing Corporation, Nunavut Government and federal government and town can discuss how to make affordable homes in Iqaluit. But right now, it seems to be acceptable because nobody is suffering except the clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I didn't hear a question; it was more of a comment. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly the member brings up some valid points. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the beginning, the people who were home owners, there's a lot of money that is going to be paid to the homeowners that the government is leasing from.

My colleague mentioned that, Mr. Puqiqnak, that some corporation wanted to build houses to lease, an Inuit organization wanted to build some houses to lease. I just wondered why the Local Housing Authorities don't talk to those individual corporations and work with them to build houses to be leased in those communities.

They Inuit organizations don't seem to be given a chance because we could at least give them \$19 million dollars to build houses. I think we have to, because of the lack of

housing in Nunavut communities, try to do everything to help each other in building houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): That was more of a comment. Not a question. It's up to you Minister Ng if you want to respond to it.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Just the same Mr. Chairman, we would work with any group provided it was cost effective and dependable publicly, any arrangements that the Housing Corporation might enter into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The people that built houses in the past, I just wondered why these people are not allowed to build their own houses anymore in the communities?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Maybe Mr. Chairman, because we don't have the HAP program that the member is referring to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would be better if that HAP program came back. It's very expensive to hire a contractor to build a house for you in the community.

And they also have problems because the contractor knows that that house is not their own, they build it as quick as they can. I just wanted to bring that up to the Housing Corporation that they should try to do the best that they can to build the house.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I hope you can understand. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I agree. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Nunavut Housing Corporation Department Summary. Nunavut Housing Corporation, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$77 million 516 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the Housing Corporation is concluded with?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will take a short 20 minute break. I would like to tell the Minister as a Chairperson, I hope that you will be using Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit as that is our goal. Thank you Minister and your officials. We will now take a 20 minute break. After that we will move onto to Human Resources. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too wish to thank the committee, their patience and staff for their assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): 20 Minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 15:46 p.m. and resumed at 16:22 p.m.

Chairperson (Translation): We can start again. The Minister responsible for Human Resources can now make his opening comments. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to appear today before the Standing Committee on Government Operations to present the 2003/04 Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Human Resources.

The Department of Human Resources has been allocated to a total budget of \$18.3 million.

The Inuit Employment Plan Program continues to be our lead priority. In the coming year, the Department of Human Resources will be focusing many of our initiatives and programs on the implementation of IEP. The establishment of the IEP Division will be responsible for the implementation, management and monitoring of Article 23 initiatives across all departments in the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The IEP Program also will focus on training and development, as well as greater coordination of initiatives in all departments. Specific initiatives include Management Development Program, Employment System Review, Assistant Deputy Ministers Development, Public Administration Certificate program, Specialized Training, Learning and Development, and including Awards and Recognition.

The implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan also will be supported by many initiatives in all divisions of the department including the implementation of the recommendations of the Employment Systems Review. The objective of this review is to remove artificial and systemic barriers in our human resources systems, practices and procedures. An important part of this project will be the critical and comprehensive review of the education work experience qualifications stated in job descriptions. About \$6 million or 1/3 of the department's budget is allocated to Inuit Employment initiatives.

(interpretation) The Department of Human Resources will continue to support the Akitsiraq Law School program, Summer Students, Employee Orientation, Inuktitut Language and Employee Wellness programs. These initiatives, which complement the

training efforts of other departments, will ensure that the Government of Nunavut has a better trained and a more professional public service.

The department, in partnership with the Department of Finance will launch an integrated Human Resource Information and Payroll System in January 2004. Our department has allocated \$550 thousand for this project.

The department will have a complement of 83 staff including 14 Manager Interns who are being trained in various departments, and 7 new staff positions created to address operational needs in our department.

The Department of Human Resources is committed to provide efficient and effective human resource services to all departments and agencies. We will continue our efforts in developing strategies and delivering programs in order to build a strong, stable and representative workforce, especially through the implementation of IEP.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome comments from Committee Members at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Before we move onto other items I will ask the chair of the Standing Committee to make his opening comment. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, before I start this one I want to clarify the minister is appearing before the committee of the whole not the standing committee on government operations. I have that clarification. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services has reviewed the main estimates and business plan for the Department of Human Resources for the 2003/2004 fiscal year.

I'm pleased to provide you with the committee's comments. The committee notes that the proposed 2003/2004 budget for the department is \$19 million, 358 thousand which represents the 78% increase over the departments initial 1999/2000 budget allocation of \$10 million, 836 thousand.

Last year the committee expressed its concern over the impact of the staff housing shortage has had on the ability of the Government of Nunavut to fill its vacant positions.

Members recognize that the staff housing function now rests with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This issue none the less has significant impact on the operations of the Department of Human Resources.

In Iqaluit, for example, Mr. Chairman, over 230 positions were vacant at the end of last year. Members note from the December 2002, Inuit Employment Plan statistics that the

Government of Nunavut's overall vacancy remains around at the 20 percent level. In other one in every five jobs at the Government of Nunavut stands vacant.

Members remain unclear as to when, and if ever, we can expect to see if the capacity rate of 90 percent, or better. Members also note that the Inuit employment rate remains stuck at approximately the 40 percent level.

Members note with particular concern that the fact that the Inuit employment rate for Headquarters positions in Iqaluit, is now at only 28 percent. In other words, only 3 out of every 10 Government of Nunavut jobs in Iqaluit is filled with Inuit beneficiaries.

Members would be interested to learn of the work and accomplishments to date of the Government of Nunavut, NTI, and Article 23 Working Group. According to the department's Business Plan, the Terms of Reference for this Working Group have been approved.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee was pleased to see the department again table its Annual Public Service Report, and encourages those departments that have not fulfilled their own statutory tabling obligations to follow this example.

Members continue to note with concern the striking gap between the number of beneficiary males and the number of beneficiary females employed by the Government of Nunavut.

According to the most recent public service annual report, while close to 700 female beneficiaries were employed as of March 2002; fewer than 300 male beneficiaries were employed. It is disturbing that so few male beneficiaries are having success entering and staying in the public service.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee has noted with approval the departmental business plan's focus on the Inuit Employment Plan. Members await with interest the tabling of the final Inuit Employment Plan in the House, and look forward to clarification as to whether an official at the Assistant Deputy Minister level will be charged with the task of moving this forward.

Members would also wish to see greater clarity as to how the Inuit Employment Plan division's 2003-04 budget of \$4.7 million will be spent. Members are supportive of efforts in this area, and remain supportive of such mentoring opportunities as the Summer Student Employment Program.

Members also look forward to an update on the success of the Senior Managers Development program, which was announced last year, and was to have created 15 intern positions across the Government. Members also look forward to an update on the Workplace Wellness Program.

Last year, the Committee expressed concern over the Government's turnover rate, which has been as high as 29%. Although the Committee understand that this rate has recently dropped, it remains concerned that the issue of employee retention be addressed seriously. Members would also wish to see the public service annual report provide a department-by-department breakdown of the turnover rate brings with it a number of significant costs.

Members note, for example, that the department's budget for employee relocation remains approximately the same in 2003/20004 as it was for 2002/2003. This suggests that the number of employees entering and leaving the Government of Nunavut may be approximately the same next year as it was in 2002-2003.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee suggested last year that the department explore the concept of establishing some sort of Ombudsman-like position within the Government of Nunavut to whom employees can go to for assistance – especially for those employees without access to the formal grievance process. We have not seen any movement on this suggestion.

Members are aware that the department's business plan states that one of it's priorities in 2003/2004, is to undertake the process of collective bargaining with the Nunavut Employee's Union.

Given that this major collective agreement expires next week, members will be interested to learn when this process will start. Mr. Chairman, members have noted that one of the department's priorities for the coming year was to introduce amendments to the Public Service Act.

I look forward, with great interest to reviewing these and finding out exactly what changes are being planned. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own comments or questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. At this time the Minister and his officials can now proceed to the witness table. Thank you.

Thank you for sitting at the witness table. Mr. Kilabuk, if you could introduce your staff. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Carmen Levi who is my Deputy Minister and Mr. Tom Thompson, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. In Committee of the Whole I will give members a chance to speak for ten minutes and once your ten minutes is up, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every

member wishing to speak has spoken. Any general comments for the Department of Human Resources? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to make a short comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Minister and your staff as well for coming and welcome.

I just wanted to comment on the staff at the Government of Nunavut in terms of the Inuit employment, not just at the present moment but for the future. It's encouraging to hear that we're continuing to increase our Inuit employment.

I want to commend the Minister as well as his ministerial colleagues. I just want to touch a little bit on the senior management positions in terms of the Deputy Ministers. I apologise, I don't have the Innuinaqtut terms for those.

Just on that, perhaps we can do some training for the staff for senior management in that regard in terms of training on the job. If we had programs like on the job training, I think that would increase the Inuit employment plan.

On the other hand, when you're looking for staff to fill positions, there's always the concern where a person hasn't completed grade 12 or they're in grade 10.

As well, there's always that concern where a person looking for employment is afraid that because they don't have a university degree, for example, when an Inuk is looking for a job and they look at a job add, they get quite concerned because they don't have the qualifications if it states in the job add that you need a university degree.

I understand for some positions you need a university degree but on the other hand not all jobs require a university degree and when Inuit were looking for a job, looking at where there is a university degree required these people have a set back although they are quite qualified to fill a position, they can train on the job.

As we know, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, when were starting out as young people, we start at a low level and then once you gain that experience of employment, you begin to challenge yourself and you progress.

I just want to stress that, to encourage you to keep Inuit in mind when you're filling out a job. We heard from the Minister in his opening comments, we heard from the chairperson, in terms of the 40 percent, because the percentage of Inuit employment seems to be decreasing from where we started in 1999.

I don't have any other comments but I just wanted to comment on that in terms of the youth who are going to high school. They don't have any activities during the summer and I would encourage you to keep in mind that we need summer jobs for our youth.

In some areas or some communities in Nunavut, when they don't have the information for a summer job, they lose out. Some summer students in my constituency have asked me and told me that they're going to high school and would like to find a summer job.

This is a good initiative where the high school students that are going to school, get a summer job. It would be a good incentive for them to continue their education. Having said that, we should be looking for summer employment for our students. That's all I have for now. Once we start line by. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you very much for appearing before the committee. This is not the first time that I'm not working with your officials Ms. Levi. I've worked with her before that.

I do know that you're working extremely hard to provide the services and the programs through your department. In your department there are probably the people who do the interviewing who have a lot more hiring power than you do as the top officials and I think that has to be rectified. They'll have to take direction from the top instead of the other way around.

I asked some questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services and then it was referred to your department and when I started asking the same question to the Department of Human Resources it got lost somewhere along the shuffle.

I do know that each department works extremely hard to provide the best services and programs and for example, if the Health and Services Department asks you to fill a position or to look for a candidate for a position and gives you the required qualifications of that individual or for that position you will have to follow the criteria that's provided to by the appropriate department.

Though we work extremely hard to fill the positions with capable individuals the Minister of Finance at one time at the first week that the first assembly have their session, I asked the Minister of Finance about how the Government of Nunavut will be recognizing the qualifications of an individual and I will never forget the response that I got from the Minister and it was this.

They said that a qualified individual who has the experience without the necessary qualifications will be recognized and if you don't believe me you can look in the Hansard in the first week of the session if you would like to look back at those responses that I received.

That was very interesting and I was very receptive to that idea but apparently the rules and regulations and the policies have not been changed to conform to that response that I received the first week.

I think that we have to hire those people. I do know about jobs out there that require degrees and qualifications and diplomas and so on for professional like doctors and nurses and other professional. I have no problems with that but what I'm worried about is the ordinary jobs that could be filled by people who have the experience but not necessarily the degrees and so on.

I think that we have to put a little bit more emphasis on that portion. All Inuit of course would like to be retained once they're employed and I think that it is up to the employers to train employees so that they go up the ladder. And there are training positions that are served by Inuit, but they never get out of that training mode, possibly because the one that is decided to go out of that position wants to keep that job.

So of course since election time is coming around we are preening a little bit now and making sure that we look good out there. If we want to retain our jobs, or if we want to go into the workforce, we have to be aggressive about it.

That is something that is very important to me. It is something else that I would like to work on. I will leave it at that for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. I would like to welcome the Minister, the Deputy Minister, and the Assistant Deputy Minister. I would like to make a very brief comment regarding the employees that are in the administrative field, the required qualifications, degrees, and so on. They have to be properly educated.

We have to see more skilled trades people being produced in Nunavut. I know that in my community there is a qualified mechanic that is a unilingual Inuk. He does not speak English, but there is a qualified mechanic in my community. Anyone can get a Trades certificate through training-on-the-job, or through an Apprenticeship Program.

Once I was told by an individual who said that even though some individuals are very educated, they do not have the experience, but then there might be an uneducated individual who has the experience and the capability to fill the position.

I have been in the labour force for 24 years, even though I have never been in a formal school system. There is a high unemployment rate in the communities, but I think that training is a very important aspect with the new economic opportunities coming up to Nunavut. Those are my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the Department of Human Resources is able to appear before the Committee of the Whole. I recognize the Minister, and the Deputy Minister, and the Assistant Deputy Minister. I support them fully in what they are doing in their Department. I know that they have a heavy

responsibility as the Department of Human Resources because of course you have to be well qualified to fill your positions.

In Nunavut, for those communities that do not have Arctic Colleges, they know job opportunities or upgrading opportunities. We are communities that do not have much, but we do look for people that are as qualified when we are going to be filling our positions.

When you have very few job opportunities, it is very hard. And when an individual comes from the south with the required qualifications, they have to be assisted by the local people to help them out in whatever they came up for even though he has the qualifications. They are employees who, in their job description, are not required to do the interpreting and the translating, but they end up doing it all the time because of lack of resources.

And usually what happens is that because of the help that they receive from the local people, they start going up the ladder and the people who have given him assistance through the whole time are in the same position for a long time.

That is what usually happens in the smaller communities to date. I am sure it is the same case with your Department. Today, the Nunavut Government, I think that they should to integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

So, as the Department of Human Resources, who will be giving you advice on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? You will have to rely on the Inuit to get the definition of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in your Department and is the case, the people of Nunavut.

And their ambition and their drive to be a part of the workforce are going to be looking at opportunities with your Department. It is said that there is only 44% that are filled.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we want to treat everybody fairly, but it is hard when we cannot get what we want. We are proud of our employees, but if we look at the Bathurst Mandate and the spirit and intent of the creation of Nunavut, we seem to be going out of track.

We want to be able to work together with the other Nunavummiut to achieve this that is our focus. We know that in the future, we will not have the Inuit custom in the Human Resources Department, but we would be satisfied if we use the Inuktitut in the workplace.

Using my grand parents as an example, they use to say that some time in the future we might have the looks of an Inuk but we will have a European custom that we will be adapting to.

It is becoming reality. We have our own language but we are adapting to the changing times, with that we have to use that as a foundation and with that the southern employees have to rely in the Inuit who don't have any qualifications to help them go through the

steps and then we work together, we have to do the same thing with the people of Nunavut.

We have to be able to fill the positions that we want to get into because there is someone that in there in that department who could be a model. Its something we can achieve. We have to work on it to make it a reality and you'll open to more options once you open up.

I am glad that we're starting to fill up positions with Inuit but I have known a lot of Inuit also who have resigned from the government but we haven't got the stats of why they resigned. We don't know what the reasons are to date.

They have had to be removed and the confidential clause is applied when you're dealing with employees as that is the case we have to work closely together in order to have everything going and it's something that is foreign to the Inuit culture so we have to make some adaptations so that we can put in Inuit culture into the government.

We have grand fathered the act from the Government of the Northwest Territories and we'll have to make amendments to those acts so that they are Nunavummiut and to include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

With that we are very proud of what you have achieved as a department and I do know that you'll make adaptations so that it would be meeting Nunavut.

I might seem like I'm against you but we have to work together to achieve a common goal. I'm just basing my comments on the experiences and what I've seen and experienced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to make my comments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished? General comments. Mr. Alakannuark. I have no more names on my list.

Human Resources. Page 4-5. Human Resources, main estimates. Are you on the page now? Directorate. Total Operation and Maintenance. \$1 million, 960 thousand do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Staffing. Page 4-6. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5 million, 993 thousand dollars. Questions? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Purchased services \$2 million, 380 thousand dollars. In the previous year it was \$2 million, 564 thousand dollars. Is it because you'll be using less purchased services within the fiscal year 2003/2004? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a reduction there by \$184 thousand dollars. It was in my opening comments, for the collection of data. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on the compensation and benefits, I see it went up about \$200 thousand dollars. Are those for the new positions or are you creating new positions or is it on the plan that you have hired to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, for the new PYs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: If they're new, what type of positions are we putting into this? I'm sure there are one or two positions there, can you just touch on what type of positions. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I also mentioned it, for the data collection inputting and also for a position to handle transfer in our department. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 4-6, I would like to ask a question because in the briefing here it states that the staffing branch, develops recruitment procedures to all the departments of government.

I would like to ask if the Minister can clarify how many teachers we have in Nunavut, how many doctors we have and how many set of nurses we have. The reason why I'm asking this question is because they're not hired through the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Before I ask the Minister to respond, also in the business plan, there's an explanation in the business plan and they start off with the page 4-1, just to give you more information. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that detailed information with me right now but I do want to say that in my opening

comments, I stated that there was going to be a computer data entry person and once that is in place, we'll have all that information.

Since we don't have that information right now, there was one in my other portfolio, which is the Department of Education. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask a question from this document? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I am asking this question is there are many employees who work for the Government. There are close to 2,000 employees.

I am not saying that the teachers are the ones with the majority positions. Once all the teachers are gone, there are not very many positions. Where the department did hire these individuals?

That is the reason why I wanted to know the difference between the two. Also my second question, Mr. Chairman, that the Nunavut Government departments, do they have a Human Resources Officer in each department? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. In regards to the first question that you had posed, the Minister had not tabled that information, that is why I did not allow to ask that question. Once they have been tabled, you can ask questions to those. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the first question, teachers, doctors, the professionals, they are not hired through the department. They are following the agreement. All the departments do have a Human Resources Officer in each department. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some departments vary in sizes. Perhaps if I can ask a question. Community Government and Transportation department, how many personnel officers would they have? And also for the Department of Health and Social Services, do they have one or two Personnel Officers? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The departments each has one Personnel Officer. The bigger departments, such as the Department of Education and Health and Social Services have two Personnel Officers. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your business plan on page 4-10, Summer Student Employment. You have budgeted \$700 thousand dollars, correct me if I am

wrong on that, but that is what I see in here. Were you able to use most of that? Or were you over last summer on this line here? Summer Student Employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding for this Summer Student Employment Program, the funding was not depleted. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much did you use out of that \$700 thousand? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although we did not expend all of this funding all the applicants were provided funding. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Maybe another way of trying to get more applicants. How are you promoting this program within the communities? Is it through each Department or is there a Department doing all of the advertising on this program? Thank you..

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our Colleagues here, we are quite concerned about that as well as the Standing Committee. Yes, we would like to work within the concerns.

In regards to promoting this student summer employment, we do it through the schools, not just within the schools, but we try to utilize all of the public outlets to put this out to the public, we also use pamphlets too. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I like to the program and so on and you should continue to support it because I know some of our students are not getting employment at other places and this is the program within. I take it this is only within the Government of Nunavut or are we looking at other businesses that can apply on behalf of the students? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just for within Nunavut Government Departments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I do not have any more names on my list. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to my friend's question, in the Department of Community Government and Transportation and also in Public Works Department, I am looking to see if the students can work within those various Departments.

Like for example, for Community Government and Transportation, if the Department is willing to provide some funding so that they could hire summer students. They do not provide those kinds of allocations to the Department? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we only have programs that are run for the Government. For the summer student employment, they are for all the Departments of Government. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): For example, there is nothing in Coral Harbour. There is no Nunavut Government office in Coral Harbour, only the Municipality has the office in my community and it is likewise like that in the smaller communities, for the communities that are non-decentralized. So, does that mean that the Government will not provide funding for summer student employment for this coming summer? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify to the Member; the students apply for summer employment. Yes, we have been getting very interesting suggestions on these issues and also, we are looking at ways on how to implement them.

This is not the first time that we heard this issue from the Member and we have also heard from the various people, but we have not come up with a program for that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, do I understand that in the non-decentralized communities that the students will not be hired for the summer through this program?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): There will not be summer students then? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is open because in the smaller communities the government has different departments. Like in Coral Harbour, they have nursing stations, the schools, the public works.

Each community has government departments working within the community so the students can apply and we can work with the departments to make sure that the students can be hired during the summer. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Are you finished? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A supplementary to Mr. Arvaluk's question in regards to the smaller communities that are non-decentralized to see what kinds of plans we can make because they do have the same number of students and they should be treated equally.

So, can the Minister commit to me that when they go back to their office, that they can make plans for the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, as I've stated, we're open. Even in the smaller communities we know there are students in the smaller communities but because their operating funds are limited they may not have the same opportunities. In regards to the smaller communities, this is not the first time that we've heard about it because the smaller communities would like that opportunity for their students to work during the summer.

We're working on it now but at this time we have not come up a final plan. Summer student employment, this is assistance for the summer employment for the various departments. We want to assist the most number of students within the schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is not new to you, they should already making the plans now if they were serious about it. So I'm encouraging the department to provide more support to the smaller communities for summer student employment.

The Minister said that it's not the first time he's heard that. They should not just be considering it. They should be planning at this stage now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to clarify to my colleague, I'm not trying to be difficult for this program but because we don't have past experience with summer student employment.

We had to base it on experience from the year before. I'm not saying that we're not considering how to improve this program so that the smaller communities can benefit. This is going to be a continuing of the program but I want to clarify to the member that we're not trying to drag our decision but we still have not tabled the plan for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for his response. I'm sure the public out there listening understands that as the Minister stated, this is not the first time he heard about it. Even if it's some employment in the community, it's good. If it's just for the summer, it's automatically very good for the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear a question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will deem that as a yes. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Purchase Services. \$2 million, 380 thousand. I don't understand. What did you purchase for the department under this line item? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, what line item are you asking?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Page 4-6. I thought we were still on that page.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, I'm sorry we're on 4-6. If you understood his question. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the purchase services, for various employees, they have to travel and move and they're for transportation such as plane tickets and packing and moving their property and also for job competition. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Expense packaging. How far are we from completing relocation or decentralization relocation of staff from outside of those

particular decentralized communities? I realize that when NIC decided that we would be decentralized government but there was no training done for local potential employees, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, Pangnirtung, Baker Lake, etc.

We were lucky in some places like Rankin Inlet that we had regional centres. These people were already working for the GNWT. But other places, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, they were not prepared to take on these decentralized positions.

As a result, some of these Iqaluit regional office staff become DMs, ADMs and some have to be moved to Pangnirtung, Igloolik, etc. They're still doing that. That's what your purchase services are for I suppose.

My first question is, how are we doing in hiring local people from these decentralized communities and what percentage has to be relocated from Iqaluit or elsewhere to Igloolik or Baker Lake etc? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Decentralization the minister responsible should be responding to the question.

Yes, we will go on to that page 4-13. You could already see that there is no funding provided for that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else. I have no more names on my list. Go back to 4-5. They will need to agree on it because there was no agreement upon it. 4-6. Staffing. Human Resources Branch Summary. Staffing. Operation and Maintenance. \$5 million, 993 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Human Resources Branch Summary, Assistant Deputy Minister, Community Operations, Total Operation and Maintenance. \$2 million, 921 thousand, comments? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Human Resources, Grant Summary, Job Evaluation and Organizational Design, page 4-8, Total Operation and Maintenance, \$733 thousand, do you agree? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in this page, perhaps if you can tell me if I am out of line or if I can ask it on some other page. For bilingual staff, for example, the staff, whether he be in senior position and if they can speak English and sometimes they have to be bilingual.

Not too many bilingual people get bilingual bonuses. Perhaps, the Minister can tell me what kinds of positions are not eligible for bilingual bonuses and what kind of positions are eligible for bilingual bonuses and what are the criteria? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All staff are eligible for bilingual bonuses provided that they can speak more than one language and if they can communicate with the language or second language.

We have reviewed the bilingual bonus issue and how it can be improved, but they are provided \$1,500 annually on bonuses, but I do not have the total figure. I apologize, Mr. Chairman, I do not have the detailed information, but I can look into it. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, if I can ask my question in another way, for example, Assistant Deputy Ministers or the Deputy Minister, are they eligible for bilingual bonus? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are eligible, but, the language professionals such as interpreters and translators do not get bilingual bonuses. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How about the teachers in the communities? I am trying to think about teachers who live in the community, the teacher has to be able to communicate with the parents and the majority of the parents at the community level are Inuit. Are the teachers eligible too? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the teachers are eligible. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do you determine what a bilingual bonus requirement is and so far, I have seen those who have no bilingual bonus, have no qualification under that cost spending, having to interpret on the telephone for the person who does not speak Inuktitut.

The majority of the Government employees speak English, except for the Department of Education and the Elders, instructors and things like that. Everybody else in the administration support level does.

Is there consideration to enhance the program or at least evaluate it to change it for your Inuit employment plan or trying to reach the goal of 85 percent employment by 2020? It should be included that anyone who becomes bilingual, gentleman sitting left to you learns to speak Inuktitut, should be getting bilingual bonus.

I think that would encourage everyone to try to speak Inuktitut or French. Have you considered that, whether it's a requirement or not, if you feel it's a requirement or not, but if the person who is being hired is bilingual, would qualify under that bonus.

It doesn't make a significant budget increase of \$15 hundred dollars a year for everyone. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're doing a review on that right now to see what more we can do on this issue and which employees should be eligible. We're reviewing it right now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. We're on page 4-8. Job Evaluation and Organizational Design. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$733 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning the page. 4-9, Human Resources, Branch Summary, Inuit employment plan. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I touched upon that a little while ago. The question I have is in regards to management.

You stated that in your opening remarks there is management training for your employees. Management development program, whether the person is a Deputy Minister go on a contract or are they there at your pleasure.

The reason why I'm asking this question because if they're on a contract with your department, they could teach the individuals under management program and if he or she feels that they can be a Deputy Minister for a long time or at your pleasure they will not want to train anyone in their place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understand his question correctly, I stated in my opening remarks that there are 14 trainees or interns. If I understand his question correctly, say for instance, he talked about the Assistant Deputy Minister; those that are on contract are done through the Premier's office. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I understand. What I was concerned about was, like I said before, if a Deputy Minister wants to retain his or her position, they would not want to teach another individual to take their place. Yes, I understand now what the situation is. How do you rate those Management Development Programs students? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We review them every month to see what level that they are at. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 4-9, on your business plan under the Inuit Employment Plan, you have one of your priorities was to develop internship opportunities in all departments. Can you just try the same thing as you saying training-on-the-job? Thank you. First of all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are those fourteen internships, they are like on the job training. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my community we have the Regional Office for example. Are there some people at that level, where you have a Regional Trainees training positions? I know that there is one under the Community Government in Cambridge Bay, but I am not sure if we have any other areas in the Kitikmeot. If you can give me that information? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. People participating from the Kitikmeot region are under the Motor Vehicles department in Gjoa Haven, and in Kugluktuk, Sustainable Development. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: The partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Finance provides pre employment programming. Can you elaborate a little bit? I am just curious. It may be something that I was referring to during one of the Question Period about one of the Mining Companies applying for this partnership program. Maybe it is a different area. It says here that Arctic College. Maybe if you can explain that a little bit? What that is? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education. I will get some more clarification on that first. Thank you. I am sorry. Perhaps if I can get clarification from Mr. Thompson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That refers to a number of programs. One, as you know the Department of Finance is also running some of their own intern training programs for financial positions, through their own budget. We are working cooperatively with that department and the Nunavut Arctic College to determine the needs for that group.

Most of it will be on the job training; however there may be some pre-employment training courses that might be common to all the participants of that course. So we work cooperatively with those candidates as well as the ones in the management intern program, identify some of those common learning requirements and then negotiate with the college to deliver programs for those candidates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Okay, I guess I take it most are at the regional level or are they mostly headquarters when you're saying that you have partnerships or training programs with finance.

I'm just trying to get a sense of where you're at. Is it at the headquarter, regional or community level when you're talking about these trainees I guess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's all over. Mostly in the management and in various departments such as the Department Finance, the Department of Education, Department of Health, Sustainable Development and Motor

Vehicles Division, the Fire Department, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is another one, the Department of Justice. They are in various departments Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under that business plan, page 4-8 of the Inuit employment plan, I think, if I recall, the government started talking about that right at the outset in 1999, how to recruit Inuit with the goal to hire proportionately, approximately 85 percent, etc. That was not really a target but that's proportional to the population. We've been hiring Inuit for quite some time since the Government of Nunavut, in fact some through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

I recall some people going to Chilliwack and becoming diesel mechanics and power plant operators and things like that who are unilingual in British Columbia when we're still going to elementary school.

But it turned out that it seemed to become a really special way to determine how to employ Inuit. Because it's been almost for four years now. Is there anything that we expect to see like a report or paper or policy direction or announcement from the government? A news release, anything to tell us that we have a new employment plan and here it is.

Do we expect to see anything soon along those lines or is it going to be just like Culture, Language, Elders and Youth where we hear a little bit here and a little bit there to this to date on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and that sort of thing. Can you tell us a little bit more about how we will be informed that something is there. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct and we have made various announcements on this issue. We have tried to work with various partnerships such as NTI and federal government.

And NTI president Kathy Towtongie has attended some meetings with me to Ottawa in this regard, I could tell the member that the plans that we have in place right now are almost complete and we will provide it to the members and to our other partners as soon as they are available. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Preparation for the plan according to your statements has been progressing well. The stumbling block now is for the different organizations like NTI or federal government or do you expect to come with some sort of consensus as to how we can start employing Inuit or training them.

I think, this is what I'm trying to get here at is Mr. Chairman, is that, those who are waiting to be trained and employed are the ones who are going to be suffering these consequences of not being able to come up with some kind of decision from the government and NTI and who ever else wanted to be involved in that grand plan.

Can you tell me when do you expect to get something on paper this year, next year, two years from now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the meeting that I mentioned in Ottawa, we met with Minister Nault and the NTI president and myself, we have to find out when we are going to be meeting again on that because we're going to be funded largely from the Minister Nault's office on that.

We have to work in partnership with them. So, once that report is completed then our plan is completed then we will have it provided to the house or the members and we have not heard from them since the last meeting. So, that's where we are at right now.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I hope this plan will not be redundant some time in the near future but I hear the Minister of Education wishing really hard to have a good education program in all levels of the grade 12 and training programs for the Inuit is being very aggressive in pursuing these thing and when that happens then the Inuit Employment Plan will be redundant because you'll be hiring qualified southern employees from these post-secondary education graduates.

So, I hope something will happen so that this chronic unemployment problem with smaller communities will not continue needlessly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hear the member. This time it's not just for the larger communities. It also includes the smaller communities, the centralized and the non-decentralized. It is focused on the whole of Nunavut and not just concentrating in the larger ones.

In the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, this is based on the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement contents. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else? 4-9, Human Resources, Grant Summary, Inuit Employment Plan, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$5 million, 748 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 4-10, Human Resources, Grant Summary, Training and Development, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 260 thousand. Agreed? James.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, this is a very good question on that one. We were given an announcement from the Minister of Education that Students' Financial Assistance will increase.

We also asked that nursing program will come similar to par with Akitsiraq Law School Students. What I am getting at here is, there is no problem in hiring lawyers, but there is a big problem in hiring nurses and retaining nurses.

Program has to be enriched in order to keep the nurses in Nunavut with good bonuses and retention bonuses. How are we doing with the nursing program and are there better allowances and financial situations of the students? Has grades improved? Is that part of the training and development area here? Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this training and development, this training is for the Departments, it is for the training of the employees, for the staff. It is not geared towards the Akitsiraq or the nursing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Human Resources, Grant Summary, Training and Development. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 250 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning over, 4-11 is part of what you guys are agreeing to. Moving onto 4-12, Human Resources, Grant Summary, Employee Relations, Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 753 thousand. James.

Mr. Arvaluk: This is FANS wording for working with the union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many PYs cover \$866? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman 9 positions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else? 4-12, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 753 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning over, Human Resources, Grant Summary, Decentralization, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: How are decentralization requirements are all being done? There is no staff member that will be moving from where to where because it is zero. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Decentralization is now finished and if there should be anymore it would be applied through here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Anything else. Decentralization all gone. James.

Mr. Arvaluk: That means that the employees of the Petroleum Products in Rankin Inlet will no longer be moving to Baker Lake. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be perfectly clear. I didn't say that.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to say here is that Human Resources has been doing is identifying, establishing and the effect it will have on the employees and obtaining housing for the employees or training, are no longer going to be available.

Our department and if there has to be relocations, they will be handled in the same fashion that we use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. 4-13, there is not much we can do about that.

4-14, any comments. If there are none on 4-14, we'll go back to 4-4. 4-4, any comments. I don't believe there are any comments for 4-4. Human Resources. Department Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$19 million, 358 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Department of Human Resources. Minister's Statement 126-1 (6), March 13, 2003. Job descriptions. Agreed. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I think that was completed but I would like to thank the Minister for making an appearance before the Committee of the Whole and at this time there is a motion to report progress. It is not debatable. Agreed? Thank you. The speaker can return now.

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

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 30 and the main estimates and would like to report progress and also Mr. Speaker, I move that 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? Mr. Irqittuq. The motion is order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would seek unanimous consent to go back to item number 18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 18. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister Picco.

Revert to Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 33 – Tobacco Control Act – Second Reading

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South, Whale Cove, that Bill 33. The Tobacco Control Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, Thank you. This bill will prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors. It includes point of sale restrictions on tobacco products, restrictions on packaging and regulates where people can smoke. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order to the principal of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 33 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 22 – An Act to Amend the Securities Act – Third Reading

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Hudson Bay that Bill 22, an Act to amend the Securities Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. The Bill has had third reading.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 26, 2003,

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

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

22. Orders of the Day

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 26th, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11 p.m.*

