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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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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday March 27, 2003

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Irqittuq, 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 Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good Morning, Premier, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 152 – 1(6): Long Term Service Award Ceremonies

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the continued effort and contribution of our employees who have served long periods of interrupted employment within Public Service.

Mr. Speaker, Long Term Service Award Ceremonies recognizing employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 continuers years of service are being held this year in various communities in Nunavut. Across Nunavut, about 490 employees will be receiving a service award this year.

Long Term Service Awards ceremonies were held recently in Pelly Bay, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Kugluktuk. Similar ceremonies will be held in Cambridge Bay later this month and communities in Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to especially acknowledge the contributions of Maggie Gordon of the Department of Education, who has served the Government of 35 years of service. I would also like to recognize an individual who is present here today, Mr. John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative of Assembly who has 30 years of service.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to invite all members of the Legislative of Assembly to the Long Term Service Ceremony for employees in Iqaluit. It will be held this evening at the Cadet Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the dedication of our employees, our most valued asset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 153 – 1(6): Youth Identity Development Strategy

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

Mr. Speaker, we know the largest portion of our population in Nunavut is under 30 years of age. As Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth I would like to update my colleagues on the work my department is doing for youth.

Over the next few months, my department will be holding workshops with youth from all Nunavut communities to create a *Youth Identity Development Strategy*.

Mr. Speaker, we know that both identity and self esteem are critical to youth making healthy choices for their future. We also recognize that youth know best what their challenges are. Our strategy will come directly from youth, from their successes, problems, ideas and dreams.

(interpretation ends) One of the central topics for discussion at the community workshops will be to explore ways we can strengthen the bond between youth and the land, culture, and language, through elders. Creating a bridge between youth and elders will strengthen youth's connection to Inuit traditions and build a sense of pride in their identity as Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) As a department, the Youth Identity Development Strategy will help us to focus our programs, grants and contributions towards priorities identified by youth for youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 154 – 1(6): Language Awards

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to announce the first annual Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun Language Awards. It is important to recognize people in communities who contribute to the richness of our Inuit language.

My department is dedicated to protecting and promoting our language, but we cannot do it alone. The real effort comes from the community level, people in every community speaking and writing their language. The department would like to recognize these individuals and their contributions.

This year, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is working in partnership with the organizing committee of Inuktitut Uqauttin Language Week to recognize outstanding achievement in four categories. Elder, youth, Adult and Language Project.

(interpretation ends) Nomination forms are available through the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth or by calling 1-866-934-2035. This new initiative will be an annual event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 504 – 1(6): Employment for Smaller Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the smaller communities in Nunavut that do not have employment opportunities and I would like the Government to be able to recognize those smaller communities and assist them in any way that they can because there are no economic opportunities available to them.

There are a lot of people out there in the smaller communities who are unemployed and have no place to work and I would like the Government to make sure that they are not forgotten and to make sure that the money for the Hamlets are kept up to par and increased so that more employment opportunities can be available for those that have no jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 505 – 1(6): Inuit Oral Legends

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to be back and I say hello to my family.

Mr. Speaker, for those of us who still have Inuit traditional knowledge it is a privilege. All this knowledge is being collected these days and that is good to see.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a Members' Statement in regards to the Inuit Oral Legends. When I was a young child, my mother used to tell me stories and those oral legends were very interesting to hear and we truly believed that they were guides for healthier living.

For that reason, stories like the legend of Kiviug and all other oral legends, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking a question at the appropriate time in regards to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 506 – 1(6): Teaching in Inuinnaqtun Language

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that our Member is back here again, it is nice to see him back in the House. Yesterday, David Iqaqrialu had mentioned this; I wanted to thank the Member for what he discussed yesterday.

I wanted to ask regarding his statement yesterday that the first thing that he had mentioned was that the Inuinnaqtun language should be improved within the Government.

Those teachers that are teaching in Inuinnaqtun, regardless if we have a few teachers in our communities, I would like to see increase in Inuinnaqtun school teachers in our community.

I know that today, our young people are learning the language regardless if they are attempting to speak it, and I am glad to see that they are making an attempt to speak their Inuinnaqtun language and want to encourage all of the Inuit people to help improve our language for our young generation and I would encourage our teachers and our community members to speak their language as well as our writing system.

I know that our Elders are making a big effort to help in schools and in our community even if it is in recreation areas, there are Inuit making an effort to improve our Inuinnaqtun language before we forget our own language.

Some people went to Arviat to make suggestions on curriculum. This fall and this winter and I would like to see the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that improve these attempts to have these curriculum and Inuktitut language teachers.

But in Kugluktuk, I want to encourage the Elders to teach the young school children to speak their language in the schools and in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 507 – 1(6): April 15 Dog Team Race

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about dog-team races; that is why I am wearing this traditional attire. Mr. Speaker, back in April 1999, when we were preparing for the creation of Nunavut in the high arctic, they were starting to set up dog-team races because they also wanted to celebrate the creation of Nunavut.

They have dog-team races from Igloolik and from Hall Beach, Pond Inlet, Clyde River and Arctic Bay and they have a working group and they do their own fundraising and we have to be proud of those people.

This year, the dog team races are starting on April 15th, they will be leaving e from Igloolik to Arctic Bay and there are quite a number of participants and also they would arrive to Arctic Bay around April 21, 22, 23, around that area.

I invite the Members and all of the Officials to attend Arctic Bay while the dog-team racers are coming in and they will be holding square dances and they will be wearing traditional clothes and they will be celebrating dog-team races and there will be awards being given out to the winners.

So, I was invited to my community through, they will be going from Iqaluit to Arctic Bay by snowmobile in the upcoming month. Also I would like to wish the participants and all the people good luck and also we invite each and everyone of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 508 – 1(6): Toonik Tyme Festivities

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I if you can tell, and all Members can tell that spring is in the air. The daylight is starting to get a little longer now. Only today is the temperature is not going along with the time of the year.

Spring is here and one thing that comes along with spring every year, here at Iqaluit, is Toonik Tyme. I know that those spring activities and games that go on, not only here in Iqaluit, but throughout communities in Nunavut to say farewell to the long cold dark Winter.

This year, Mr. Speaker, Toonik Tyme is going to be again having its Golf Tournament. I am sure that Mr. Picco, will again, this year will let Mr. Premier beat him again, as he does every year in the Golf Tournament. As a good Minister he makes sure that he lets the Premier know that that is why he lets him win, but it think that there is more to it than that. I think Mr. Picco is just not as good a golfer as Mr. Premier.

Also another thing this year that I am sure the fearless Minister of the Health and Social Services will be participating in this year is the Fear Factor Night that is going to be going on during Toonik Tyme. I am sure that that is going to be a lot of fun.

I would like to wish all the organizers and the City the best of luck. Hopefully, the weather cooperates and thank them and all the volunteers in organizing that here for making this Toonik Tyme here in Iqaluit a success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 509 – 1(6): Acknowledge the Sanikiluaq Youth on Shooting Competition

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to acknowledge a couple of young people from Sanikiluaq. They went to Yellowknife for a shooting competition recently, and a couple of individuals from Sanikiluaq were in the newspaper. First prize went to a person from Sanikiluaq; second prize also went to a person from Sanikiluaq.

As I was saying earlier on, because we used to be taught on gun safety, one of the individuals was taught by his father on rifle safely. I am proud of Moses Ipaq and the other is Sarah Kullualuk, she is 13 years old, she is the one that came in second. The first prize went to a Sanikiluaq individual and the second prize went to a person from Sanikiluaq. So therefore, I would like to acknowledge the two individuals for winning the shooting competition in Yellowknife.

Looking at the picture from the newspaper, it is not a picture of Moses; it is a picture of someone else. With the name, it is not the picture of that individual. Even though in spite of that, I would like to congratulate those two individuals. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 510 – 1(6): Artificial Ice for Arenas

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a Members' Statement on behalf of my constituency. Yesterday, I apologize, I have a cold. Yesterday, when we were dealing with the Main Estimates for the Community Government and Transportation, we talked about the artificial ice in the arena and because there are some that cannot stay frozen long enough.

Mr. Speaker, quite a while back when we were first elected, we each stood up and did our community consultation tours to get the public's input.

At that time when we did the consultation tour, the public out there in the communities were probably considering having artificial ice, but we were told at that time that the arena in Igloolik was run down and they were deteriorating and I am sure that the community hall in Igloolik was quite run down as well.

Before we start installing artificial ice in all of the communities, we should make sure that we get proper facilities before we put the artificial ice on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 511 – 1(6): NHL Hockey Games

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I stand today with a very heavy heart in what I heard yesterday and it is too bad, but I am going to be joined with other Members in this House. Last night, the New York Rangers got eliminated from the playoffs by the Pittsburgh Penguins.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

But the Montreal Canadians got eliminated also. So, it is too bad, but I am going to have to be watching TV with my good friend Enoki for the rest of the hockey season and cheer on the Toronto Maple Leafs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Minister Picco.

Member's Statement 512 – 1(6): Acknowledging Long Term Awards

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is rare today to find the individuals who have worked and dedicated themselves to one company, organization or job for a long period of time.

In the recent past, many people did just that. Worked at the same place and then retire. Today, it is a very changing workplace. Studies show that most adults will change positions or employers at least a half-dozen times in their adult lifetime.

It is then very unique, Mr. Speaker, when you have employees that spent 20, 25, 30 and even 35 years for the same employer. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, the Government will recognize and celebrate this achievement.

I, Mr. Speaker, want to take this opportunity to recognize two of my constituents who will be recognized for 30 and 35 years respectively. Ms. Maggie Gordon is well known in Iqaluit. Maggie is employed with the Department of Education at Joamie School. She makes excellent bannock and I am fortunate to have been given a pair of her toasty warm hunting mitts. Maggie will be celebrating 35 years at the public service.

Mr. John Quirke grew up in Iqaluit and has held several senior positions within the Government and just this morning, myself and Minister Ng were talking about the professionalism and the dedication and hard work shown by Mr. Quirke in many of these different positions with the Government and Northwest Territories.

As the first Clerk of Nunavut, Mr. Quirke has shown dedication, yes, Mr. Speaker, and innovation. He is hard working and Mr. Speaker, as you know, a consummate professional.

Mr. Speaker, join with me in congratulating John Quirke and Ms. Maggie Gordon and all the dedicated employees working on behalf and for the people of Nunavut. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 513 – 1(6): Pollution in Wildlife

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Inuit of Nunavut have depended upon the wildlife of Nunavut, and they continue to depend on wildlife for sustenance. Inuit have never hunted animals to the point of extinction. We were educated not to kill any wildlife, unless you need the meat. You need the skin for clothing, and you are going to use the animal.

Mr. Speaker, today I believe that wildlife, plants, soil, the sky above, and the ocean of Nunavut is polluted from the global emissions. We depend on wildlife for food. Let us help to preserve them. Mr. Speaker, are the wildlife of Nunavut free of the affliction of chemicals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Minister.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 478 – 1(6): Polar Bear Survey Project

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide a response to a question posed to me in the legislature on Monday, March 24 by the member for Uqqummiut.

The question was regarding the support my department may provide to a possible study of polar bear breeding behavior in Clyde Rive

(interpretation ends) To date, although we have received, we were copied on a letter of support from Nammautaq Hunters and Trappers Association to Solomonie Natanine. We have not received any requests from the HTOs or Mr. Natanine on this topic or any other information about the proposed topic.

We have no details on how the study would be conducted or what assistance the department could provide. My Staff will be following up on this matter to see if we could assist in developing a proposal for a study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it give me great pleasure this morning to recognize twenty-four young people in the Gallery. They are the Grade 3 Class from Nakasuk School. Who knows, maybe down the road, someone will be sitting in our chairs doing what we are doing, hopefully.

Mr. Speaker, I will start off by recognizing the Grade 3 Teacher, Ms. Barb Young, who is sitting at the end over there. There is also something that can never happen in the schools, field trips, and stuff like that, that cannot happen without parent volunteers.

I would like to recognize Geraldine Penney, sitting on the end there, who is also a constituent of mine, and Ms. Sue Cooper, also a constituent, and a Law Clerk., hiding on the end there, and also Byron Boyer, sitting in amongst the children. I do not know how he lost out in the middle of all the kids; normally they are on the end.

I will just go through the first names of the children, Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take up all the time that we have. We have Justine, sitting on the end down there, Malaya, Arthur, Fredrick, Benoit, Josie, Naomi, Laura, Lydia, Stephanie, Leona, Margraya, Jayko, Jessica, Katy, I think that we are over there somewhere underneath the Interpreters now, Mia, I'm sorry Mia, Chelsea, Brianna, Andrea, Alicia, Yaseen, there must be a spelling mistake here; Simon, and Joshua.

I'd like to welcome all of you to the gallery. Laura. There is a name missing from the list then. So I'd like to ask all members to join me in welcoming these young people and the teachers and the parent volunteers to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery, students, teachers and parents. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a long time employee for the government, Sarah Nuniq Flynn; she lives in Rankin Inlet right now. She is behind me, I've gone to school with her in Churchill, Arvaluk, Jobie, those of us that have gone to residential school in Churchill as well as Nancy and Peter, I'd like you to join me in welcoming Sarah to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery Sarah. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She was recognized already but I'd like to recognize Sarah Flynn. She is a constituent of mine. Sarah's husband, Darren Flynn is assisting the Hamlets and they're very good people. A lot of people are grateful for their assistance. Welcome Sarah to the House and her late father and mother, they were also very good people when I lived in Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person has worked for the Housing Corporation for a long time. He has also worked with the Housing Association; she was a staff member when we were on the task force. Dennis had to move on, but I'm sure a lot of things would have been fixed if he had stayed on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I like to recognize someone in the gallery, her husband is in Newfoundland, in particular is well known, actually two months ago I was reading a magazine from Newfoundland and they had a picture of them and they were identified a well known sports person.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think the wife of Mr. Terry Young gets much recognition as she deserves. The family has been in the north for a long time as educators and they continue to do so with her husband being having been the principal of the school in Pangnirtung and yes, that's right, Mr Akasuk indicated Cape Dorset and now in Iqaluit.

I would like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker to welcome to the gallery a very important person and probably the most famous of the Youngs, Ms. Barb Young. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 509 – 1(6): Five Cent Rider Increase on April 1st

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, recently there has been reported that the Power Corporation is seeking 5-cent rider. I would just like to ask the Minister, I wonder if they are saying that they want this increase to take effect on April 1st.

I would like to ask the Minister if, in fact, this increase is going to happen on April 1st and what effect it will have on people's power bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a good question, I am glad to see that a lot of the Members have good questions just like Mr. McLean. Mr. Speaker, I think that there were some questions on this yesterday and I just want to clarify very quickly.

There are two processes for increasing your power bill in Nunavut. One of the general rate applications, the GRA, when the GRA is asked for by the Power Corporation, a full regulatory review has to be put in place to see, indeed, if the utility needs that rate increase.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, what has been asked for by the Power Corporation is an addition to a Fuel Subsidy Rider or FSR. Mr. Speaker, this is to put in place and was in place in that past. It had gone through the approval process through the public utility's board and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

It was taken off, as Members remember last year. And the idea of the Fuel Subsidy Rider, which is what is being asked for, is to compensate for the increase in fuel prices and the revenue flow or the revenue stream that the Power Corporation is experiencing right now.

Mr. Speaker, we know that for example, the rates, the general rates in Nunavut have not increased since 1998, that is five years where we have not had a rate increase. The rider is to cover off the extra cost of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he still indicates that there has not been a general rate increase for five years, but this Fuel Rider increase, I believe was something that was put in place last year, is this is going to effect this 5-cent per kilowatt hour increase? Is that going to be an increase on people's power bills? If they are not, whether it is a general rate increase or Fuel Subsidy Rider, whatever, is it going to be an increase on people's power bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Fuel Subsidy Rider is in place, as I said earlier, through a regulatory regime. The process, Mr. Speaker, is that the Power Corporation makes an application.

In this case, in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, we have what is called the Utility Rate Review Council, URRC, it is chaired by Mr. Ray Murser and they will review the substantiation being brought forward by the Power Corporation to see if the rider should be put in place.

Mr. Speaker, the rider that is being asked for would then be reviewed by this council and Mr. Speaker, if the rider was put in place, it would be a temporary measure to bring the fuel stabilization funds in line and that I believe to be zero.

So, it would be a temporary measure, it may be in place for six months, eight months and so on. The end result would be an increase on the power bills of the amounts the rider that would be applied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, people in Nunavut will see an increase in their power bill even though it is not a general rate increase and you can call it what you want, the bills still going up.

I would like to ask the Minister if it has been reported that they want to increase to go into effect as of April 1st, which is next week. Is that still the intention of the Minister that this increase go ahead, effective April 1st? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the application has been made to the URRC. Mr. Speaker, I cannot say it will go ahead on April 1st, because I have not received the notification from the Power Corporation. I am not the Minister responsible

to the URRC, which is a different Minister. That way the same Minister cannot make the application and approve the application. That is why we set up the Utility Rates Review Council.

When the application process goes forward, as I said earlier, the URRC reviews it and say yes or no to the increase. It may be five cents, or seven cents, whatever that amount is on the rider itself. When that acknowledgement, refusal, or acceptance is made, then we would put the rate in place.

I cannot say right now, Mr. Speaker, if it will be in place next week, April 1st, because I have not received notification of that from the URRC. That is the process that is followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again with the cost of living in Nunavut going up for our residents, and I would imagine that an increase like this will affect homeowners, it will affect everyone, not only individuals, but municipalities as well.

Can the Minister indicate what type of effect this will have on someone's fuel bill if they have looked at it to see what on average kind of cost increase is it going to have for families across Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the rider, the fuel stabilization rider is a normal process that is done through Utility Companies across the country. The provision was there in the Act. It was there before division. The rate increased depending on what the fuel subsidy rider would be, that was put in place. Again it is not something that goes on your bill forever, it is a temporary move.

At the same time, we realized that since 1998, there have been no general re-application. Power bill have not increased, or rates have not increased for the last five years. For the impact of the amount of the rider, depends on the usage of the consumer, whether it be a Hamlet, or an individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 510 – 1(6): Inuit Stories and Legends

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made a Members' Statement earlier on this morning in regards to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and the values and the customs, and the traditions of the Inuit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister Culture, Language, Elders and Youth about the stories and legends. There are a lot of legends and stories. Whether his department has collected any legends or stories that were told by the traditional Inuit? Have they done any work on gathering of those legends? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we have to protect our culture, and legends and stories are part of our culture. In different communities they have various stories and legends and we would like to protect those stories and legends.

We also have some funding set aside for people who would like to apply to write the stories and legends and we have made gathered some legends as well in our Department. We have them written down and we would also like to promote those legends and stories for the benefit of the young people. We will be continuing to protect them and preserve them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank that Minister for his response. My mother was a person that used to tell a lot of stories before there was television and I'm sure a lot of the other members parents did the same thing.

We used to fall asleep while our parents told us stories. I am talking about my mother but she is no longer alive. She also passed the stories to me. One of our members who is an elder here, I am sure has a lot of stories and legends that he knows.

I would like to ask the Minister again, we've been members of the legislature for about 4 years now, how many stories or legends has the Minister's department collected so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is asking me how many stories and legends we have collected so far as a department. I will report back to the House once I find out how many stories and legends have been collected so far in our department. As I said, we would like to gather as much as we can and to try to preserve and collect the legends for the benefit of our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was given the mandate to preserve Inuit legends, languages and to assist with the youth and elders.

I would like to ask the Minister, for example, in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, in my constituencies, whether my constituents can have access to applications for funding to write legends and stories. Is there already an application that they can access and from where? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the application forms are already there. You can call the 1-800 number to one of our divisions in the department. To fill out the application, if you have any questions there is a 1-800 number that can be called as long as the applicant is going to be doing something traditional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 511 – 1(6): Tax Credits for Corporations

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are getting to the end of a long question and we are getting forgetful. I myself have to write my questions now because I do not remember them.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, several provinces and territories across Canada promote healthy economic growth of business operating in their jurisdictions through tax credits.

These tax regimes are designed to allow tax payers to qualify for tax credits by investing in their corporations that do carry out business in their jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister of Finance inform this House whether Nunavut has a similar tax credit in place? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think he is acknowledged that with the increasing age there is a loss of memory and maybe that did not come back into memory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he raised an excellent question.

Yes, we do have what we refer to as a risk capital investment tax credit for qualified tax payers and eligible businesses and of course, the credit is designed to try to stimulate investment in businesses, while at the same time, creating tax credit for those investing in our businesses operating in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is good news, but unfortunately, I do not think that credit is a common knowledge to many Nunavummiut. Can the Minister tell me how an individual can qualify for the credit? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every investor that is eligible that does invest in one of the eligible businesses that are registered receive a tax credit certificate that they can apply against their Nunavut income taxes on the annual return. At the same time of course, as I indicated earlier, the eligible businesses will receive investment capitals to help them establish and help them expand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me what types of businesses are eligible to be considered for this type of investment and who is eligible to receive the credits. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for a company to be eligible to participate in this program, they have to be Canadian-owned, it has to have a permanent place of business in Nunavut and have 80% of their active also in the territory and it must also have less than five hundred employees, will be a small company and it cannot be, Mr. Speaker, it cannot be a publicly traded company.

And further to that, Mr. Speaker, an investor that is eligible to apply for the credit must also be a resident of Nunavut, or be a corporation with taxable income in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think a lot of Nunavummiut are aware of this tax. Is the Minister aware of how many Nunavummiut are taking advantage of this credit today? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: It is difficult to, excuse me, Mr. Speaker. It is difficult to know exactly how many people are taking advantage of that, but with our arrangement with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency for sharing of the information on their next report and on the annual information we receive from them, I will commit to identify exactly how many people are taking advantage of this opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 512 – 1(6): Assistance for Traditional Knowledge Study on Polar Bears

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister for Sustainable Development for his responses. I do have a question that I would like to direct to him in regards to Clyde River residents would like to do their own study on polar bears, separate from a study currently underway.

And since they want to do their own study on polar bears, we just want, well, the Clyde River residents would like to get assistance from your Department. I was wondering if the Minister is going to look into that, how they will be working together with the community of Clyde River? They wanted to do their own study using traditional knowledge on polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We really want to give them support. Perhaps it was two years ago now in Gjoa Haven they did a study using traditional knowledge on polar bears, and they made a report after that.

I would like to tell my colleague that even though they do the traditional knowledge study, the results will be put together by scientists because we have to get the best ways to incorporate scientific and traditional knowledge. That way can look at the previous practises in the studies. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very interested in his response. I know that the polar bear biologist has done a study, but the community itself has never done any traditional knowledge study on polar bears. They would like to know where the breeding areas are, where the polar bear breeding ground areas are? I was wondering if your department is willing to assist the community financially too for the study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the various communities would like to take on the traditional knowledge studies on polar bears. It is going to be too expensive to do all of the communities at the same time so perhaps each community will do their traditional knowledge study in a staggered method.

We have never done a study on the Foxe Basin and the Davis Straight for polar bears, and there are plans to do studies on those polar bears in those areas. Once we start doing the study and after the study has been completed, the results will be very beneficial to use Inuit traditional knowledge. I am in support of this project. Thank you.

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

Question 513 – 1(6): Escort Policy for Patients Under the Age of 18

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today will be for the Minister of Health and Social Services. (Interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I went to Yellowknife for the weekend and I went to see the Hospital patients in the Boarding Home in Yellowknife. The people that were staying in that Boarding Home, I had a concern that those young teenagers that are pregnant that are not the age of eighteen yet, that are pregnant, they are brought over there by themselves, and they are not adults yet.

They had raised this question up to me whether they should have their mothers, or their parents to escort them to this Hospital while they are going to have their babies in Yellowknife.

I would like to know if they have a policy that if a young person, or a young lady is not old enough to be by herself, and I was wondering if you could have a policy that they have an escort to bring them to the Hospital, while they are going to have a baby in the Hospital in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the things we did was we integrated the three health boards in the Nunavut Department of Health and Social Services, would review the escort policies that were in place and revise it, make a standardized escort policy for the people of Nunavut, across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I can make this policy available to the Member during the Session, and I will give him a copy of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Does that also address the concern that I have? The ladies who are pregnant and under the age of 18, I just want to be more specific when I say the ladies who are under the age of 18 have an escort to outside Nunavut, for example, going to Yellowknife for their baby. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's concern. This issue has come up in the past, Mr. Speaker and the Member is correct. If the person is under the age of 18, what we consider travelling minor, an escort to provide.

In this case, Mr. Speaker, I do not think it would be acceptable if we had a 15-year old girl who is having a baby to travel two thousand miles away from their home in Kugluktuk to not have someone with them.

So, Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member and we can look into the specifics of the incident that he has brought up in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I have another question for the Minister. If the young person under the age of 18 is pregnant, is going to Yellowknife to have a baby, how would they know that they have a policy that they are supposed to have an escort to go to Yellowknife if you are under the age of 18? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that each individual is different. It depends on the unique circumstances of each individual. When a person is referred to a hospital from any community, whether it would be in Iqaluit or Kugluktuk, they are given the options of the escort by the referring doctor or nurse, and the policy will then explain at the point of contact in the community.

Mr. Speaker, so, at that time, it would be explained to the patient travelling and so on, what it is able to by the escort policy, who can have an escort and so on.

Mr. Speaker, what we have done is put a uniform policy in place across Nunavut. In some cases, before the integration of the three health boards, we have seen two, three escorts with one patient, we have seen habitual escorts.

What we have tried to do is to tighten up the system and make sure it is equitable and fair for all Nunavummiut and that Mr. Speaker, that is what we have put in place. For the contact point would be from the referring community and/or health center or for example, here in Iqaluit through the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. There are some people that are pregnant that are going to the hospital in Yellowknife that are staying in the boarding home.

A lot of these young people have not been informed about having an escort. Because they weren't informed of it, if they were going to be escorted from their families to go and have a baby in Yellowknife.

Maybe the nurses are aware of that policy that these young people are supposed to have escorts. Young people should be escorted to Yellowknife, if they're under the age of 18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I said earlier it depends on the cases, for example, Mr. Speaker, we have instances where people have travelled, for example, from the members community to Yellowknife and or Edmonton. They may have a sister or brother, aunt, uncle, someone in Yellowknife and they didn't want an escort to be with them for the four or five weeks that was involved in Yellowknife or Edmonton.

It is up to the discretion of the patient. Yes, that's right, Mr. Havioyak. We review that to see what is in place under the travel policy and the escort policy. But I would agree with the member Mr. Speaker, when you have children having children, we have 14, 15 year old kids who are having children, then in those cases, Mr. Speaker, we should ensure that there are escorts available.

If the member is aware of a situation like he's just described in Yellowknife, where there wasn't an escort in Yellowknife for someone who was under that age, then, Mr. Speaker, that is something that we would look into.

I will, Mr. Speaker, make the escort policy available to the member for his own perusal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 514 – 1(6): Long Term Service Awards

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to wear different attire and this morning I put this on, traditional clothing, and I didn't realize my colleague beside me was also going to put on traditional clothing. I always try to use unique attire.

Mr. Speaker, at times we ask difficult questions and I'm going to ask an easy question this time. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources. In his Minister's statement, he awarded long time service awards, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 years of continuous years of service.

He recognized our clerk for 30 years service. Maybe the Minister for Human Resources will not be able to recognize him after he has 31 years of service. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the upcoming year, in June, I think it's going to be in June that he'll have been in the service for 32 years. These long service awards are given out every five years. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I had worked for 90 years, would I be given recognition? Where did you get this 5, 10, 15, 25 year intervals? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is evident that if you work for that many years, we give out long time service awards every five years.

This service award will continue on and it started in order to encourage the staff and to let them know that they are not being neglected and to keep the staff happier every time we recognize their services. That way we let them know that they are not being neglected.

This five year interval was inherited from Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): If I was a staff, if I had worked for 22 years and if I was recognized for that, I would say that individual would not be telling the truth if I did not work that long. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at times, in some years, it is unfortunate that some individuals are missed out from the long service award, but every five years, we try to recognize the individuals with long service.

If they work continuously for 32 years, we will not be able to give them a long service award recognition until they have worked for 35 continuous years. Thank you.

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

Question 515 – 1(6): Studies or Plans to Keep the Environment Clean

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development regarding my Member's Statement. We will always depend on wildlife for sustenance and we know there is some contamination from different sources like mining and from the old DEW line sites. What studies are planned to ensure that the land, seas, and waters of Nunavut are kept clean? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our wildlife officers in the communities are always trying to keep updated regarding complaints about differences in the wildlife, whether it is from contaminated DEW line sites and the clean up of these sites are in the works.

If we know our wildlife is being affected from these contaminants, we have to know about it and ensure our residents know about what they are eating in these animals. And through the wildlife officers, we do regular checks.

I had stated before when one of the Members was asking about the study, there is a study for environmental effects and the types of diseases that these animals get and there is a report out there and people can use them for reference and we have these checkpoints where we can ensure that hunters report these types of sightings. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for his response. As an example, these DEW line sites have been abandoned for many years. What is being done to ensure that these DEW line sites are cleaned up in a more timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These old DEW line sites have been abandoned for many years and we do not seem to see any sort of environmental impacts on the wildlife. However, if there was a direct impact on the animals from these contaminants from the wildlife sites.

Some of these DEW line sites may be more contaminated than others and that is when we would see more wildlife being affected, whether through seepage or through grounds and we are trying to keep up to date as to which communities do have these contaminated sites. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response. I had an earlier question regarding the caribou, for example. They never seem to have any diseases in the old days and they did not have those little white spots in the meat and for instance, they have brucellosis in the knee joints and we have never seen those in the old days.

So, that is why I am asking these questions. Why are there more recurring diseases showing up in these animals? And, the evidence of more cases and that is why I was asking this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, our wildlife officers can be contacted and report diseased animals from these caribou or any wildlife that is diseased. And we as hunters, report those types of incidents to our wildlife officers and that is how we have a checkpoint and that is where you can go to for information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 516 – 1(6): Power Bill Payment Solutions

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. Further to my question to the Minister of Power Corporation and Health Minister that I asked him yesterday regarding the next session in June in Baker Lake on whether he would table the Power Corporation payment solutions that he promised us.

And further to that, Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if he can have a response for me today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I said I would do is review the way the payments are being made by the Power Corporation and the recommendations that would be made from that review. I would be able to bring those forward into the session in Baker Lake and I would be prepared to do that in cooperation with the corporation and the payment agents and make sure that the Member has the chance that they would be efficient.

And when we are in Baker Lake, invite the Members to actually go and visit the headquarters and see how the payments are done, how, when the Member goes in to Hall Beach to pay, how that billing or payment is put onto the individual account so that they, Mr. Speaker, can be credited.

So, I could commit to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The power corporation have a board of directors responsible for dealing with these concerns. Is the Minister saying that he has to get the permission of that board in order to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, I was referring to the Member's question and reviewing, what we said yesterday in Hansard and again, his question of today.

What I said was that there is, the Member has raised a legitimate point. There is a concern that when you go to payment agent on behalf and for the power corporation, that when you pay your bill at the payment agency, that maybe it is not being credited into your account in a good time frame, on time and then on top of that I said that I would be more than happy and willing to bring the members to the Power Corporation office in Baker Lake and look at the payments are received and so on.

So those are some of the things that we could put in place and that's what the review itself would entail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I first asked him the question he responded that yes, we'll fix it, but then now, upon further questioning now he is saying that he'll check with the Power Corporation and then meet with them and then they're going to look at solutions. Is that so Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to clarify, I've even read through the question, what I said was, just for clarification purposes again Mr. Speaker, I said that we acknowledge that there is a concern, a delay, there is a concern that when people pay their power bills that the credit they paid on Monday, it may not be credited until Friday on their bills, they pay on the 14th of May and may not have been credited until the 19th of May.

I acknowledge that there may be a concern, so in cooperation with the Power Corporation, we need to be able to sit down with them and say how do we work this, how can people when they pay on Monday, that we have Northern, if that is the payment agent or whoever, fax it to the Baker Lake office and have it put onto the account. How do we expedite that process.

That is the review that I'm talking about. I committed to the member that when the House sits again in Baker Lake, and that's our next sitting, that I will be able to bring those recommendations, that review forward to the members.

And Mr. Speaker, I've also committed again, I've read it here in Hansard, that we would do that process for the sitting in Baker Lake and actually have the members come to the headquarters of the Power Corporation in Baker Lake, where the accounts receivable and the accounts payable and the billing are done. Then everyone would be able to see what the process is. There are different processes.

For example, if I go online, as the member has talked about, a computer, I can phone it in, I can pay by cheque at the Northern store or I can pay in cash at the Northern store, at some point those credits have to go onto the account and that is what we have asked for.

I appreciate the member and his question again. I hope now Mr. Speaker, again, that this is that answer that he is looking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think it's the last one. Mr. Speaker, I'm not asking him about being able to get a tour in Baker Lake.

>> *Laughter*

I'm not asking if there are many people that pay, what I am asking is what solutions that he says he will work on is what I want to see in Baker Lake. Can I expect those at the next session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll try again. Mr. Speaker, and the member is correct, when you go in you pay your bill, that's right the member is correct. When you go in to pay your bill there are different ways of those accounts being credited.

I've suggested to you that we know for example, in one community where you were in, the member went into pay their bill on a Monday and Northern had not faxed that information to the Power Corporation until Friday. Because the bills are made on the 17th, it was not faxed until the 22nd. That means the next cycle for the bill, six weeks later when the bill is here, it was not credited because it was credited after the date the bill was issued.

So, the point I am trying to say again, Mr. Speaker, and again and again is, Mr. Speaker, I will talk to the Power Corporation to see if there is a way that when someone pays their bill, if we can be more expeditious in sending the credit to the Power Corporation and then it could be indexed, data entered into the bill for the consumer.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting to the Member that when the sitting is in Baker Lake, that all Members will have an opportunity to go into the building and see how it is actually done. Here in the House, it seems like sometimes it is a simple process.

But we have to remember that there are literally thousands of bills being issued and thousands of those payments being received all across Nunavut and someone has to sit on a desk and file them, that is right, Mr. Speaker. They put it into the file.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, again, I hope that, again, I hope that answers the question. Thank you.

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

Question 517 – 1(6): Income Tax Volunteers to Visit Communities

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Finance. He made a Ministers' Statement on March the 19th, we welcomed his statement at that time about the people, the volunteer income tax people that will be helping out the unfortunate people who do not know how to fill their own income tax.

We may be finished our session in a couple of days, if the Minister can say whether the smaller communities will be visited by those volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I had indicated, I do not believe that individuals would go into the communities. The volunteer of space programming for individuals that are already in the community, that would be able to provide that assistance, but I will have the list of all the communities where there are volunteers that are staffed in Nunavut.

As you know, the Department of Finance will be in before Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Members' Statement that the Minister made was directed to the Nunavut people in the regions of Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit, but he also stated that those volunteers would be helping out the people of Nunavut.

Therefore they should be able to travel to the smaller communities as well and I wonder if the Minister is committed to having them travel to the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it is a newer program. I am not sure this year is a significant expansion from the perspective of more volunteers, more conservative efforts from Canada Customs and Revenue Agencies.

Also, we will continue to look at trying to expand the program, but it is not decided to have volunteers, from my understanding, fly into the communities, but we will look and see what options are available because we have to remember that these individuals are doing this on their own time in trying to assist individuals to prepare their income tax returns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder why the Minister stated that this was an effort to help all the people of Nunavut. If you look at what the Minister stated, and I will quote in English, “Mr. Speaker, I will inform the Legislative Assembly of participation rates of Nunavummiut taxpayers.” That was the statement the Minister made; it was not directed just for the three communities, but for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, there are volunteers in the other communities outside of the larger centres. I do not have the specific names of the individuals or those communities, I will provide that this afternoon, but it is a program that is expanding and the awareness of it is growing.

Having said that we are trying to promote it, and we know that it is a benefit. It is a matter of trying continuing to expand on a regular basis and support it, and that is what we are doing, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would encourage the Minister to expand it as soon as possible. As you know people are filing their Income Tax returns. Of course I would like to make sure that the Minister knows that he indicated that many Nunavummiut are losing out tax credits that they deserve because they have been unable to get their Income Tax returns because of economic resistance or other barriers.

(interpretation) For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I would like to like the Minister to be able to follow through with the statement that he made and include all of the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the backbone of the whole program is the community volunteers. I stress that word again, volunteers, individuals that are willing to put their own time into it, are either trained by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency staff and they provide the services in their communities.

Two years ago there was not this program at all. It has come a long ways from the initiation where there was not anybody and now there are designated individuals willing to offer their services.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I know that there is in every community there are people who are willing to provide assistance. It is just a matter of identifying them and having them trained adequately by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency staff. We will

continue to work towards expanding that program so that one day that hopefully there is someone in every community that is able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 518 – 1(6): Language Barriers Filling GN Positions

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Human Resources. The latest Government of Nunavut employment statistics released in December, 2002, indicated a total of 2,861 Government of Nunavut positions, including 510 vacancies, and most vacancies are in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

The Minister has indicated that approximately 800 job descriptions will be reviewed. Can the Minister describe how language skills will be taken into consideration in the revised job descriptions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that it was last week when I was sitting at the Witness Table, that I talked about the language of an individual and the language bonus that they receive. Yes, this will be part of the review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister describe what processes will be put in place to ensure that unilingual Inuktitut speakers will be able to go through the employment process, including interviews, in their mother tongues and will it be fair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In part of our review I will be able to respond to the Member's question. Right now at the present time the individual is able to respond with their mother tongue, as well as French, during a job interview. They can request that beforehand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister describe what criteria briefly, are considered to be artificial barriers in job descriptions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been the request of the members but what we're looking at is things such as experience that they have had

and in the smaller communities, there are not many people that are qualified or have any experience in that type of a job.

Those are some of the barriers that we have encountered and some people don't have much in the way of management skills, and their experiences in the job that they have held.

Mr. Speaker, experience is the one that I can think of at the present time and management skills and we follow the Government of the Northwest Territories policies and that's what we're looking at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad the Minister brought up experience because during the Government of the Northwest Territories days, different priority levels were established for hiring long term non-Inuit.

Can the Minister confirm that when he's redoing this, that people who live up here for the last 15, 20, 30 years, that are non-beneficiaries will be given some kind of priority hiring status over new southerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have an agreement under Article 23; under that article we have a goal that we have to aim for in hiring Inuit. We will not be the only ones deciding when we do a review.

We will look for people who have lived in the north for a long time or in Nunavut to recognise them as being hired as one of the priority hires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members will note that question period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Ms. Thompson.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognise some visitors from, actually two individuals that I represent in Rankin Inlet and Whale Cover and also another SAO from Cape Dorset. Emelda Angutialuk is the Senior Administrative Officer for Whale Cover. Ron Roach, Senior Administrative Officer for Rankin Inlet. A lot of you know him already and Art Stuart, Senior Administrative Officer for Cape Dorset.

And Frank Pearce. They're here for municipal training organization for the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 008 – 1(6): Telephone Call Display Service

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from the residents of Gjoa Haven. This petition contains 160 signatures requesting call display service in the community. Mr. Speaker, they have seen a number of nuisance calls in the community in the early mornings and they feel that this will stop if call display services are available to their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 013 – 1(6): Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act (Nunavut) and Other Acts in Consequence

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 28, an Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act and Other Acts in Consequence has been reviewed by the standing committee Ajauqtiit and the Bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68 (5) and have Bill 28 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is a request to waive rule 68(5), standing committee report on Bill 28 can be referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 28 is referred to Committee of the Whole.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notice of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 35 – Wildlife Act - Notice

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday, March 31, 2003, that Bill 35, the Wildlife Act will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 15 Notice 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 in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 28, Bill 30, Bill 31, Bill 32, Minister's Statement 126 – 1(6) with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair.

In accordance to the authority provided to my by motion 2-1(6) Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Members, I would ask that we proceed with Committee of the Whole immediately and that once the Minister and the Chair of the standing committee have given their opening comments I would suggest that we break for lunch and report back to the House at 1:30 p.m. Agreed?

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you. Good morning to all of you. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to continue with the review of Bill 30 and commence with the review of the Department of Finance. Once we complete the Finance Department, we would want to review Bill 31, Supplementary and then Bill 32, under the Supplementary.

After all of this is done, we will return to Bill 30 and commence the review of the Department of Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will start the Committee of the Whole, Minister of Finance, if you have opening comments.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Good morning Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to discuss the 2003-2004 Main Estimates for the Department of Finance. I will begin with a brief overview of the Department's budget.

For 2003-2004, the Department of Finance has been allocated \$44.5 million dollars in maintenance and operations expenditures, compared to \$47.4 million dollars for the 2002-2003 Main Estimates. The major components of the Department's budget are as follows:

- \$18.9 million for compensation and benefits;
- \$4.75 million for the power subsidy program;
- \$9.4 million for the lease costs of the Legislative Assembly building and other commercial properties constructed by the Nunavut Construction Corporation prior to April 1, 1999;
- \$8.9 million for Government-wide employee benefit programs such as dental premiums, Workers' Compensation Board premiums, and employee medical travel; and
- \$1.5 million for Government insurance premiums

Compared to the 2002-2003 Main Estimates, there were only two major changes, which are as follows:

- \$2.5 million decrease for the Information Management Branch due to the transfer of Systems Development functions of the branch to the Department of Public Works and Services; and
- \$1.2 million decrease in the allotment for equal pay litigation.

The Department has five branches: Directorate, Fiscal Management, Information Management, Comptrollership, and Centrally Administered Funds.

The Department has a complement of 172 positions, comprised of 126 in headquarters, 17 in the Qikiqtaaluk Region, 16 in the Kivalliq Region, and 13 in the Kitikmeot Region. In addition, there are five (5) positions funded through the Liquor Commission Revolving Fund.

Mr. Chairman, the Department's focus for the 2003-2004 fiscal year will be to continue to provide central agency services in areas that include support for the Financial Management Board, managing the Government's overall fiscal position, overseeing our financial framework and accounting processes, and the development of information management policies and plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. You can go down to the Witness Table if you would like to bring your officials. I apologize, Chairperson of Standing Committee, do you have any opening comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly do, and pleased to do them now with your indulgences.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services has reviewed the main estimates in Business Plans in the Department of Finance for the 2003/2004 fiscal year. I'm pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department proposed budget of \$44 million, 505 thousand has increased by over 60% and the department's initial location of \$27 million, 548 thousand in the 1999/2000 year. Members recognize that a significant portion of the department's budget is allocated to such government wide function as employee benefits, commercial leases, insurance coverage and power subsidies.

Members recognize that the department plays is a central agency. One of the most important functions that the department performs is coordinating the government's budget process and preparing the annual estimates documentation and the government's public accounts.

Over the past several years, the Committee has consistently called on the department to enhance the transparency and accountability of government operations through such measures as ensuring that the government's financial statements are tabled in a timely fashion, and expanding the level of detail contained in the government's main estimates.

Although Members have noted improvements in these areas, more can be accomplished. For example, the budget process would greatly benefit from the inclusion of prior years' actual expenditures in the main estimate documents that are tabled each year. Members have also noted that the 2001/2002 public accounts are now overdue.

Mr. Chairman, one of the department's stated priorities for 2003/2004 is to renegotiate the Canada Nunavut Formula Financing Agreement. Members are aware of the joint fiscal review that was announced between the federal and territorial Ministers of Finance some time ago, and look forward to reviewing the final report from this process. Members stand behind the government as it works to negotiate funding arrangements with our federal partners that recognize Nunavut's unique circumstances, challenges and needs.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, a significant portion of the department's budget has been allocated for paying commercial leases for the GN in 2003/2004. Over \$9.3 million has been allocated for this purpose. The Standing Committee has expressed concern in the past about issues of transparency related to the government's leasing practices, and urges the department, as a central agency, to ensure greater disclosure in this area.

Mr. Chairman, Members are aware that the government's plan to establish the Qulliq Energy Corporation may involve a restructuring of the way energy subsidies are managed. The Committee will be interested to learn how the present \$4.75 million power subsidy will be dealt with in the future.

Members have taken note of the government's efforts to establish a so-called crown corporations coordinating council. Members are hopeful that this entity will make progress in addressing concerns expressed by the Auditor General with respect to crown corporations.

Members recognize that managing the government's revenues is a critical function. Members recall the significant tax measures that were considered and passed by this House in 2002, and reiterate their call for the department to monitor their success in achieving such policy goals as attracting more businesses to establish operations in Nunavut.

Members also remain curious about the department's success in determining whether the revenue collected from the GN's 1% payroll tax, which was inherited from the GNWT, is raised primarily from permanent residents of Nunavut, or from transient workers.

Members recognize the importance of training beneficiaries to pursue careers in the finance sector. Members look forward to learning of the department's success in filling the 12 internship positions that it has planned to establish in the department.

In the past, the Committee has noted with concern the apparently uncontrollable growth of information technology expenditures. Members are pleased that this appears to be now under greater control, and notes with interest the transfer of certain functions in this area to the Department of Public Works and Services.

Members are aware that the activities of the Nunavut Liquor Commission fall under the department, and look forward to greater clarity as to what will happen to the positions that were originally planned to be located in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments and I'm sure that individual members will have their own questions and concerns that they may like to make as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman of the Standing Committee. At this time we'll take a short break until 1:30 and we'll be back here by 1:30.

>>Committee recessed at 11:56 a.m. and resumed at 13:29 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. The Finance Minister already made his opening remarks so we'll continue. Do you have witnesses coming? Please escort your officials to the witness table?

Mr. Minister. I'll ask you to introduce your officials please. Please introduce your witnesses Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Robert Vardy, Deputy Minister. To my left is Mr. Victor Tootoo, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome. Before we start, according to rule 77(1) you have 10 minutes to speak and according to rule 77(2) subject to the discretion of the chair

a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

We will be going through the Department of Finance Main Estimates and the Business Plans. Try to keep within the discussions before us and remember the time limits of our meeting. General comments. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I am looking at some of these Main Estimates, regarding the Liquor Commission, I know the Liquor Board makes a lot of money and they have a surplus and that the Government makes money from liquor sales, but I think that surplus should be used to all of the communities.

That money should be given to alcohol and drug programs in the communities. We all know that there are alcohol problems, not only alcohol, but drugs as well purpose.

I think that surplus should be used for alcohol and drug programs in the communities. What I was thinking of was having surplus from that finance from liquor sales transferred to alcohol and drug programs because the alcohol and drug programs in the communities always lack funding for their programs.

I think that that surplus can be spread around to other communities that have alcohol and drug programs and some of the employees do not work there because there is no funding to keep them in place for those alcohol and drug workers.

I think that some of that money be used for the community wellness coordinator. A lot of the employees go elsewhere because the pay is not very good for those alcohol and drug programs in the communities and they move onto better paying jobs.

The other item that I wanted to bring up is that I had asked the Finance Minister the other day, the employees of the Government of Nunavut, when employees do not have employee assistance programs I think that there are \$70 thousand to \$80 thousand a year for hiring employees.

But some of these employees make a lot of that money. If that \$70,000 can be used for income taxes, CCP and income tax deductions are taken off. Some of these employees make \$70 thousand. But when you have taken all of that income tax, it is a lot less, it is taken off, the money gets here is small and they are not paid, I know the net is smaller than the gross pay. I wonder if the Minister and the Department of Finance can think of those. When you have a good paying job, you tend to stay longer in the government departments.

But when they have a lot of these problems, they don't get paid and they don't want to stay in the government and they look for employment elsewhere, where pay is better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have anyone else at this point. Would you like to go page by page?

On page 3-5, Directorate Branch Summary, for the Department of Finance. Total Operations and Maintenance. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Directorate. Compensation and Benefits. There's a big reduction in there. Perhaps there was a reduction of PYs in the department. The contract services, there's a big increase. Can the Minister elaborate on that please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease in the compensation and benefits line item is a result of reorganisation, some of those positions being realigned.

Later on, there are some increases in other sections of the department. In respect to the contract services, there is an additional need. There was some money brought forward, again, it's realigning the budget's really from other divisions that you'll see later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. What are the contract services? Why is there a big increase in there? What additional contracts are expecting? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A bulk of these are miscellaneous consulting service contracts or amounts that were in, like I said earlier, other portions of the budget. It's really just been consolidated into this one area under the directorate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$953 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page 3-6, Finance, Branch Summary, Fiscal Management, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$6 million, 38 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Finance, Information Management, Branch Summary, Total Operations and Maintenance, on page 3-7, \$1 million, 340 thousand dollars. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: On that page, under contract service again, I know you were talking about maybe that's where some change; maybe you could just touch on that. Just over \$2 million dollars difference there, so I need some explanation. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This specific item is the decrease of \$2 million, 507 thousand dollars. That was a transfer to Public Works and Services for the systems development division that used to be in finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it in there that I can ask my question to explain first having gone to different communities in Canada, in Toronto, or other places in Canada, those bank machines may have English or French and different languages are also included in some of the bank machines.

We were in Greenland recently and they have the Greenlandic language in those bank machines. I'd like to ask the government in Iqaluit whether they have accounts with the local banks? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do in the respect to if I may, anticipate the member's question in respect of the possibility of having Inuktitut on some of the automated banking machine services in Nunavut.

We are going to ask in our upcoming request for proposals from financial institutions for banking services for Nunavut to see what kind of expanded services once again they've if they can reply, not just to us, but generally across Nunavut that was just all residents and that will be one criteria of the evaluation and the proposal that will be requested. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you obviously knew what my other question would be. That's very encouraging because there are a lot more people that can access those services if they only spoke those languages and I think that would be very encouraging for Nunavummiut to have Inuktitut on those machines. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is there a question there? I don't hear a question in there. 3-7. Information management. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the main estimates for Information Management, the computer systems are only in English, which makes it hard for unilingual people to access those systems.

I'm wondering if there can be funds that could help to develop computers systems within the Legislative Assembly that we can use in our own language. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I do know that there has been considerable work done to some of the fonts and some of the support for Inuktitut programming sponsored through the Department of CLEY in resources education etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Many of us who don't speak English, we've seen correspondence that is only in English and that's a big barrier to us. For instance, the different fonts in Inuktitut, the icon and all those different systems in the computer, there is nothing in Inuktitut in the systems. Is there any development in that area through his department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is ongoing work in that area and I believe progress is being made. Probably not as fast as members and all people would want but certainly there is progress being made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no one else on my list. Going back to page 3-7. Information management. Total operations and maintenance. \$1 million, 340 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Finance Branch Summary, Comptrollership, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$11 million, 630 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 3-9, Centrally Administered Funds, so there are two pages under that. Total Operation and Maintenance, \$24 million, 544 thousand, agreed? Mr. Haviyoyak.

Mr. Havioyak: I am off track a little bit. I just want to ask the Minister if this is for the employees' program is it in or is it someplace else, the Inuktitut because on my opening comment, I was saying that. First of all, if it is not clear, maybe if you could direct it to where that might be a program that the employees can apply for on their hardship times. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, the employee assistance program, get the Member's question is actually under the Department of Human Resources. You are talking about the hardship allowance for housing, then that is a program that Finance administers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? 3-9. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Grants and contributions, on page 3-10, for Power Subsidy, for Domestic and Power Subsidies of Electricity, \$4.7 million dollars. Is that for Government staff housing and buildings, office buildings? Is that the subsidy for that? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that is for private homeowners, but specifically a small portion of it is for commercial, but the majority of it is private homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just clarification, private homeowners on that power subsidy? I just want to get some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Maybe I should clarify it for private residences and what it is, is right now, it is the first day's 800 kilowatt hours based on Yellowknife power rates, so the difference between that rate and the local rate is what we pay for the whole pay, full economic rates for the first 800 kilowatt hours. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Centrally Administered Funds, page. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Inuktitut, I understood the power subsidy, it says domestic and commercial. It says domestic and commercial in Inuktitut. Just a quick explanation of what you mean by commercial power subsidies. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've indicated that there's also a rate of subsidy for a percentage of the same subsidy for commercial enterprises as well. But it's a small component of the overall cost. The cost is primarily private residents, operators that get the subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back. I missed you, like a bad habit.

>>*Laughter*

On your opening comments, it refers to page 3-9, \$9.4 million dollars for the leased cost of the Legislative Assembly Building and other commercial properties constructed by the Nunavut Construction Corporation prior to April 1, 1999. How long are those leases for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, those are 20 year leases and as you recall, we passed questions on this. It was an agreement that was reached with the Federal Government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Construction Corporation, prior to the Government of Nunavut coming into existence.

We get reimbursed fully from the Federal Government in our contributions for the same leases. So, they come in, and they go back out. That's why it's actually held in the Department of Finance because there were special financial arrangements agreed upon and we're just reflecting that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: On that issue. They're 20 year leases but we all know those government offices and those apartment blocks will last probably 40 years. If you do the math on \$9.4 million over 20 years it's \$184 million dollars we'll be paying in leases over 20 years and if you double that, it works out to probably \$370 million dollars over 40 years.

The government purchased the Sivumut Building for \$6 million dollars. Is the government in any kind of position to purchase these buildings from NCC to cut down on lease payments over 20 or 30 years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these leases from what I understand, there are no purchase options in there. But having said that Mr. Chairman, as you know, at the end of 20 years, we're under no obligation to continue leasing them.

Obviously that would have to be negotiated as we got to the end of the lease terms with the owners to see what options and what negotiations would take place in respect of those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So you're telling me we don't own these buildings after 20 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know these leases were all negotiated and signed long before we came along and they're going to be around long after we go. Can you assure me that the Government of Nunavut, in its short little ten years left, don't sucked into any of these deals from now on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, The circumstances at the time, I wasn't involved and certainly, there were others involved in the negotiations over those arrangements.

Like I said, we've inherited it. From our perspective, there cost neutral to the government of Nunavut from the perspective that the Federal Government made adequate allocations through the Government of Nunavut to pay out these leases over the 20 years and it's a matter of continuing to diligent I guess, in future leases.

As you know, our government enters into, but by and large, the bulk of them are with purchase options and then certainly the condominium program that the Housing Corporation has entered into and ongoing leases, Capital lease projects are continuingly reviewed and scrutinized quite diligently before being entered into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: So, the point I'm trying to make is that after the 20 year leases are up, they're just going to be renewed again for probably a lower cost. But the fact of the matter is, housing is a priority in Nunavut.

If we had a \$185 million, or \$300 million dollars at our disposal to put up houses and own it, we would not be in the crisis situation that we are in today. Can the Minister assure me in these new hospital deals, that if he signs leases with these organizations, that the end of the lease that at least the Government would own them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have said before, and I will say again, that in respect of the hospital leases, that the intent of the Government is to own those facilities at some point, either at the end of the lease, or even before that if a decision is made to finance them internally, or to purchase them out directly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister has gotten me a little nervous here. Intent, the intent is to own them. Has the contracts for these leases been signed? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they have not been signed. And the intent is to own them as I said. There have not been any commitments made for long-term leases for the Baffin Hospital, or for Cambridge Bay Facility.

As you know the Rankin Inlet Facility will definitely be owned because we have taken that on ourselves now. It is a Government of Nunavut project. In respect of the other two there are negotiations that continue to be ongoing. We have given out the authority for the Cambridge Bay Facility for the developers to award a construction contract.

As we do that, we are still finalizing the terms of the payments and how we are going to structure, whether it is a lease and over what time period, or as it is finalized, our intent of whether or not we are going to purchase the facility outright.

In the end, Mr. Chairman, I will make it clear that the Government of Nunavut will own all three facilities, no matter what financing mechanism is decided upon. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the Finance Minister has assured me on that issue, because I do not want to mortgage the future of our children on long-term leases that we cannot afford.

On that, which gets to my final, I do not want to say final question, because it might not be. My question on this is will the Minister assure me, or this House that those leases will be finalized before the mandate of this Government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I cannot make that commitment today because of the fact of, quite frankly, with the magnitude of the hospital project here in Iqaluit. We still are at preliminary stages, there has not been any development agreement finalized yet. There are negotiations that still continue. I can tell the Member that we will bring it as far along as we can, obviously, protecting the Government's interests as we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hate to ask hypothetical questions in the House, if after the next General Election the nineteen of us are gone, and there is a whole new group of eager young, and old politicians back, that may decide that the lease may be the best way to go, because of the current debt situation that we are forecasting.

What could possibly happen? Like I said it is a hypothetical question, but if the current people are not around the next time that someone could make a decision to lease those buildings. Am I correct in assuming that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, obviously that would be our control if none of us were here. The Member is correct in that perspective. I would think that any legislature, any government would look at all the facts. Take that into consideration. There would be lots of documentation, as there is now. Lots of capable individuals, right up to the Deputy Minister's level, that has been involved.

That has a lot of continuity from that perspective and documentation that I would think would guide any Government, elected officials, or the legislature to make the right decisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Just a comment Mr. Chair and I don't want to sound sarcastic but history has a habit of repeating itself up here many times. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't hear a question. Just a comment. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) my mistake, I was on an earlier comment I made. I was checking through some of the

applications I was talking about. I should have called it an application for shelter assistant programs. I just wanted to say that I will try to information on this program for employees.

But anyway, I ask the minister in this regarding this application and I know the from what I gather, when you're deciding as to what you will be doing with the application so you have to probably look at the gross monthly income.

Mr. Chairman, if they're within the 30% or outside 30%. So, my question is, can you consider the net income like the housing minister does in the when they're pressing the house sets on the net income.

So, can you look at that way because I know some of my clients some of my constituents are saying, yes, we do get a gross pay of that much but by the time we get into the net income there is not too much left because of the high deductions in different places.

So, I'm asking the minister then, can you consider this, instead of using the gross monthly income use the net monthly income? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we can look at that and I would say to you that we will probably put in place based net income similar though I could say to some of the qualifications that the housing corporation or using for some of their program because we do want to try to be consistent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not really clear exactly what we're dealing with here.

The centrally administer funds; I'm not exactly sure what it means, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What it means is that it's not specific to the Department of Finance. It's broader for all government departments.

For example, the contract services, the NTC leases our buildings through all government departments all across Nunavut. Not just one department. The other ones like the fees and payments are actually for like WCB coverage for all employees across Nunavut. Employee medical travel, insurance, for all government buildings, dental coverage for all employees. That type of thing Mr. Chairman.

It's not for finance employees. Not just for the Department of Finance but it's for all government in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand what the minister is talking but under grants and contributions \$4 million, 750 thousand, is that for the communities in Nunavut or who do we give grants and contributions to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's for the power subsidy program as I indicated earlier. It's for residents that operate in private homes in every community throughout Nunavut, all of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is a power subsidy for private homeowners, there must be a lot of private homeowners in the communities now and the money seems to be the same amount year after year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it would only go up if the power rates go up and we are hoping that is not the case, Mr. Chairman, but it goes actually directly that the consumers do not actually get the dollars themselves directly as a cheque or a payment, it actually gets applied against their Power Corporation bills, the money gets paid to the Power Corporation for the subsidy for the individual's private home operator. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under contract services on the same page in the amount of \$9 million, 373 thousand, what types of contract services do you provide or do people provide you with? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, these are for the NCC, Nunavut Construction Corporation leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: They are for the office buildings that we lease, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Is that just for paying for those office buildings that and repay them to NCC? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Member is correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Centrally Administered Funds. 3-9, \$24 million, 544 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Going back to page, information item, 3-11, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Havioyak for asking the question in regards to liquor commission revolving funds and I feel the same way as the Member that the money that is being made by selling liquor should be turned back to help the people that have problems with alcohol. Does the Minister have any other answers as opposed to the one that he answered on March the 27th? Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know the Department of Health budget, so I consider them all for addictions treatments in all aspects with this residential sending people counselling, providing money for alcohol awareness, etcetera.

I am told by the Minister anywhere \$10 million dollars and up of budget and I do not know how much they would spend on that, actually probably a little bit more, but having said that, Mr. Chairman, I think it is quite a significant amount and I mean the revenues from the Liquor Commission Revolving Funds, as you know, go back directly into the general revenues of the Government of Nunavut.

So, there is more than I would say there is more than the percentage, certainly, that is generated from the liquor sales that goes into the programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I brought that question up in the house three years ago about a surtax on all alcohol beverages to fund FAS and FAE programs. I'm still a strong believer that there should be just a surtax on liquor in the territory and that surtax should go directly to alcohol and drug committees in Nunavut. I hope the Minister considers that in future budgets or his future business plans that this would definitely help if they were funnel into community based programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to note for the official transcripts of the Hansard, that the member from Baker Lake is advocating for higher taxes for alcohol products and we'll take that into consideration in future budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if my comments are going to be under liquor commission revolving fund, but the alcohol and drug committees in the communities, they are not longer provided funding and they have to approve the orders and they have to hold meetings when there are liquor orders and they are not even funded when they have responsibilities. So how and where do you fund the community alcohol and drug committees? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that's normally through the hamlet contribution through Community Government & Transportation or from programs that would have been provided by Health and Social Services whether directly through a municipality or directly to an alcohol and drug aware society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, in Pond Inlet the alcohol and drug committee doesn't even have any funding. Their committee doesn't have any funding because that committee is the one that approves the liquor orders.

If the municipality isn't giving any funding to the committee, that means that the municipality ended up using the funding which was supposed to be used for the alcohol and drug committee. That's the only way it might have happened.

When are you going to correct the situation to make sure the alcohol and drug committees at the community level are funded? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, Mr. Chairman, that's more, really an issue that the Community Government & Transportation Department or Health and Social Services Department would be more able to address this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Community Government & Transportation and Health and Social Services Minister here, if they're listening and they definitely have to rectify this situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I agree with the member. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak, are you finished. Mr. McLean. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states here that it says income. Even though I don't want people to smoke cigarettes, where would the tobacco sales revenue go? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They would be in the revenue schedules within the budget table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to say something similar to my Colleague from Tunnuniq stating that the money that is made from liquor sales should be funnelled towards the communities.

I think it is time that we do a review to make sure that this funding that is supposed to be used for alcohol and drug committees, we should make sure that they get the funding because they deal with the alcohol issues.

We are confused about the funding for alcohol and drug committees. So, I urge the Minister for Health and Community Government and Transportation to look into this matter. I was wondering if they are willing to commit to me. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Colleagues have mentioned before, both Ministers here and they are taking in the comments and the concerns and certainly I think would follow up on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): The Department of Finance, I think the Department came up with a legal council for the liquor commission, I think when Nunavut Government was just created, what has happened to those? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the liquor board, actually, I have met with them about a month ago, I believe it was and they did actually put in a request or asked for some clarification on legal representation.

I said to advise them within their mandate and needs that get independent advice. We had been providing advice and support for them and with the Department of Justice, but it's their prerogative as far as I am concerned to get independent legal council and I believe they have gone out and gotten that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to see that Act go ahead, but it seems like the process is slow and it has been a long time since we have heard anything about those, even though they are the Government's legal council, I wonder why that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure exactly what the Member is asking about. I know that the board is certainly becoming more active now as of recently as of last week, it actually held the meetings that is being held for more than six week period and I believe the meeting in Rankin Inlet right now as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would agree that they hold their meetings frequently. I was wondering when you would be tabling the minutes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going through Health and Social Services budgets, when the review was done on the program called alcohol and drug program for \$949 thousand dollars and you get a surplus of \$1 million 800 thousand a year.

Why is the Minister not asking for that full amount to run the alcohol and drug program? Because it is a surplus related to alcohol and drugs. So, when we are looking at it he is only asking for half of it, he should be encouraged to use the full amount of that surplus from the alcohol, from the liquor sales. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if the member is talking about the surplus, I'm not sure what he's talking about quite frankly. He was referring to the Department of Health and I thought we were dealing with Department of Finance here.

Chairperson (interpretation): Please try and make it clear. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Earlier the Minister said the Minister of Health is responsible for delivering the program on the alcohol and drug program and in that the budget for \$949 thousand annually for the program.

Now, when I made an opening comment about trying to use this amount to help those kinds of programs within the municipality, so, why isn't this being used for those programs in those communities? Just to address my comment earlier on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying that question. Mr. Chairman, as I indicated earlier, there is more than this amount really gets spend within just the alcohol alone and minor rest of the programs within the Department of Health. I mean he can say that this amount plus 5 times, 10 times over really it's gone into alcohol and drug programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? There is an information item. Going back to 3-4. Finance, department summary, detail of expenditures. Total operation and maintenance on page 3-4. \$44 million, 505 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Thank you. Do you agree that the Department of Finance is completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. While the minister is still there, we will review Bill 31 and Bill 32. This document. Supplementary Appropriation. Capital No. 3. 2002/2003. Supplementary Appropriation.

Supplementary Appropriation. Capital No. 3. 2002/2003. Do you have your copy? If you have that document, Minister, you can do your opening comments, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to appear before the committee today to represent two Supplementary Appropriation Bills for your review. The purpose of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill is to provide additional spending authority to the Government of Nunavut, fiscal year ending March 31, 2003.

The total requested is for the total of \$23 million, 407 thousand in additional appropriations made up of \$15 million, 565 thousand for Operations and Maintenance and \$7 million, 842 thousand for capital expenditures.

The operations and maintenance appropriations include 2 million 845 thousand dollars for the increased costs of compensation claims to owners of snow machines and outboard motors as a result of the supplied bad gas. 1 million 900 thousand dollars for costs incurred by the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund for loss of inventory and testing related to the bad gas.

\$800 thousand dollars for increased costs associated with the legal services board, reimbursement of court services and increased costs to house inmates outside of Nunavut. \$10 million dollars to provide funding to the Department of Health and Social Services for operations and maintenance shortfalls in the areas of health insurance and treatment programs and \$370 thousand dollars to fund worker's compensation benefits to eligible Nunavut harvesters for the 2002 calendar year.

The capital appropriation requirements, Mr. Chairman, include \$350 thousand dollars transferred to capital in the Department of Public Works and Services to renovate the Igloodik Science Centre in support of decentralization of the wild life research division in the Department of Sustainable Development. \$5 million 842 thousand dollars for the Department of Public Works and Services to complete the purchase of the Sivumut Building in Iqaluit.

\$1 million 650 thousand dollars for the Department of Community Government & Transportation for the purchase of equipment and building design as a result of the fires in Clyde River and Repulse Bay.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Let's start from page 4, 2002/2003, Supplementary Appropriation, Capital No. 3, Public Works and Services, Capital. Not previously

authorized, Special Warrants, not previously authorized \$350 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Operations, on the same page, total operations, 5 million 842 thousand dollars. Do you agree? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 5 million 842 thousand dollars to purchase the Sivumut Building. I don't know how old this building is. I'm not sure if it's in, up in the moon, or Iqaluit or I don't where it is.

But anyway, I've been asking for a government office in Arctic Bay which is almost 45 years old. If the government can put in 5 million 842 thousand dollars for building that is propped up, what can I do.

Can the Minister or the government help me to see what I could do for Arctic Bay, if they can do this for some other community? I don't know where this thing is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before the Minister responds, I forgot to welcome Sue to the assembly. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just to briefly summarize why this request is there. As you know this was a building that we had entered into a lease agreement for.

It started on September 1, 2000. It's a fairly new building. This is the one that the auditor general pointed out to the Government of Nunavut that really made a bad deal in entering on this lease and that there was a significant premium.

So when the opportunity arose for us to purchase it because someone else, we had to write a first refusal to purchase it if an offer was made on it. That's what took place. So, we exercised our right, really to save a considerable amount of dollars for the Government of Nunavut.

That is why this is before us today. In respect of the issue the member raises about other office requirements of the Government of Nunavut, in some of the other communities and in particular hers, I'm certain that the Minister of Public Works and Services would be happy to address that issue. I will make sure that he is made aware of that issue that the member raises. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And another item that I want to bring up is a number of months ago, we welcomed a Minister of Justice along with the Finance

Minister on the Supplementary Appropriations for them to put forward a plan or building to purchase or a women's facility who are currently placed in other jurisdictions other than Nunavut.

The Minister of Justice has been in indicating that it is so expensive to keep inmates out of the territory. This is one of them.

So, I just wanted to assure that we did welcome if they could come forward with Supplementary Appropriations for women's facility in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that the Minister of Justice is aware of the issue and continues to look right into that and make the appropriate decision based on the needs.

I cannot tell you right now whether or not the Minister of Justice would be bringing forward a Supplementary Appropriation or not. Normally, they are for unexpected circumstances.

So, if there were plans to be made, I would think that it would be probably be more appropriate to be put into the normal course of the capital planning process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. On this page, Operations, page 4, Total Operations, \$5 million 842 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Total Department, \$6 million 192 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Page 5, Community Government Capital, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I see there is \$1 million 650 thousand dollars put aside for a new fire hall in Clyde River, water truck, fire truck, including freight, the fire hall contents, fire alerting systems, and to form a design of the new fire hall for the Hamlet. Is this enough money to take care of all of this? Is it just into the design stage for a new fire hall, will this \$1.3 million and \$150 thousand cover everything? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that is in the situation for Repulse Bay that certainly there will be another appropriation that comes forward. That is also right off from discussions on the insurance coverage and the insurance proceed being assigned back to the Government of Nunavut as we move forward trying to set these to Municipality or replace the fire damage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: The Clyde River fire was that an accidental fire or was it arson? Has that been decided yet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand that it was furnace related start to the fire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that caused by maintenance problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was just trying to ask my colleague on whether or not the Fire Marshall's Report on the incident has been received or not yet? I am not sure if it has or not, so I will commit to having the Minister certainly is aware of it. So we will provide that information as soon as it is possible. If it is available already, if not, then once it has become available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is just that I have never heard of a Fire Hall burning down in my life. Whoever is responsible for checking the furnaces and maintaining them should be watched a bit more closely. How much insurance is it going to be recovered from this tragedy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are not certain of that yet. With all insurance claims there has to be appraisals and assessments done depending on the coverage at the time. Those are the kinds of issues that we are trying to work through with the Municipalities that are involved.

The Government of Nunavut is trying to assist in getting these projects off the ground by providing the supplementary funding with the assurance that any insurance proceeds that

would be coming would return to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we are insuring buildings, do we get full coverage on them? How does it work? If we build a building this year, we know like in the capital projects, I am just taking on an example, a School, \$10 million dollars, and it is built in 1999. Ten years from now, say in 2009, is there sort of an escalator clause in there that the insurance from the building goes up? Or is it insured for the initial construction costs back then? It is not insured for a replacement costs? How does that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not know if the Member is asking about the Government of Nunavut Buildings. I can certainly try to answer that. As you know because of the significant fire damage to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Nunavut, that our premiums were quite astronomical to the point where some Insurance Companies were talking about not covering us.

We made a decision to basically, be self insured for the first \$10 million dollars worth of damage, in order to minimize what our insurance costs would be. So basically, anything that is \$10 million dollars of values or less, is self insured by the Government of Nunavut for our own buildings, as far as property goes.

As you know the insurance industry continues to be under stress. The September 11th incident certainly did not help insurance rates, as you know, have skyrocketed. It is a trend that has been in the works for years now.

There is more and more need to reassess what we go for insurance coverage in respect of how we deal with it in trying to minimize risk for ourselves. From the perspective of municipalities, they are supposed to have their own insurance coverage through the Nunavut Association of Municipalities; they have member coverage for all the municipalities.

Now there is a question about whether that is adequate insurance or not. Certainly these two incidents have proven to us that it has to be something that the Government of Nunavut works more closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on it. And the municipalities to make sure that they are adequately covered.

I know that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and the Government of Nunavut, through the Community Government and Transportation and the Department of Finance is responsible for Risk Management.

On the Government side is working together in trying to look at some options on how to best protect our assets whether they are municipalities or government wide. At the same time as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little bit confused here. The Government of Nunavut has insurance on Schools, Health Centres, and Arenas. If I am reading this right and I do not know if I understand it. Schools that are insured for \$10 million, and if the school cost \$20 million, we only get \$10 million if it burns down. Okay, I know that.

Now, on a municipal level, fire halls belong to municipalities? They're not Government of Nunavut buildings? So, are we sure as a government that these use the Government of Nunavut capital dollars to build fire halls, arenas, etc., that we're getting full value?

So, what are we getting? What are we insuring these buildings for? Twenty-five cents on the dollar? Fifty cents on the dollar? And at some point, can't we all collaboratively get together because it is the Government of Nunavut capital to decide what you're going to insure and what you're not going to insure. Is there some kind of plan there? Big picture plans, savings?

You're nodding your head. I don't know if you're, if it means yes or not. Could you clarify that for me? For other people out there that might be a little foggy like I am today on this issue. Because that last thing we want is to have our hamlet offices burning down and knowing that we can't replace them because we don't have any insurance of them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is right. I mean if it's a Government of Nunavut asset like schools, health facilities, Government of Nunavut, office building, hospitals, etc. then that's our responsibility.

I mean hamlets have the responsibility for their municipal infrastructure, arenas, hamlet offices, fire halls, municipal garages, their equipment etc and he's right again, in that that's why I said there was a working group between CGT, Finance and NAM, Nunavut Association of Municipalities to make sure it's adequate coverage and what options are available to try to make sure that adequate coverage and a cost effective rates and that's the work that's ongoing.

In fact, I'm told that it was actually a meeting of that committee today and we're continuing to meet in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, we've got the Government of Nunavut buildings, we've got the schools, we've got the health centres, we've got various other buildings and we have a Fire Marshall or two or three fire inspectors and we have an oil burner, a boiler inspector, okay and I find this quite ironic.

Okay, it's all Government of Nunavut money that goes into building the infrastructure, capital infrastructure in every community whether it's an arena, fire hall, hamlet hall, school or something like that and when we have Public Works in front of us, they were really not too sure who's responsible.

What I'm getting here, is that the Government of Nunavut buildings like our schools or health centres and our large assets are inspected by the Fire Marshall, the territorial Fire Marshall; they're inspected by the Nunavut boiler man, whoever he is out there or a woman, person.

But when it gets down to inspecting municipal buildings, I know the Fire Marshall in our area is very vigilant when he inspects private businesses and stuff like that because there is some kind of criteria involved there that if you don't inspect certain buildings well you know, they could negate your insurance and I'm wondering at the municipal level that the arenas the fire halls etc. are being inspected on an annual basis to make sure that these are running properly and that if they're not that this should be causing some kind of insurance fiasco.

Okay, we haven't inspected this community for 8 years; we know what clauses are insured on. You know there are just volumes of why they don't have to pay an insurance claim.

I'm just saying that as Minister of Finance, I'm hoping that the Public Works minister, the CGT minister, are all on the same page when it comes to inspecting buildings so we don't get stuck with millions of dollars thin infrastructure that may burn down because it's being neglected with the proper inspections.

So, it's just more comment than anything but I'm hoping that you as the Finance minister at the end of the day got approve all this capital by have to replace buildings that being, not being maintained properly. So, it's more a question, it is a question but it's also a comment also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Would you like to respond minister?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up a very good point and he is right. I mean also in respect of the working group between NAM, CGT, Finance, that I had indicated earlier on insurance coverage, it is also an issue of loss/prevention strategy that entails the very same components, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same page, on the \$50 thousand dollars to fund the design of a new fire hall for the Hamlet, are there many different designs of fire halls? What is so special about this design, because there were comments before from other Members that it is just as square, rectangular building?

Why do you need to spend this much money for the design of a very straight forward building? You would think that it is a very basic, why do we need \$150 thousand to fund the designs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, probably, I mean, for the matter is, it is not just for the design, it is also a cost for construction manager and its component of the \$150 thousand, but for simplicity's sake, it was put down as a design. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What did he say it was for?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, some of the construction management cost as well as the project once it gets underway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Construction management, is that to call the construction guys to come together and start using the hammers to put the nails in? What management? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Chairman, these are probably designs, some of the parameters and oversee some of the parameters of the construction tendering process, working with the architect, etcetera, depending on what the circumstances are, but there are different components to it, facilitating, discussions between the owners and the clients, etcetera, there are different facets to construction management. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Very briefly, further to McLean's earlier question regarding the Clyde River and Repulse Bay fires and they were covered under insurance. How long does the process take to apply for insurance? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends really on the circumstances and the assessments, etc. I mean, it could take anywhere on a quick basis, three to six months, sometimes it is years, depending on the complexity of the claims and the circumstances surrounding the claim. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): There is an assessment after a fire has happened. Do they have to wait for the Fire Marshal's report to do that claim? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, certainly, the Fire Marshal's report would be a critical component of the overall assessment of the claim for the insurer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the suspect furnace fuel, I think that's probably why that fire hall burnt down. I think there should be a closer look by the Fire Marshal and the Public Works Minister has made some statements regarding the suspect fuel.

But regarding insurance premiums, we have to get insurance every year for buildings and assets and that uses up a lot of funds in the budget. For different organizations as well within the community. These annual premiums, we had to set aside that much. Where does that funding go for insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding would go to the insurer as part of their pool of funds to offset potential losses for coverage and when there's an incident where there is a requirement for coverage, such as the case of Clyde River and Repulse Bay and then a lot of that premium gets returned in the form of insurance compensation.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, just on the members question or assertion that it could be a result of bad fuel, I mean, I would be really reluctant to say that that was the case.

Although, obviously the Fire Marshal in appraisals in the end will show whether that was the case or not, the bad fuel in the communities right now in respect of heating oil, it seems to be a clogging up of injectors problem from what's been report in the media, which wouldn't necessarily mean an ignition problem. We're talking really of heating of oil, which has, as you know, a higher flash point than regular gasoline. So, I don't think that that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Ng. On that page, I know you're talking about home heating fuel, but we're dealing with community government. Supplementary appropriation, I told you not to sway too much to other subjects. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I said earlier was coming from me. That was my view, but I didn't say that that was the cause. So please, don't misunderstand me.

This \$1 million, 450 thousand dollars for Clyde River, we're very grateful that there is immediate action by the government to assist our community. If there was another case of these tragedies and they had no insurance coverage, would it be possible for the government to still assist those communities if they lost any assets with no insurance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut would have an obligation to try and assist municipalities but at the same time Mr. Chairman, I would suggest that municipalities also have an obligation to ensure that they have enough or adequate coverage for their assets as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Thank you. Community Government & Transportation, Total not previously authorized, \$1 million, 650 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed,

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total \$1 million 650 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 31. We go through clause by clause of Bill 31. Mr. Arvaluk. Bill 31. Supplementary Appropriation. No. 3. 2002/2003. Just a minute. Do you all have the page now? Bill 31. Supplementary Appropriation. Capital at No. 3. 2002/2003. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 3.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 4.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Schedule. Vote 2. Capital. Total Supplementary Appropriation, \$7 million, 842 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to number 4. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 5. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6. Agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7. Agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 31 is ready for third reading? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Under clause 7, just to give a clarification in Inuktitut it states it is coming into force on April 1, 2002. Is that true? Mr. Minister.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 31 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 32. Moving on to Bill 32. Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance, No. 2. 2002/2003. Do you all have the Supplementary Appropriations? O&M, 2002/2003. Page 4. Department of Finance. Operations and Maintenance, not previously authorized, Fiscal Management, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$2 million 845 thousand, agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$4 million 100 thousand for insurance, are you saying, Mr. Minister, that they will not be paying for the \$2 million 845 thousand for the insurance?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what we are saying is that about two-thirds of the \$4.1 million dollars will be covered off by insurance; the balance will be the Government of Nunavut expense, certainly at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really quite sure because we never had any money set aside to compensate the people with bad gas because we did not know, it was not expected that we were supposed to compensate them.

That \$4 million 100 thousand we just set aside just part of it. So, are we looking for \$2 million 845 thousand now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, the Member is correct in that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Lastly, Mr. Chairman has all the people that had something wrong with their vehicles because of bad gas, have they been compensated to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, of the total claims that have been put in, approximately 85% have been finalized. There are still some outstanding claims out there, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, 2 million 845 thousand will cover that remaining 15%? Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, plus those that have already been paid out prior to this as well. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What was paid out prior? My memory is sliding a bit. Can you tell me prior to the 2.8? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: \$1 million 575 thousand, Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, we are up around approximately 4 million 420 thousand or it must be around \$4.5 million dollars to date. My next question on that is, you removed a lot of products from the communities, and I think you sold it to a refinery in New Jersey. Is that inventory kept in the revolving fund, or where is that inventory and how much money is involved there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. You will note, Mr. Chairman, in this supplementary bill, Public Works will have \$1.9 million that the request is to offset them all from the revolving funds.

The sales of the bad products back to the refinery, proceeds went back into the revolving funds of \$1.9 million, it was over and above that, the cost to the Government for that inventory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: So, to date, we are up around \$6.5 million dollars for bad gasoline products. What, that product that was removed and sold to a refinery, how much does the Government going to get back for that, if anything? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The proceeds from the gas that was sent back to the refinery was approximately \$900 thousand dollars. I had indicated the Public Work's request here, the \$1.9 million, is the net of that amount. What I mean, Mr. Chairman, if the Member is asking for a summary, I can tell him that there is \$6.2 million dollars as he has indicated that will be a loss for the Government.

Right now as expended there is roughly \$2.7 million dollars that we expect to receive from the insurance, which would leave us at approximately \$3.5 million dollars of which negotiations are continuing with the Northern Transportation Company Limited, and

which we expect to receive some portion of that. That is ongoing and it would not be fair to comment on that at this particular time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.,

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am hoping that NTCL will ante up and take some of the blame. At the end of the day, whose fault was this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. at the end of the day, Mr. Chairman, I would think that it is probably everybody's fault that was involved from the perspective of how you look at it. The refinery is certainly, the carrier/supplier, and up to the purchasers. There are different aspects, and it is a complicated process, and obviously, with different parties involved, not everyone thinks that they are not as much at fault as the others.

The end result is I think what is important to recognize here is the consumers that end up being impacted we hope have been adequately compensated by the Government. We have taken that responsibility and we are hoping that the others will share in that responsibility in the end. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will say it one more time. Whoever is responsible for quality control, they should be held accountable for three or four or five million dollars of errors. I am hoping that this message is getting through to our Government that when people are hired into positions, MLAs are accountable at the end of the day to their electorate. I am hoping that the people that are hired, and paid salaries at the end of the day, are held accountable for four, or five million dollars worth of mistakes that could have been avoided if in fact they had been doing their job, whether it was NTCL, or the Government of Nunavut.

I will just say it. It is more of a statement than anything because this bad gas issue surfaced up in my colleague's community of Gjoa Haven. We knew about it back then, but for some reason we did not act on it quick enough probably through maybe it not being a big enough issue.

So at the end of the day, I hope that whoever is doing the quality control, down the road, and in the future, like I say, we have a history of repeating ourselves here, that they will get the message through, that quality control will be watched in the future, whether it is gasoline, or home heating fuel, or whatever this government gets into, etc., etc., etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all that I have to say.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member made some valid points, certainly. As Members are aware, the Government of Nunavut changed the criteria on the specifications for the re-supply of the gas since this mishap. Certainly, the issue about ongoing diligence and quality control and testing is a valid point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need clarification. I will read the Inuktitut part. To increased costs of compensation claims to owners of snowmobiles and outboard motors. Are those people the individuals who own snowmobiles? What is the increase or is that the increase to compensate the snowmobile and outboard owners? Could you clarify that for me? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is for more the increase of the number of claims resolving payment on those claims, more so then the actual amount the claims themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to repeat Mr. McLean's comments that you will be more diligent in testing of these products to make sure that they are acceptable.

During the initial discussions about bad gas the minister stated that there is some approximately 700 additives in the gas that you cannot possibly test for them all so only test for certain of these things. Are you saying that all 700 additives that are in the gas will be tested to be sure everything is there? Is that what you're saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not the minister responsible for the petroleum products division. I know they recognize the problems as a result of not having enough testing procedures in place and I believe they're working towards insuring that there is enough testing to ensure the quality of the product that we're receiving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Hopefully that will be for other products that are not canned like diesel and that sort of thing. Hopefully too that the fuel that is used for airplanes also will be tested.

It a new era I guess that you could be fill anything and don't want to scare anybody off but I still would be trying and using the diesel fuel for our stoves, their furnaces but I think this is a new thing for us.

We've been, historically treated very well in purchasing fuel and we became careless in but sure learned a lesson from that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question. Is that right? 2002/2003. Main Estimates. Supplementary Appropriation. Department of Finance. Operation and Maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Fiscal Management. Total Fiscal Management. \$2 million, 845 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Department. \$2 million, 845 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 5. Department of Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Legal Services Board. Total Legal Services Board. \$434 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Registries and Court Services. Total Registries and Court Services. \$132 thousand. Do you agree? Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Community Justice and Correction, 235 thousand, is it for the increased cost of housing inmates outside of Nunavut in other jurisdictions, due to lack of space?

How much is the Government working to inform the public that if they deal with the inmates, if you take care of the inmates, you have just that opportunity, what kind of information is sent out to the communities and what are the opportunities? Thank you.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. That responsibility, Mr. Chairman, is with the Department of Justice, I believe the Member is referring to outpost camps and I believe it is a question more appropriate to the Justice. I do not have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Something is wrong here in this House. All these Supplementary Appropriations are appropriate to all of the Departments except the Department of Finance, except for one, page 4.

Everything else is in other Departments and how are they going to be answered now, when we are reviewing this appropriation number 2. There is something wrong here, but I am not, you know, asking this question off the cup, I have marked it before so that I can be answered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the process for Supplementary Appropriations, as the Minister of Finance brings forward on the information on, I generally have information on this specific request on behalf of those Departments.

In this case, Justice is for increased funding for housing inmates. The Member is asking questions that are not really, even though it is related and not specific for this request and that is why I cannot answer what programs does the Justice has for outpost camps.

I can answer the question for the reason of the 234 thousand is because there is, as indicated, an increase cost for housing inmates, the results of new agreements in Ontario. You know, there is a burden on the court system with more inmates, etcetera.

But that is why I am saying that it was more appropriate for the Justice Minister to explore on this for his programming for outpost camps it is not actually specific to this request here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the Justice Department have every authority to put in whatever they give to the Department of Finance, but this request of 234 thousand dollars and they have a right to try to cover what the Legislative Assembly Members might be asking. That is why I made these comments.

I know that the Minister of Finance could only answer from the information that they get from this particular Department and I was hoping that the Department of Justice included that potential question for the Minister of Finance. That is all I was saying. Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, the Minister of Justice is not here or else I could have referred him to the general, that more general of a question. I will commit to providing that information through the Member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuktitut translation in the Department of Justice and Corrections and at the registry and court services, there are some translations missing. So, I am requesting that all of the explanations be translated fully because part of the translation is missing. So, that is just my comment. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 5. That was just a comment. Total Community Justice and Corrections. \$234 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Department. \$800 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Turn the page 6. Public Works and Services Department. Operations and Maintenance. Not previously authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$1 million, 900 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Total Decentralization. \$350 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total department. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For decentralization. \$350 thousand. Public Works, to provide funding to renovate Igloolik Science Centre in Igloolik.

(interpretation) That building is a very nice building. Is that GN property or does that building belong to the Federal Government? How is the agreement set up between the two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's owned and operated by the Nunavut Arctic College right now and it will be transferred to the Government of Nunavut for the Department of Sustainable Development's Wildlife Research Division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the building belong to Nunavut, Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total Department \$1 million, 550 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Turn the page. Health and Social Services. Operation and Maintenance. Page 7. Branch. Not previous authorized. Various. \$10 million. Do you agree? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just dealt with the Health Department, Main Estimates, 2003/2004 for \$151 million. In 2002/2003, they have a budget for \$150 million, 983 thousand. Now they need another \$10 million dollars for 2002/2003 that brings up the total of \$160 million, 983 thousand. Mr. Chairman, what does the Minister of Health expect this year's costs to be for the Health Department to be approximately \$9 million dollars cheaper than 2002/2003? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as members know, the Minister of Health, the Department of Health is continuously under stress in respect of programs and demands and services.

At the time of the budget development, we were aware that we are under some potential over expenditures as that has been the practise of the past years and recognising that, put forward this \$10 million dollar supplementary appropriation, recognising as well that they're more than likely will be one in the new fiscal year, once we close off the books, of the Department Health and Social Services.

At the same time, having said that, Mr. Chairman, we know that there is a real need to work with the department more aggressively to try to identify where the pressure areas are within the Department of Health and Social Services and to try to at least know why it is taking place and try to ensure that there are some measures, at least recognising where those pressure areas are in trying to minimize some of the impacts of their spending patterns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, in my language, the Minister is saying we probably will have to ask more than the original 2003/2004 budget for Health probably under the \$10 million dollars, minimum.

If the trends are operating the way these, although I understand the Minister is stating that, if we look at the Health Department real closely and try to find a way to save some money that may be unnecessary or redundant.

In other words, if nothing changes, the way it operates in 2003/2004, with the 151 million dollar budget, instead of having \$2.9 million dollar surplus for the total government, next year, as the Minister stated in his budget address, we are expecting approximately \$8 million dollars in deficit, if all things are accounted for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I guess Mr. Chairman. There's another factor that's out there that hasn't come into play yet that was happening at the time of the budget development process. As you know, the premier and the first Ministers meeting in respect to health care funding, the Health Accord, and recognising that, we knew during the course of the upcoming fiscal year, that there would be more than likely an adjustment to the Department of Health as a result of the Health Accord Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's kind of a must now, otherwise the new government after the election will start with a minus, or in the red. I don't think that would be a very polite thing to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would hope Mr. Chairman, that they would start at least on an even basis, similar to what we did when we stepped in on April 1st, 1999. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Various, 10 million dollars. Total department, \$10 million dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Page 8, Sustainable Development, Operations and Maintenance, Sustainable Development, not previously authorized \$370 thousand dollars. Total Sustainable Development, \$370 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Department. \$770 thousand dollars. Do you agree?
Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, are you being recorded. I think you should say \$370 thousand rather than \$770 thousand.

Chairperson (interpretation): I'm sorry. Thank you for correcting me. Total department. \$370 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Thank you. Go back to page 2. Schedule 1. Operations and Maintenance. Supplementary Appropriation. \$15 million, 565 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Bill 32. We'll move on to Bill 32. Clause by clause. Bill 32. Are you on that page? Supplementary Appropriation. Operations and Maintenance Act. No. 2. 2002/2003. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Clause 2.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Schedule. Vote 1. Operations and Maintenance. Total Supplementary Appropriation. \$15 million, 565 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 4.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 5.

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Clause 7.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Do you agree that Bill 32 is now ready for third reading? Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank you for being here and also Minister for appearing before the committee and also would like to thank your officials. Minister, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the committee as well and also to thank Mr. Vardy and Mr. Tootoo. Thank you very much.

Chairperson (interpretation): We'll take a 20 minute break.

>>Committee recessed 15:33 p.m. and resumed at 16:03 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will resume with the Committee of the Whole. We will review the Main Estimates for the Department of Sustainable Development. Minister of Sustainable Development, do you have your Opening Remarks? You may start now Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the Department of Sustainable Development Main Estimates for 2003-2004. \$35, 302, 000 dollars. The department has identified a budget and business plan for the fiscal 2003-2004 that focuses in three key areas:

1. Increased support for communities and their efforts to plan for a sustainable future.
2. Enhancing the department's capacity to deliver our mandate in an effective and appropriate manner, and
3. Continuing with our existing management, regulatory and land claim responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Sustainable Development has a very broad mandate, encompassing Wildlife Management and Legislation, Economic Development and Community Support, Fisheries Development and Diversification, Mining and Development Activities, Environmental Issues, Management of Parks and Conservation

areas, working towards the implementation of the Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreements, funding various organizations and individuals through our many Grants and Contribution Programs, as well as core funding for Nunavut's Tourism Industry and our two Crown Corporations.

Mr. Chairman, in 2003-2004 the Department of Sustainable Development will be streamlining services and operation and enhancing our capacity to reflect the requirements of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the Bathurst Mandate and our own department's objectives.

We are working towards implementations of an Inuit Employment Plan that will meet the Government's 2008 targets for Inuit employment.

Our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Program has been up and running of just over a year now and are working toward including Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into every part of the Department's operations. We look forward to working with the rest of Government towards the full integration of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in all Government operations.

In addition, in 2003-2004, we will finally reach our goal of having a Department of Sustainable Development employee in every community by ensuring that we have permanent full-time wildlife officers in Chesterfield Inlet, Sanikiluaq and Whale Cove.

Mr. Speaker, although in total our proposed 2003-2004 Main Estimates represent a \$150 thousand reduction from the 2002-2003 Main Estimates, we have internally reallocated an additional \$495 thousand to funding contribution programs.

Our budget for delivery and administrative services has been scrutinized at length to make this possible in order that communities and the people of Nunavut receive the greatest value from this budget.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, our 2003-2004 Main Estimates and Business Plan clearly supports the priorities of the Government as well as the needs of communities throughout Nunavut.

Our plan is centered on providing support to strategic and important areas within our operations and in so doing; we ensure the funding provided to the Department provides real benefit to all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have officials here with you? Minister, do you have officials here with you? Can you hear me? Thank you. Do you have officials here with you? Do you have officials here with you? Is it okay with the Committee that he brings his officials in?

Sergeant-at-Arms, please ascertain his officials.

Thank you. Welcome to the House. Minister, can you please introduce your witnesses?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, ADM, Rosemary Keenainak and to my left, Terryl Allen, Financial Manager. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Standing Committee Chairperson, do you have opening comments? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Itsivautaq. My opening comments are lengthily today because this is my problem, my last opening comment as the Chairperson of the Standing Committee is the Nunavut community empowerment and Sustainable Development for the next general election.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee of Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2003-2004 Main Estimates and the 2003-2004 Business Plan for the Department of Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has had the opportunity to meet with the Minister as Cabinet reviews Departmental Main Estimates and Plans. Mr. Chairman, the Department has a broad mandate and Members are concerned that the different branches of the Department may well have varying if not, competing goals.

For example, the Environmental Protection Division and the Minerals, Oil and Gas Division may have competing goals or objectives. Mr. Chairman, it remains unclear how the Department balances these competing interests within its overall mandate.

The Standing Committee urges the Department to undertake restructure initiatives to ensure that economic development and environmental protection are equally promoted and supported.

Mr. Chairman, members continue to believe that well supported, trained CEDOs are critical to their community. It is for this reason that members support the departments initiatives to work with CEDOs across Nunavut to increase training opportunities, implement a certification process and increase CEDO accountability through direct funding.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to hear the recent announcement regarding the increased quality and quantity of sealskins sold at the annual auction last year. Mr. Chairman, past budget addresses business plans and Minister's statements have stressed the importance of the traditional economy to Nunavut.

The standing committee urges the department to compile and table a report on traditional economic activities such as trapping, hunting, arts and crafts and their contributions to the Nunavut's economy. It is no secret that Nunavut abounds with a multitude of natural products including food stuffs that could find buyers in southern and international markets.

The standing committee strongly urges the Minister to continue to pursue federal funding for economic development including the allusive economic development agreement. The committee supports all efforts by the Minister to lobby the Federal Government for a long over due economic agreement for Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that the department continues to invest in test fisheries and wish to see successful test fisheries develop into viable and sustainable commercial fisheries.

To capitalize on these opportunities, the standing committee urges the department to support industry in the development of training initiatives that will prepare Nunavummiut to enter fishery related jobs.

Mr. Chairman, members heard from the Minister that combing the grants for small business fund, with the business development fund to form contributions to business development will stream-line the application process.

Members are concerned that businesses applying for loans under \$5 thousand dollars will be required to meet more stringent criteria to secure funding compared to those currently required under grants for small business programs.

For this reason, the standing committee urges the department to ensure that funding criteria do not become excessively stringent so that artists, crafts persons and harvesters can continue to access this funding.

Members would like to see the department table an annual report on the grants and contributions funding. Mr. Chairman, members noted that the Nunavut Development Corporation is entering its fifth year of operation.

The standing committee urges the corporation to focus new development initiatives in non-decentralized communities. The standing committee would like to see increased capital funding provided to the corporation for new initiatives in non-decentralized communities.

>>*Applause*

Members believe that a new meat plant, located in Coral Harbour would be a sound investment.

>>*Applause*

In addition, members noted that recent tabling of the Nunavut Development Corporation's 01/02 Annual Report. Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to note the corporation's effort to quantify the number of jobs created by each subsidiary and encourage the corporation to continue its efforts.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee looks forward to the tabling of a community by community grants and contributions report. Mr. Chairman, members noted with interest that one of the department's priorities for 03/04 as noted in the business plan is to launch the carving stone supply program.

Carvers too often do not have adequate access to suitable soap stone. The standing committee would like the department to ensure that soap stone used for this program comes from Nunavut and meets the requirements of Nunavut's professional carvers.

The standing committee also urges the department assist carvers who find their own stone. Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that the department continues to develop strategies and plans in areas like economic development and tourism without showing concrete results.

Members believe that it is important that paper strategies result in concrete initiatives that are implemented in a timely manner. Mr. Chairman, a clean environment is a legacy that all members would like to pass onto their children, our children.

Members remain concerned that environmental hazards are not being cleaned up and assessed as is necessary. Many abandoned sites, including DEW-line sites require clean up to ensure that hazardous chemicals are not being released into the environment. It is often not clear who's responsible for cleaning up these sites. The standing committee urges the department to take a leading and active role on this issue. Last year, Mr. Chairman, the standing committee recommended that one time spending of \$1 million dollars be injected into the Nunavut Tourism Association for the 02/03 fiscal years.

Members are concerned that this amount of appears to have been added to the associations core funding. Members were pleased to note that the Minister tabled a Nunavut Tourism 2002/2003 Implementation Activities report earlier this week. The Committee looks forward to reviewing this document in detail.

The Standing Committee cautions the Association to ensure that staffing increases are focused on program delivery and are not administration-focused as has been in the past. Members also look forward to reviewing the long-awaited Tourism Strategy.

Mr. Chairman, Members are concerned that the fund for community-organized hunts is not being accessed for intercommunity trade. The Committee strongly urges the department to ensure that current funding is used to the best effect to help communities work together through intercommunity trades that isn't happening now.

Mr. Chairman, Members noted that Nunavut is rapidly opening up to mineral exploration. The Committee urges the department, once again, to work with other departments and implement a training program so that Nunavummiut can take advantage of job opportunities in mining sector. The Committee looks forward to reviewing the department's mining strategy.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments to this point but I'd like to add some further points of my own. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to bring a few issues up that seem to jump out over the last couple of years in this department.

I think the department is heading in the right direction. There is still one issue that has jumped out in the last year or two in regards to this department. I think that the mandate of this department is so broad that its time to maybe looks at in, like I said in my opening remarks, competing interest within its overall mandate.

I think it's time to look inside this department and maybe create two assistant deputy ministers positions instead of one because you've got minerals, oils and gas, environment is done.

Oh, I wish the minister had to put that in his opening comments rather than let me babble here for 30 seconds before I did it. But I commend the department if they've done that because I think and the Premier; I commend the Premier for doing that because I think at this tenure in Nunavut that you need two ADMs. One that looks after one side of the equation the other one that looks after the other side of the economic development equation. So, I commend you for doing that. You must have been reading my mind or my notes. But any how that's good.

Also on this, there seems be a resurgence in the traditional economy. I have to commend the department because I remember 4 years ago the sale of sealskins wasn't very good. Or it wasn't very high and now the results that were seen where the department's been proactive that sewing sealskins and this is not just a simple matter of selling sealskin and getting \$60 per pelt.

We all know what's involved when a local person harvests a sea animal mainly before food and clothing but the end benefit is that it contributes and like I've been saying for years, that \$100 in a community goes to a harvester goes all around the community into the extended family.

So, keep being vigilant on that and don't let the bureaucracy take that away from you because we're making money. Build on it more because we hit a certain level, double or triple it. Work at that because like I say, it will contribute significantly to those communities that don't have a strong economic base.

The traditional economy. You know, we don't know, we don't know, there is nobody in this territory can tell me what the traditional economy contributes this territory a year and I think it would be very, very difficult to see what the traditional economy contributes to this territory in real dollars.

And I wouldn't be bold enough to say that it doesn't commit, this doesn't contribute \$30 or 40 or 50 million dollars a year. We just don't know. But more carvings are being sold that aren't reported more wall hangings, prints, etc. etc., so you know, I think we look at the traditional economy sometimes and forget about it. But it's a significant contributor to every community in Nunavut.

The other issue that I wanted to bring up is the Mining Strategy. I do not know where it is. I was reading an article the other day that there is going to be \$225 million dollars spent in the Territory this year on Mining Exploration. That is not all that is going to be spent in this Territory. I know that it is spent with companies that have helicopters, airlines, etc., etc. That is a significant amount of money that is being spent in here. Real dollars in Nunavut, I do not know, what is it? 10 percent? I am encouraging you to get this off.

I am very happy to see that we have a carver's programs for soapstone coming. I encourage that. That is a traditional economy again. Someone told me that they saw my cousin's carvings was seen in a shop for seven thousand dollars. I did not think that he was that famous, and I want to commend him, and I want to get to know him better, and I hope that he will give me a discount on one before my term ends.

I would really encourage you to get this soapstone thing that there is. The more soapstone that there is, the more carvings that are being produced and the more money get into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all that I have.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. The 2003-2004 Main Estimates and Business Plan. We will deal with them at the same time. Before we start, you already know that I will give each person ten minutes for general comments, according to our rules. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Some of my colleagues are tired so I will try and wake them up. I think that Department of Sustainable Development can do more to support the communities, and set up more programs regarding economic development opportunities, because some of the jobs are not even filled in the communities.

Small business policies, I think should still be worked on. According to the Land Claims Agreement through NTI, they have programs but the criteria is quite stringent for small businesses to tap into. We know that they come from Government policies, and if they are meant to help Inuit, I think that they should make it easier for small businesses and individuals to access those funds.

We as Nunavummiut, I think that we should make it easier for small businesses to set up in Nunavut. That is the comment that I wanted to make. For Hunter and Trappers Organizations, we have to figure out ways to find more funding for them. I know that they are dealt with through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and other funding agencies, but these HTOs in the communities are always short of funds.

We need to figure out ways to give them more funds; either they lobby the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, or whether they can commit to working on this issue after the budget is passed.

It is hard to say, but that should be a big consideration as to how we can help these HTOs. As Inuit they represent us, and they help to implement and protect our rights. We have to figure out ways on how to restructure and implement Inuit traditions and Qaujimajatuqangit, and our culture. Those should be considered. Those are my comments for now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make a short comment in regards to the questions that we raised in the House specifically to the Minister and his department in terms of the carvers in Nunavut; in particular, using Kugluktuk for example, as far as stone quarry is concerned.

We use the term kulihag. The stone quarry was used before but now there's a concern as to using it because it's becoming more of a danger, trying to access the stone from the quarry.

Recently it's hazard, although they want to take the stone out of the quarry but they're afraid they will fall into the pit. Before I left Kugluktuk, a carver had approached me because he was asking for help in terms of getting quarry for carving.

Without the stone quarry, it's difficult for the carvers to make economic opportunities. For that reason, I would like the Minister to keep that in mind. It was not in his opening comments and I would like to urge the Minister to help supply and as well to find more stone quarries in the surrounding areas of the communities.

So, we have easy access to that. If it's in the opening comments, or if it's in the main estimates, if there is funding that we can use for locating quarries for the communities that would be great.

Another concern I have, as far as the Hunters and Trappers Organizations are concerned, we have a problem with funding with the local Hunters and Trappers Organizations. As we know, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board allocates funding to the Hunters and Trappers Organizations.

The problem is that the funding is inadequate. Would the Minister be willing to help the local Hunters and Trappers Organizations access more funding for Operations and Maintenance?

As we've heard before, the Hunters and Trappers Organization funding differs from each community. For example, in Kugluktuk, because the Hunters and Trappers Organization also monitors applications for mining exploration.

And once the applications become too overwhelming because there is so many of them, it's difficult to get all the applications processed without the proper funding. We need to encourage the department to help at all costs, the local Hunters and Trappers Organizations to get proper Operations and Maintenance dollars in place.

Once you have allocated the funding, it would make the job for the Hunters and Trappers Organizations that much easier. The manager of the HTO from my community had approached me that because they did not have adequate funding there and they are from the jobs and the work is so enormous, they do not get them done.

As far as the mining exploration is concerned, I would ask that the Minister meet on a regular basis with the communities and some of the mining communities. For example, PHB direct to meet with them regularly to discuss mining and training employment.

As we know the numbers of employees are slowly increasing, but we still have a high unemployment rate in our communities, why is that? Maybe it's because some of the residents in the communities would like an opportunity to work in the mining sector but do not have the training.

If the Minister of Sustainable Development and the Minister of Education, jointly work together to find a solution in terms of mining training on the jobs on employment for the mining sector.

The Hamlet of Kugluktuk had come to me prior to me leaving for the Assembly here. (interpretation ends) The employment officer worked very closely with the mining companies, taking applications for employment for different exploration companies or existing mining companies, for example, PHB, Diavik, Echo Bay and so on.

He works very closely with those mining companies. I was informed by the Hamlet that this employment officer position will be no longer there as of April 1st. I have not got updated right now, but the last discussion was done about four weeks ago.

So I want to inform you first of all, one of the mining companies is interested in funding this position at least up to third of the percentage. I'll give you an example where one of the mining companies say, if I pay 50%, is the Government of Nunavut interested in funding the other 50%?

Maybe along with the community, I am just giving you ideas here because of employment office position is very important to have. He is the guy, have a very close connection to the community that are unemployed and also goes to the mining company for the mining company's say, it needs two three people to work.

So, it is very important to have this person in that Hamlet for the community to make sure that we have a good communication with the mining sector and also to the community. So, that is very important, I will be asking later on when we get to the budget how this Department could assist.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Please watch your time when, I'll give you a chance to ask questions after. You have just a short one left? Go ahead.

Mr. Havioyak: I apologize I went over my time but I just want add to opening comments about small business proposal.

When there is a person interested in getting the business going locally, he or she identifies or a group identifies the needs to start up. But when it gets to the department they seem to readjust that the needs of the individuals by saying you don't need to, you could start with that. That's the kind of things that are happening and it was brought up to my attention, these are the things that are happening in the department or a staff saying you don't need this to start up a business.

But actually it's identified by the person that's interested in starting I need it but the department says no you don't need it. So it's very hard for the individual to get it started if the staff is saying you don't need it, we're setting up to fail the individual on the business that he's interested. So, I just want to bring that to your attention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Department of Sustainable Development and the minister and his staff.

Just a short comment Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the minister has some things in mind for the elders and a lot of elders in my community would like to have access to some polar bear meat while they're fat and I just wanted to tell the Minister that to consider the elders and provide some polar bear hunting.

They do studies on polar bears and we need to spend money on polar bear biologists and they always state that there is not enough bears left and I'll use this as an example.

In Gjoa Haven, there was an moratorium put in place for polar bear hunting over there without the biologists really knowing if the bear population is declining. I know that the Minister would like to help the people of Nunavut but I just want to give him a little bit of advice on the things that the biologists and do and what the elders want.

There is also some elders that would like to go out fishing for commercial purpose but they don't have any assistance and also the char travel at a certain time in the season and the elders would like to be able to get to them and harvest them commercially and they're just waiting around, sitting around at home not knowing which department to approach

for help because they have been told that its not possible for them to do that and right away they give up.

But they should be encouraged to reapply and be told how to reapply if they want some funding. I just wanted to make those comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will probably talk about various topics during my ten minute general comments. I would like to thank the Minister and their officials because the department did not go way too over their budget and they represented the people of Nunavut well.

The one thing that I have been concerned about is the fact that the funding of \$150 thousand if it is geared towards to whole of Nunavut and there is a reduction. Personally the way I see it, every time the funding is geared toward to all of Nunavut, usually they seem to be the smallest amount. That is what I have noticed so far.

Also I would like to say in regards to private businesses, and the development of private businesses. I have to discuss these business opportunities to the department. We can get further funding from the Banks, from NTI, and Inuit organizations.

We can apply for funding through those agencies. I know that they should be benefiting Nunavummiut. I know that I am a beneficiary and since I am enrolled in the Land Claims Agreement, but it is very difficult for me as a beneficiary to try and obtain those funds.

That is where some problems arise. I do not want the department to be the same as the other agencies when they are working on behalf Nunavummiut. The funding is quite small, and the cost of living is always increasing. Every time you try to run a business, there are bills to pay in order to operate your business and this funding for \$5 thousand dollars is inadequate, well that is provided through your department.

I wanted to touch that a bit that the Inuit of Nunavut or anyone in Nunavut should have access to the funding according to the needs of the community. Also in some communities, since this is not part of our tradition, economic development is not part of our tradition, but we are now finally starting to understand private businesses and how to run them.

Usually in the past business had gone bankrupt because they can no longer get additional funding from various agencies. This needs to be reviewed again, because private businesses after they have gone through bankruptcy, they have experience in having to go through that, and then they would like to re-apply again. Then they would be more experienced.

I think that this needs to be carefully reviewed. And also moving onto another topic. Mr. Alakannuark had touched up on it in regards to the polar bears in Nunavut. When we do

all sorts of research and surveys on our wildlife, and once they do a survey on the polar bears, we automatically are not allowed to harvest them. Our polar bears are captured, live, and they are taken to the zoos. They lose a lot of their fur down south. It seems like they are in cages when you are a native from the north you feel for those animals down there that are being kept in the zoos.

As when we see polar bears in the cage, in the zoos and they are sitting around concrete and they are not used to living on concrete or rocks. Their natural habitat is on the ice. When we see polar bears in the zoo, we feel sorry for them, but the southerners use that to make money, we aren't doing that.

As Nunavummiut, we are treated as if we are ignorant about our wildlife, but we have lived here all our lives in the north and this is where we live and inhabit the land. If we respect the wildlife, they will, in turn, grow in population and if we over-populate the wildlife, they die off and it is very difficult to bring them back to a sustainable population.

And my Colleague from Coral Harbour made a statement in regards to the caribou, if they over-populate, they tend to die off, but you need to harvest them carefully and to make sure the population does not over-populate or decline too much because this is our tradition and we know how to manage our wildlife.

But after some other developments on some wildlife, when we try to develop economic development through wildlife, that is when the problem arise with the wildlife management.

With all those rigid management regimes is not part of our culture as Nunavummiut, it is not part of our tradition. We now have to operate with money and we should be, this is I think our right to get adequate funding because we are now getting used to managed funding.

And when we try to acquire funding and when the communities require some funding, they need adequate funding, they need economic development, not just on wildlife and I know that the Department is trying to support the communities, but the funding is inadequate to develop the small businesses in the communities. I wanted to bring those issues up. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before Mr. Nutarak sits down, we should bring some elephants up and keep them in the zoo, and see if they like the climate. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a great comment because our Chairman did very well in reply to your opening address. I commend him for having foresight in writing up our report.

I think what is lacking in your Department, maybe in the Corporation; your Corporation is exploring potential developments, exploring potential businesses, whether it is collective in the community or individual.

We have given you a whole lot of information as to what potential involvements are for Coral Harbour for example.

Coral Harbour is already talking to Labradorimuit on caribou fur and skins, tanning for apparently for caribou tails and penises and horns, antlers, and things like that.

So something is developing but it would have been good if we would have been able to work with your department to find out what is the best way of approaching this. Either we get a meat plant to process 6 thousand caribou there or this year again, because the problem with the boxes that we use to crate the meat, frozen meat, has a grain that is too weak to carry a full capacity that we'll be catching, we have caught only 3 thousand caribou.

Although I think the Coral Harbour development corporation is trying to find out right now what that type of boxes will be more suitable to increase the quota. But none-the-less we will still have 2 thousand caribou left this year from the quota of 5 thousand or 6 thousand.

I'm sorry Mr. Chairman; I correct myself, 3 thousand caribou left out of that quota. Not having intercommunity trade or intercommunity programs of meat like Cape Dorset. We are not able to utilize those extra 3 thousand caribou.

For the island of 1 hundred miles by 1 hundred miles, that is quite significant. We are always afraid of over population in that so we are doing it for environmental purposes and also for economic purposes. Mostly for environmental purposes.

When the caribou were populating, when I got to Coral Harbour, we were allowed half a caribou for each household. That was only about 14 or 15 years ago.

The department keeps saying that there is not enough caribou yet to have free hunting. Until it was too late when they found out, gee it's getting over populated we better start hunting them down.

Of course 6 or 7 hundred people we could make a dent to the point that we initiated this project when we were in the GNWT. Mostly for the purpose of conservation and economic possibilities. Yet we are now unable to keep up or at least control the population growth in Coral Harbour.

So, we will probably need to do something very urgent to start harvesting 6 thousand or maybe even more but we have no means right now economically to do that because you already have a law in your wildlife act about wastage.

Because they are federally inspected, that they had to be killed in certain ways. So, if there is a missed shot, including shoulder shot the meat is brought into town but 700 people, I don't know how many tonnes of caribou that you can utilize all the meat. We try to utilize them as much as we can by sending to our friends, and etc. Perfectly good meat, but if the department can't access some dollars to some communities like Hall Beach or Cape Dorset or other places that have no caribou near by, can't benefit from that. They can, using your few dollars. I don't think it's going to take more than 100 thousand dollars to start brining the caribou from Coral Harbour.

I'm just talking about transportation. Basically, I'm concerned about economic development or the lack there of it for non-decentralized communities. There is a whole lot of potential.

I was just talking to the Minister of transportation about the need for better access roads program, not just in Coral Harbour but everywhere where it's possible. Hall Beach, Igloolik, Arviat, Rankin Inlet.

What I'm saying is not just your department is leading departments in trying to find a new way of making the community benefit from government funding. Yes, government funding through education and health is important.

Economic and social wellbeing of the community, we're going to have to start finding out what communities want. What communities happy. What makes communities productive? What makes a community feel that money is being well spent; the government's money is being well spent.

I don't think it is fair that only government bureaucrats determine what is good for Nunavummiut. I'm not blaming the government but we are three years old, four years old in our, but within that we are already alienated some of the communities that are not in decentralized communities.

We alienating them by providing them with the things we think are good for Coral Harbour or any other community, Whale Cove, Chesterfield Inlet, Grise Fjord, etc. I think it's very important that we start recognising what hamlets want to do.

The hamlets life is not only within the hamlet boundaries. Hamlet's thought and foresight is the whole area of the community, the hunting, tourism, business development, recreation, etc.

They are not limited like us. They don't think of boundaries. So, Mr. Chairman, I'm running out already, but the last point I'd like to make is I stress to you, to find out from the community what you think are good projects, that are economically viable, socially acceptable, that will make a difference in the lives of that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will talk about various needs in our Nattilik riding area and also in the Kitikmeot and in listening to my colleagues general comments, and looking at the economic development opportunities under Sustainable Development and we like to see that, see us utilize those opportunities that way it can help or produce more jobs at the local level.

In Gjoa Haven in Government of the Northwest Territories days, I had supported financially to develop a fish plant and we have commercial quota in around Gjoa Haven and around main land.

The fish plant was renovated back in around 1990s and I think it was 1997 but it was renovated around that time and they got a very nice freezer and they have a very nice drying rack and it was enlarged but one thing that we requested from the HTO, with the support of the HTO they have supported the fishermen and it has really supported the harvesters but after the fish plant was renovated back in 1999 when Nunavut Government was created the fish plant has never been used since.

When the department is responsible for economic development, I don't think we should be closing down these economic opportunities. Every time these opportunities close, or every time these business start and then they close even, it's very difficult for the communities to provide employment.

So, I would request that your department look into the fish plant. I know that you have good plans for it but moving on to a different topic, the HTOs operations and maintenance; it was mentioned by one of the members here stating that the HTO funding is inadequate and the HTO and the office managers do their job very well. The hunters are depend on those people and usually they coordinate these sports hunts and the sport hunters, those are the contact people by the sport hunters and their Operations and Maintenance funding is inadequate.

I think it was three weeks ago or four week ago; correspondence was given to me from the HTO to relay that information to the government. They're funded for Operations and Maintenance for the HTO. They wanted to make sure that they are given adequate funding because their funding for Operations and Maintenance is inadequate and they are requesting that they be considered.

I think this situation has to be rectified because the funding for their Operation is in adequate and it's depleted right away all the time.

Mr. Chairman, my colleague talked about soap stone quarrying in Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, and I think in Kuugarjuk that there is a soap stone quarry. Yes, back then I use to go soap stone quarrying and anybody could take soap stone from that area but there is nothing available any more all is left are big boulders. But you have to work very hard to mine soapstone.

The soapstone quarry around Gjoa Haven is about 87 miles away from the community each from Gjoa Haven and also from Taloyoak, the soapstone quarry is about that far from the community and it's very difficult to access the soapstone quarry mine.

Although I spoke with Steve Hanly, he said he was going to review this matter but I would request that your department look into this matter so that they can access this soapstone quarry by this summer.

I would like to see that completed. Mr. Chairman, carvings and handicrafts and artwork, back then, we had a carver, and it's difficult to market carvings now. It's not like the past anymore.

There are potential carvers out there too and long time carvers can't sell their carvings and the market for carvings has dropped. I don't know why the market for the carvings has dropped.

I do expect to see something worked on this issue. Mr. Chairman, for carvings, handicrafts and artwork, I was wondering if your department can look into that to make sure that they help market these things. Mr. Chairman, I will conclude. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. I have no one my list now. James.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): In the Minister's opening comments; I would like to add to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first page of his opening remarks, these 1, 2, 3, in the middle of the page, and the three key areas, increase support for communities in their efforts to plan for a sustainable future.

The chairman of the committee stated that there should be more support for small businesses. We know and it's hopeful that for Nunavummiut, as Canadians, the small businesses is the biggest employer in Canada and we can make it that way in Nunavut.

For instance in the tourism industry, we can set up more outfitters, hotel operators. And these small businesses could also be one of the biggest employers in Nunavut. With that in mind, I'm wondering if the Minister is going to examine and review as to what development there can be for small businesses.

For instance, a meat plant. I'm wondering he can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the support for small businesses I'm sure are one of the biggest employers. And with this statement during the conference in Rankin Inlet last week, that was one of the big discussions as to how much more support that we can give to the communities and to small businesses. How we can increase funding and we will commit to working on that issue.

The statement regarding economic development we are looking into the matter and that we would like to work on it for the future so that smaller communities can have more job opportunities.

In Coral Harbour, I spoke to a resident from there, from the Development Corporation and told them that there was quite a success in caribou harvesting. His question regarding the support for small businesses, we are hoping to support more of these businesses, and I am sure that we can do a lot more in that area.

In our budget we are hoping to distribute our budget to more of the communities and perhaps in the future for instance, we will focus on a certain community and then go on to the next community once we have created economic opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: That is good to know. Community Government and Transportation has Regional Offices where they try to help the communities from that region, whatever problem they may have. Maybe similarly, you could have more active civil servants in the region that can try to help the communities, not just from the bureaucratic point of view, but from the real sensitive want to achieve that kind of attitude to try to help those communities.

On page 2, Mr. Chairman, in the middle that in the Main Estimates 2003-2004, there is a 150 thousand reduction from 2002-2003. However, you stated that you have put \$295 thousand dollars for funding contribution programs, which is good. Funding to contribution program, \$495 thousand.

You must have a goal to reach your PY's in your department. I do not know if you have reached 100 percent yet, from 1999. If not, did you have to reduce your PY requirements in order to come up with the \$495 thousand, or did you have to reduce some of the positions that are vacant or not filled in order to come up with \$495 thousand, and reducing \$150 thousand at the same time from 2002-2003. Where did you have to take that from, in order to achieve that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, for 2002-2003 we had one time funding for \$650 thousand dollars, that was going towards the Nunavut Wildlife Act. This year we did not get that, but during the Assembly that extra \$500 thousand

dollars, that is where that \$495 thousand came from, so that is how we came up with these numbers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Anything else? Are you done? Any questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's Opening Comment, towards the end, he stated that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, that they are working towards including it in every part of the department's operations. Can you elaborate as to what sections on your department Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit being used. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development hired an employee who will work on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit section as to how our department can integrate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the department and we look forward to progress that will be made.

For instance, polar bear management issue as to how we can use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the management and policy decision making and that is why we hired that PY and I'm sure it will be a great help to the department. Also the Tuqtarvik Committee that the government will be setting up in the coming months will certainly help move along the issue of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Department of Sustainable Development's efforts to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): He stated he hired a staff member. When did they hire that staff member? Has it been a year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It's been 9 months that that staff member has been with the department. They are reviewing some of the concerns in how to include for instance, in the Wildlife Act, there were consultation visits and we collected some Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we are working to integrate those within the department.

That staff member has a lot of work to do within our department to ensure Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is used more within our operations in the future. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Anything else. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): When Nunavut was created, and the agreement was signed in 1993, on July 9th, I can't say exactly what time it was because I wasn't present at the signing.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, what is being done to ensure it is being implemented in the Department of Sustainable Development. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we try our best to implement the land claims section in working with what needs to be done in implementing articles in the land claims

And regarding the wildlife act, we are working very closely with those organizations to ensure the land claims is being put into consideration. We are also working with them, we work very closely with those organizations to ensure we are complying with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going through the business plan and the question I'm going to ask might not be here but, you could direct me to where it might be.

I know that you might not be responsible for the part I'm going to ask you about. It's about the employment officer position. I know it's not a government position. At this point the local employment officer is hired by the hamlet, finding some other funds, not exactly sure where, but I was told that they would be running out and they wouldn't have that position in place as April 1st.

So, I guess I'm asking for your assistance, if it is your department that maybe you could work with the other department, how we can have this position open.

Like I said earlier, that one of the mining companies is interested in funding this position up to 50% if the local hamlet or the government or GN is a partnership to this position. Because like I said, it is a very important position to that community because it is a main communication office to that person, so I want to make sure we have this position in place.

Like I said, its been, I've been trying to updates for the last few days but I want to ensure that we have communicate this to our hamlet that we have some funding in place. Is there a way that you can sort of lead this somewhere within the other departments or yourself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was an employment officer before I became an MLA. That was one of my responsibilities; dealing with the

Federal Government and Kakivak funding sources and perhaps the mining sector can contact either the Federal Government or the Land Claims organizations.

As the Department of Sustainable Development, we fund community economic development offices and perhaps I can speak with the HR minister as to how we can come up with those funds to keep that position open. Perhaps we would have to apply to DSD funds if we do so, but I will commit to looking into the matter regarding your comments and questions as the Department of DSD. It is kind of hard to say whether we can commit to funds to assist your community but I will look into the matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to hear its trying to get around this some how within GN, not only with your department. I just want to let you know that the Hamlet of Kugluktuk has tried every avenue so far to try and get funding even from the Federal.

The Federal funding ran out about a few years ago so they couldn't get any funding at all from the Federal. It was brought to our MP's attention and saying that they couldn't fund this, no longer funds this position in the hamlet's office, although they recognized it is very important position to that community.

So they tried everything they could to find funding for this. But, it is an interesting point that you that I want you to know again, I pointed out, these mining companies interested in funding 50% of the position so there can't be too much more if you can find some other 50% of that.

I will leave that with you and its great to know that you will be looking through this a soon as you can as a lead to find a way to fund it. That is all I have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I did not hear a question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's Opening Remarks, in 2003-2004, the \$150 thousand dollars is a decrease from \$495 thousand. I wonder if it is geared towards small business assistance, or what is it for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reduction of \$150 thousand from the 2002-2003 Main Estimates, we got some \$150 thousand dollars, we got \$650 thousand dollars for the Nunavut Wildlife Act. We did not get allotted money. They gave us a certain amount of money to do the Nunavut Wildlife Act, so it is for funding contribution programs for the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered if you will be giving out the \$495 thousand dollars to every community every year, or is that enough? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we start going page by page in the Main Estimates we will find out how much contributions that we give out. It is the total amount of about \$16 million. That \$495 thousand dollars is just additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. I have no more names. 11-5, in the Main Estimates. Branch Summary for Sustainable Development, Corporate Management, total Operations and Maintenance, \$3 million, 874 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 11-6 to 11-17, Branch Summary, Program Development and Delivery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Compensation and benefits are over nine million. I have asked the Minister about the Grants and Contributions in the amount of over \$16 million dollars. What I am trying to say is that nine million coming from the \$16 million?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Compensation and benefits are \$9 million, 494 thousand is for staff. Under the organizational chart, that is who they are for. That \$16 million, 279 thousand is just for the Grants and Contributions to the communities. We will see that when we go page by page. When we see the \$16 million dollars under Grants and Contributions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 11-16, under Compensation and Benefits and Grants and Contributions, so if you look on page 11-17, you'll see the Grants and Contributions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you turn the page to 11-14, the grants and contributions to businesses are here and we also received some information and it's supplementary detail, which was given to us by the Minister during

the committee stage, under Businesses Development Fund, \$1 million, 189 thousand dollars under 11-14.

If it was just written like this, we wouldn't have understood what it was for. But now that he's given us some extra information, we know what it's for. There's \$482 thousand dollars for Baffin, \$310 thousand for Kivalliq and \$397 thousand dollars for Kitikmeot.

Why, since 1999, Kivalliq has been receiving less funding than any other region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the question of the member, I cannot answer his question right now, because I don't have the information in front of me.

This was done by the Kivalliq Partners and Development. I will get back to the member and give him a response as to why it is so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kivalliq Partners and Development are the only ones that do work in the Kivalliq region and they also get funding from the Federal Government for training and other things.

The amount of money being contributed from your department is the smallest one going to the Kivalliq Region. It would be good to get the information. Lastly, Mr. Chairman, 11-16, for the organised hunts, sometimes, even though you give out a contribution of \$45 thousand dollars to all the community in Nunavut, like Mr. McLean said, there should be more money for organized hunts and there is no funding to ship meat to other communities.

My question is, if there is going to be more funding injected into the organized hunt contribution and where it would come from. It's not going to be much but perhaps just to be used for chartering a plane or freight purpose and expecting if you could meet with your cabinet colleagues and put in about \$100 thousand dollars.

Like Igloolik, they have different sources of meat, like walrus in Igloolik area, caribou in Coral Harbour and seal in the Baffin region and Arctic Bay has very good maqtaak. There are all different kinds of country food that the communities can exchange and it would be very good if those most of them putting their organized hunt so they could do more.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will consider your comment. I know that \$45 thousand is not very much but we could probably use it wisely and do more with it.

There are not very many people that request for funding from this organized hunt in the communities and we will advertise it a little more. Northern Quebec, when they had their quota cut down by the Federal Government what they did was they ordered some maqtaak from Nunavut communities. So, we have to look at that as Nunavut Government too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page, under Business Development Fund and Grants to Small Businesses, you amalgamated those two people that called and would like to get some tools for carving and people who would like to get small business that cost about and they would like to access money about \$5 thousand dollars.

I was wondering that it might other potential business developers might deplete the funding from the other people because they active ones tend to apply for the funding and leave out the other small businesses. We should be applying from grant to small business.

How are you going to make sure that this funding is going to be allocated evenly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding was \$330 thousand grants to small business and it's going to continue with that figure and nobody will have to come up with 5% or 10% equity so this grant to small business is not going to change. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information goes on to page 11-17, all the way there Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I was looking. Did you ask me a question? Go ahead please. Please clarify for me please.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): From page 11-6. The total is \$41 million, 428 thousand for Operations and Maintenance and you said that the other pages thereafter are information items all the way to 11-17. If that's the end of the page over there on information the total \$4 million, 155 thousand and from page 11-6, where would I find that figure I just mentioned.

Chairperson (interpretation): Perhaps the minister can elaborate to me where it is. Page 11-6.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, although I said earlier on and that grants and contributions, \$16 million, 379 thousand I said that 11-17 grants and contributions. 11-17, grants and contributions goes all the way to that page. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Page 11-7, the very last one, \$70 thousand, I did not quite understand the explanation here, if the Minister can elaborate that to me. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is for the fur and skins because the price has gone down and it has gone down by \$50 thousand because we expect the guaranteed minimum price for species of fur, selected species. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In the Inuktitut version, it says valid Nunavut general hunting or trapping license, 11-7. So, I had asked that question, what is that going to be used for, this funding? He said that it would be used for selected species of fur or ptarmigan; it could be used for ptarmigan skin.

So, that is how I read it in Inuktitut and he said that it was reduced down to \$70 thousand. The Inuktitut version, it says that they require or they need to hold a valid general hunting or trapping license.

It seems like I need to hold a general hunting license according to the way it is written in Inuktitut. I was wondering if that is the case. I would like to get that clarified. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we used to have general hunting license, but now, we now have enrolment cards. We can now use beneficiary enrolment card, we can now use it instead of general hunting license.

According to the Land Claims Agreement and also, since we are a Government, we are a public Government, we have to service non-natives too for the requirement to hold hunting license. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak. Thank you. Perhaps, someone will ask another question. I am very, very slow. At this time, I have heard that we are going to try and complete this session on 8 or 9 'O' clock p.m. and at times, we have no quorum during our review of the Main Estimates.

So, I will try to extend our hours. On page 11-17, the very last one, \$690 thousand and there is an increase by \$90 thousand for Nunavut Business Corporation. So, I was wondering if you can elaborate that to me. Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Is that just for O and M or is this the funding that people with small businesses can get credit on? Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is for operation and maintenance only for Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. The loans that have been dispersed to the public out there, I have tabled them in the House.

You can look at them and review the report on the businesses that took on the loan from this and all of the information is written down, but this \$690 thousand dollars is for the Operations and Maintenance of the Credit Corporation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the three land claims there are economic development through Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Is that through that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): No. This is our own program. Government of the Northwest Territories heads this program, and we need this program but Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has their own called Atuqtuarvik Corporation, which has an office in Rankin Inlet. For our government, the office is located in Cape Dorset. This is from Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, how many staff members do they have for this program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are five employees and also there is a board who were just recently appointed with nine members. There's a chairperson and this is for their Operations and Maintenance for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an increase for this funding by \$90 thousand dollars and in the previous year it was \$600 thousand dollars. Now there is an increase of \$690 thousand dollars with nine board members. Is that for

their transportation as well? Is that why there's an increase of \$90 thousand dollars. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$90 thousand dollar increase is because we want to try and lease a unit and we had to pay for the lease but if this has to change, maybe Public Works and Services will end up paying for lease increase. If it wasn't depleted, we would want to use it for the communities. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Where would I find the Operations and Maintenance for the board members? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are included within the \$690 thousand dollars for the operation of the board. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am getting confused. It was \$600 thousand dollars in the previous years. During the 2002/2003, there is an increase by \$90 thousand dollars.

2003/2004, main estimates, he said they established a nine member board for this. It seems like the increase is just a contingency fund. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Since 1999, we've had board members for this Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and we've had their members existing then.

But this \$90 thousand dollar increase is for the administration. As I stated earlier, if Public Works and Services ends up paying for the lease, this funding will remain in there and it will be utilized by the communities.

But just in case, if we had to pay for the lease, we would use some of this \$90 thousand dollars for the lease just in case because it was already written down that we lease an office.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This funding is to be used for the staff and to operate the board. What percentage would the board utilize out of this \$690 thousand dollars?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be able to provide the Member the information later; I do not have the information in front of me. I will provide the Member all the information as to how this \$690 thousand would be utilized. I will make the information available through tabled documents in the Baker Lake Session. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many times a year does the Board meet? How frequent is their meeting? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps four times a year. Due to some urgent cases they do hold special meetings. They have quarterly meetings annually. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. My last question. As the Minister had stated that they would provide me with the information. And I am sure that my colleagues would like to get the information too, so I would suggest that you provide it to the Members.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. As I have stated before, in the Baker Lake Session I will table that information in the House. The information will be provided to you at that time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question. The questions that I was going to raise were asked already, but I have one question in mind. On page 11-9, core funding. It has remained the same from last year. Contribution to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to support the HTOs on their core funding.

Are there any plans as to when you could review these? Not only review, but we need some more funding for their operations at different communities where they have more responsibilities? I am saying that there is less in other communities, but there is some extra work that they have to do to hire someone, support workers for the managers.

Do you have something in place that you can try and to find ways to raise this funding that the HTOs that require that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and provide a response to the Member clearly this year. The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is now negotiating with the Federal Government for a ten year term financial funding agreement.

If this goes through, if the negotiations are successful, the Department of Sustainable Development, by 2004-2005 will review this funding, because it is evident that this funding has had no change since the Nunavut Government was created.

We will have to wait for the negotiations to be completed Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Federal Government for the year 2004-2005. And then we can look into if we can provide larger funding for this. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: I look forward to seeing that. Just one more concern that I raised earlier on my opening statement about soap stone quarries. I guess that is the site in Coral that is getting a safe to get in there for carvers so they're saying that it needs some work to be safer for the any carvers to get in there to get their stone.

Maybe I'm missing it somewhere. It might not be in this part. It might be grants or small business somewhere I wish it could be more than that so we'd be able to bring some more equipment out to the site.

For example, maybe 14 miles out of the community that requires bigger equipment to go so they're going to need additional funding too to work on that site. So, is there something inside that we can use or have this community will help the carvers to get some soap stone from that site. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the south Baffin this is a concern because the soap stone quarry in Kangisukutaaq is quite a safety hazard. Qikiqtani Inuit Association have been working or negotiating agreements for the soap stone quarry.

We can work with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, to look into how we can improve the soap stone quarry to make sure its safe for the carvers. Yes we can look into it how we can improve the situation and its true when you stated that grants to small businesses they could get that funding through that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you. I would just like to say again in order to make sure this happens as soon as possible maybe we do some evaluation this summer. I will go see the site. What needs to be done? Is it going to work with KIA? How soon can you get in touch with KIA to make sure this happens this summer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my officials to consult with the KIA staff or entity. I know that its not going to be an easy task to deal with but we would have to work very hard to make sure that soap stone quarry sites are safe. Yes, we will work diligently to improve the situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 11-11. Nunavut Tourism Core funding. \$2 million, 364 thousand. I guess I'm wondering if they apply for funding for tourism groups in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This funding is for the core funding for that Nunavut Tourism Association for their Operations and Maintenance to ensure the market, the tourism possibilities in Nunavut.

Groups can also apply for funding from Federal Government and this is how much we aside for this association.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Federal government have recognized the need for tourism association and there is money set aside for \$2 million, 300 thousand from the Nunavut Government. Do they get funding from the Federal Government for this purpose? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Tourism Association can also apply for funding from the Federal Government. We have to contribute to the budget as well for Nunavut Tourism.

They also do capital funding for this Nunavut Tourism Association to ensure they market Nunavut as a tourism spot and they do it very well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the communities they are learning how to benefit from the tourism industry from the park or other areas where communities have specific spots. There are different tourism opportunities in the communities is there a plan to ensure those groups can access part of that \$2 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can try, for instance, they can have membership in this tourism association, they can be a member of this association and we can try to ensure that this information gets out to the communities for the tourism sector.

And in the coming days, the tourism strategy will be released and we are just about done with the Nunavut Tourism Strategy and perhaps, before this session is over, they are translating the document and we would really like to table that document and it has been approved for release regarding the Nunavut Tourism Strategy. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Tourism Association, who are members of that association?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The membership of the Nunavut Tourism Association, as Arvaluk has said as to how the membership fees can be cheaper for the tourism operators and if you are a member of this association, the premiums are a better price if you are a member of this tourism association and they get better prices through this association. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Membership, who are the members, are they from Nunavut or they have membership from within Nunavut or who is part of this association? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): They used to be the Baffin Tourism Association and there were members from tourism operators in the Baffin Region and now we have a Nunavut-wide association that deals with members from different tourism operators. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those that are not members of the Nunavut Tourism Association, do they have any other opportunities to access funds anywhere else? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. No, if you want to try and purchase a boat for tourism operating, you can put together proposals and business plans for tourism activities, but if it is not going to create too much of a competition within the communities.

It can be possible and we do encourage and have funds set aside for small businesses, not necessarily for tourism, but other small business opportunities. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have three on my list. Before they do, we'll take a break for 20 minutes. There is food available.

>>Committee recessed at 18:05 p.m. and resumed at 18:32 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I still have three on my list. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the question earlier in 11-7, some of the Inuktitut translation doesn't correspond with the English and in here it states that Inuit need to be beneficiaries and need licenses and hold a valid Nunavut General Hunting and Trapping licence.

As Inuit, they are automatically recognised through Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's enrolment card, because Inuit no longer need that general hunting licence. We approved these main estimates and we have to ensure that everything is accurate in there.

On 9-11, or 11-9, this Arctic Energy Alliances, what is this \$60 thousand dollars allocated for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. 11-9 is where her question is. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Terryl Allan will respond to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Terryl Allan.

Ms. Allan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is a contribution program that can be applied to public education; management program and we program that through out the year to a maximum of \$60 thousand dollars.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Inuktitut, it says it can be given as a contribution to the Arctic Energy Alliance.

Does that mean for power? What I'm asking in Inuktitut is I don't understand the one in English. What education. What public education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was last year or the year before. This is for public education, there was a student who won from the middle school for awareness, we had to do commercials for public education of energy efficiency practices and this is for the public education in energy efficiency practices.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 11-11, on the bottom one, community futures. It's always been \$700 thousand every year. How come it's not changing each year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): This project is very beneficial to the community, but we're always using up the funds and there has been no increases in that section for that line item.

We try and use the best we those funds that are aside, they are very beneficial for the small community based businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 11-13. On that page, \$2 million, 400 thousand for community economic development officers for the year 2003/2004. Main Estimates. Contributions to economic development officers.

This is a contribution to hamlets. Is that due to the rising costs that it is increasing. Can you tell why there is an increase, or is there a change in the project. Why is there an increase in that line item for 2002/2003 was \$1 million, 960 thousand now its \$2 million, 400 thousand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were always told that these economic development officers did not have adequate funding by the hamlets

and so we added \$10 thousand. It used to be \$80 thousand per community and this year it'll be increased to \$90 thousand per community. We have also set aside \$150 thousand dollars for any community see those get further training, but the it is on a first come, first serve basis to access the training funds for these community economic development officers.

We see the need for further training to ensure they help out the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're probably all hamlets in the communities as to their status. Do all the Hamlets have CEDOs? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, as far as I know, all the Hamlets have hired Community Economic Development Officers because they have an agreement in place. I am not aware of any of the Hamlets that don't have any, as far as I know all the communities have hired these positions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development Minister had a confusing response. If he is not aware, can he tell me at a later date? What I am asking is in any of the communities if the Hamlets do not want to sign those agreements, then they may not have that position in place. That is why I am asking that question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are going to get the same response that if there is no CEDOs in these communities I would not be aware of any that do not have these position, but this funding is for all of the communities, \$90 thousand dollars each to ensure that they hire Community Economic Development Officers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Hamlets who hold that Economic Development Officers' project, if there was someone who quit their job, there is always a turnover in any type of employment to take on other employment then they need to hire to fill those positions.

Do you also set aside some funds, or do you also give the Hamlet for the relocation and hiring of these positions? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$90 thousand dollars that we have given to the Hamlets as block funding through this agreement, and if there is a new employee we can discuss with the Hamlet as to how it would be dealt with. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Are you done? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If any of the Hamlets wanted assistance, he said that he was open to that suggestion. Is that in the agreement? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can show him a copy of the agreement with the Hamlet. I do not have it with me at this point, in front of me, but I can show him a copy of the agreement. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions here. Minister Akesuk, just to keep myself, to give me piece of mind over the next six months is that the Grants for small businesses, the \$330 thousand has been put into contribution to business development. I just want to ask you one more time for the record.

If a carving person goes into the CEDOs office and he is looking for a Grant to buy five, or six, or seven, or two thousand dollars worth of carving tools, or a printmaker goes in and applies to buy some paint and some paper, and if another carver goes in to fill out a grant application to get some assistance to go down and pick up some stone, that this will just be as simple as it was before and they are not going to have to fill out hundreds of papers, business plans, financial statements and things of that nature.

So, I'm just asking you for one last time, before the fiscal year end starts and I go back to my community and I'm there for four months and I've got half a dozen in my office saying that some CEDO said no, they don't qualify anymore. So, will you assure this house again that this is not going to happen again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it will be the same set of criteria and I was asked the same question earlier. There will be no change in the criteria. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: You're a man of your word, so I'll be holding you to it. On page 11-11, Nunavut Tourism Core Funding, I'd like to thank your department for giving them that extra \$1 million dollars a year.

That was supposed to go into hopefully the outfitters end of the deal. Currently when Nunavut Tourism goes to sports shows around the world and in southern United States, do they take any existing outfitters with them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will look into that matter to see if they bring outfitters or tourism operators but I am aware, that recently, I wasn't sure whether he or she was funded through the department or by him or herself.

There was one operator who went to a show. I will look into the matter and if not, I will direct them to ensure they bring tourism operators or outfitters who are more aware of the land. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that you said that Minister Akesuk because I don't think that it should be just the organization that goes down there and promotes, they go down there and their old mandate was destination promotion, Nunavut. We all know that individual tourism operators in Nunavut and the cost of going to a sport show are just horrendous.

So would you look into that and see also if they are assisting and taking some of the actual operators around there to promote their products. If they aren't, will you let us know? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to that because I think it's important that these tourism operators need that exposure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 11-17, Development Corporation. I want to make a little comment first.

In Kivalliq, we have a very powerful, fairly biased small community's opinion, regional personal, whether it's Department of Sustainable Development Corporation or whatever department they hold.

Historically, Rankin Inlet became the economic development hub before Government of Nunavut was created. In fact, at one time, Arviat wanted to become Area 7. I think we heard about that, so that they could have a share.

There's area five, area six in Rankin Inlet and they wanted to become area 7, so that they could have a share of economic development. All economic development was going to Rankin Inlet.

In fact, it was funny, that when all the caribou in Coral Harbour were being legislated, or at least it became a policy to kill 6000 caribou but the meat plant was built in Rankin Inlet.

They had to import all the caribou from Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Chesterfield and mostly from Coral Harbour. Any kind of product that is made today in your silver plate, caribou ribs and smoked etcetera, come from Coral Harbour.

I was very happy that the Chairman of the Standing Committee had said it was viable to build a meat plant in Coral, whether it is similar or same or different from Rankin Inlet, we do not really care.

We even had to kill, commercially ordered by the Government 5,000 geese last spring because of the over-population and that could also be produced in Rankin Inlet, I mean that in Coral Harbour.

I am really hoping that Nunavut Development Corporation will review all of the proposals, development proposals equally, fairly, unbiased, and look at the merits of all of these proposals, wherever they come from, Coral or otherwise because we have missed out on these things.

My question to the Minister is, are the development proposals from the Community Development Corporations, are screened by the President before they come to board, Development Corporation Board or all of the proposals are given to the Development Corporation Board? Qujannamiik.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): My have my ADM respond to that. Ms. Keenainak.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Keenainak.

Ms. Keenainak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because we are dealing with a board and their staff, typically, proposals are reviewed by staff; they do not go directly to the board.

I think that works in the organization, but the letters of instruction that were recently provided to the NDC President clearly indicated that there has to be increased activity in non-decentralized communities and that is after Cabinet direction.

So, proposals I reviewed, I reviewed our staff just like they do with us, like we provide a review and recommendation to the Premier and the Cabinet. So that would work in the same manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It does not really matter if they are accepted or rejected or screened by, well, recommended for accepting them or rejecting them by the staff, but are they at least given to the Chairman of the board for their consideration with the recommendation for approval or rejection or only what is recommended for approval is seen by the board? Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the board also needs to review these applications and proposals, because they would not have any agenda items if they did not have to review all of these applications. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done? What page are you on, Mr. Arvaluk? And right here, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In four years, there has been no large capital projects, especially for non-decentralized communities. Where does the capital come from and where does it go now.

I understand and thank the Department of Sustainable Development for providing additional trailer freezers and things like that. We appreciate that. We'll probably need more in Rankin Inlet because they're always full.

If we are going to continue that kind of trend unless you decide to build a meat plant in Coral Harbour, one of the two. I'm very interested in how the capital projects are planned and how they are distributed to non-decentralized communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, what we do is we have not provided any more funding for that because we don't have very much funding because of the Department of Education and Health and Social Services are the major budget holders in the Government of Nunavut.

We have to try and request funds from the Department of Finance or Financial Management Board. We have not been given a proposal to see if they are requesting more for those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. 11-6, Program Development and Delivery, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$31 million, 428 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 11-19, these are just information items. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've been waiting for 11-8, but I guess it was part of this program development and delivery.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have an agreement to back to 11-18. or 11-8.

Chairperson (interpretation): The member for Nanulik is seeking unanimous consent to go back to that page. There are no nays. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't care about that. I'm in agreement with what we just talked about in regards to the total Operations and Maintenance. I would like to ask a question on, for information purpose. \$154 thousand who was it suppose to be given to? Operating results? Closing Accounts receivable on page 11-18.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Can you hold on a second. 11-18. Ms. Terry Allan will.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Allen.

Ms. Allen: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount you want on page 11-18 is to do with our fur marketing fund. Basically it's the authorized limit of the fund is \$900 thousand which means we can utilize up to the amount of \$900 thousand in any particular year. We've never gone to that limit yet.

It basically is an amount that we purchase our furs on consignment and then we turn around and then sell them it comes back into the funds. The fund has changed. The use of the fund changed over the last couple of years and we're estimating that it will change

again for fiscal year of 2003/2004 in that you can see the amount of receipts against the loans have increased from \$350 thousand to \$400 thousand.

That indicates that we're actually anticipating purchasing more fur and selling more furs. The amount of the receivables we have outstanding at any point and time which means we've purchase furs and we haven't sold them yet.

We expect to remain relatively consistent at \$154 thousand. So at any point and time we have accounts receivable sitting on the books of \$154 thousand which remains that we have furs out there at the auction that we have bought on consignment that haven't been sold yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): That doesn't really give it, I don't really understand it yet. What I'm trying to say is the open accounts receivables, does that mean that you bought some furs or hides at \$154 thousand worth but you have not sold them yet? Is that what my understanding is?

Because you have not sold them yet at the auction and advanced to trappers in the amount of before you sold them, is that the money, that \$400 thousand is the one that you gave to the trappers? Is that my understanding?

And or receipts of fur account loans, is that the money that's borrowed from the Government or is that the money that you got from the government to be given to the trappers so once you sold the first one then you give that money to the government?

The receipts for account loans. Say for instance, if I got a fox pelt for \$25 and then I give the individual \$25 and when you \$25 and then you sell it for \$50, that \$50 is not give, all of it is not given to the trapper. You take the \$25 off of the \$50.

Is that what is means at the receipt of fur account loans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, that \$900 thousand is always available, it has authorized our limit and it has to go back to the revolving funds.

Like your comparison about the \$50 dollars and the \$25 dollars, minus \$25 dollars that was correct. If we buy it for \$25 dollars and you take \$25 dollars off and give the rest to the trapper. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I talked about it in the previous years to see whether your Department can make an adjustment or like every year, we

have to pay out the public income support of so many millions of dollars because we have to provide it for them.

But for the hunter who is trapping and who has traps and stuff like that, they go early in the morning and they do not come home until night time and he goes out every day to do his trapping.

And you are going to in turn take \$25 dollars off of his and we wanted to be able to help the trappers, but now, they are working people and you are penalizing them. When is it that the Department will be making sure that, I am just using that as an example?

\$25 dollars is probably not that way today, but in the seal furs or hides or fox pelts, when you sell them, the money that you receive instead of taking away that little bit of money off from the trapper, you should just give the whole amount or if you sell it for 50 dollars, the individual, the trapper would get 75 dollars to keep him away from going to income support.

Like he could at least make two-thirds and just take one-third as a Government. I am not just asking this question to the Department of Sustainable Development, it is all to the Departments such as income support people and Education and Health and Social Services. When is it that you will be reviewing these trappers' support? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, if we can use the example of sealskins because they have different ways of being graded. What they do is they follow the quality of the skin as well as wolf pelts.

If we were to sell them, the money would come back to the revolving funds because if we had a grading system for those four legged animals, we use 60% of the price of those four legged animals.

We have to do a review on those pretty soon and if we can do the same with the fox pelts, we could also review them as well. So, what we can do as a Department is to review the way marketing fur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were in Yellowknife that is the way it was done, because we wanted to help trappers. We did not really want the animal rights was taking away so much opportunity for hunters, or trappers. We did not have any funds left to do that. We could not even help the trapper because of the low price of commodities.

What we should do is to try to help them economically, the hunters and the trapper by giving them with incentive, because they also have to provide for themselves such as providing ski-doo's, and also some food for their families.

Mr. Chairman, I am glad to know that the Minister is seriously thinking about doing a review on the musk ox and the others, such as four legged animals. The hunter, like myself, we know that there is a lot of caribou that have cysts. We know that they are not dangerous to the animal but they are cysts. There is a lot of cysts in those caribou now. Why is that?

The caribou hunter in Coral Harbour said that the caribou go anywhere, because the caribou sniff the ground and every time they sniff the wolf feces, that is how they get the cysts. That is what the biologists say.

Then we are saying because of the price of wolf pelts are very, very low, and they are one of the difficult animals to harvest. I was wondering if you can support those harvesters? You would support the Inuk, and also would be helping our caribou population. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we can look into this how we can deal with this in the future. Those a good suggestions and they could be beneficial to the Nunavut. We'll take his comments into consideration. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That page was already approved. 11-4. Details of Expenditures, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$35 million, 302 thousand. Do you agree? Mr. Nutarak, did you have your hand up? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure that you will complete this department. He is appearing before the Committee because he is the Minister of Sustainable Development. His officials are here and we will deal with the Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, he is the same Minister. Are we going to let them continue on? Or are we going to take a short break before we go onto the next department, while the Minister is preparing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Department of Sustainable Development, main estimates and business plan. Do you agree that Department of Sustainable Development main estimates are complete?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister of Department of Sustainable Development and his officials for appearing before us. I would like to ask the Minister if he has closing remarks. Do you have opening remarks for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I want to thank the officials and also the member. Their comments and questions will be helpful to our department. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister, for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, do you have opening comments.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth deals with issues that are important to the future development of Nunavut's culture and linguistic nature. The strategies developed under Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's mandate will determine the success Nunavut has protecting Inuit language, culture and heritage.

I apologise.

(interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's business plan reflects the work the department has done recently to restructure and build capacity will allow us to move forward with the development and implementation of the long term strategies required for the department to achieve it's mandate.

Mr. Chairman, the official languages and services division, will coordinate all of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's language initiatives and is taking a lead on the development of the overall language strategy for the government of Nunavut.

The language strategy will ensure that Nunavummiut have access to their government in their own language whether that be Inuktitut, Innuinaqtut, French, or English. Mr. Chairman, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's community programs division, is the department's direct link to Nunavut's communities.

This division is working with Nunavut's elders and youth to development strategies that will promote healthy communities. As part of this effort, the department is developing a strategy that will benefit Nunavut's youth; we recognise that it is the youth themselves who know what they need from us. As a result, the department is currently undertaking extensive consultations with youth across Nunavut.

The wellness of Nunavut's communities depends largely on the involvement of our elders. It is the elders who can help the youth find their place in society by passing on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and promoting their pride in Inuit culture and language.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth wants to build a bridge elders and youth. We hope to create a youth cultural program that will bring elders and youth together in all Nunavut's communities.

We want to facilitate the passing on of Inuit Qaujimaqatunangit from generation to generation thus promoting community wellness and helping to preserve Inuit ways well into the future.

Mr. Chairman, one of the best ways to preserve and promote Inuit Qaujimaqatunangit is through oral history. I am pleased to inform the House that one of the department's major initiatives for the coming fiscal year is to collect the oral history from elders across Nunavut.

The department is committed to ensuring that everyone of Nunavut's communities have an active elder's committee and youth committee, therefore, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is establishing a yearly grant of \$2 thousand dollars for each of Nunavut's elders and youth committees.

In addition to this grant, these committees are eligible to apply for other funding under the department's grants and contributions program. The Community Programs Division is proactively advising hamlets, Nunavut's elders and youth committees and others about these programs.

The division also has a new toll-free number for greater access: 1-866-934-2035. We want to ensure that the department's funding programs and services are accessible to all Nunavummiut regardless of their age or language.

Mr. Chairman, one of the most important initiatives of the Heritage Division is the Archaeology Program, which is essential to the preservation of important historical sites. Each year, a number of excavations are organized across Nunavut.

These excavations uncover parts of Nunavut's past and contribute to their protection. Many of these excavations takes place at the request of communities and include local youth as part of the excavation team. Elders are consulted for their advice and opinion on various aspects of their excavation.

The Heritage Division's Toponymy program involves the research and re-establishment of traditional place names. With the involvement of elders, Nunavut will be able to recapture the traditional names of many areas, and use the original names that were used by Inuit for generations.

Mr. Chairman, 2003/2004, the department received \$500 thousand dollars for forced growth and initiatives. As I indicated earlier, \$50 thousand dollars of this funding is being dedicated to Nunavut's elders and youth committees. The remaining \$450 thousand dollars is being dedicated to capacity building and the staffing of positions essential to the work of the department, which will ensure the minimum level of staffing required in order to proceed with the department's most important initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, if the Government of Nunavut is ever to truly belong to the people of Nunavut, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit must become an integral part of government, and government must become an integral part of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

As a result, the department has allocated \$300 thousand dollars to the establishment of the new Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. This council, made up of Nunavummiut with special expertise of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, will provide the Government of Nunavut with guidance for including and implementing for including and implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government.

Although the council belongs to all departments, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will coordinate the council's work.

Mr. Chairman, the challenge we face to preserve traditions and values that have endured for thousands of years, but which are now being seriously affected by the arrival of western popular culture.

Given the proper tools, I am confident that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, with the help of Nunavummiut will meet the challenge and contribute to the building of a territory where people can live, work and play in any of Nunavut's official languages within a culture that respects Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are you going to bring your officials? Does the committee agree that his witnesses can come into the chamber?

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the Minister's officials to the witness table.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome to the Witness Table. I need the Minister to introduce his officials because I do not know both of them. If you can introduce your officials please. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, my Deputy Minister and also to my right ADM Anthony Saez, I was going to say, I apologize, I did not mention my Deputy Minister's name, Leona Aglukark. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. At this time, the time is ticking; I will ask the Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee, if he has opening comments.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to give the Committee opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2003-2004 Main Estimates and Business Plans of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Later on, Members of the Standing Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates. Mr. Chairman, Members understand that this important Department has undergone major restructuring when it established three new divisions: Official Languages, Heritage and Community Programs.

Members are pleased that the Department is looking at its abilities and capacity to fulfill its mandated responsibilities. Mr. Chairman, Members are pleased to see that the Department's Main Estimates have increased.

Members have expressed the concern in the past that this is an important Department, but it always had the smallest operations and maintenance budget. However, Members also noted that the majority of this increase is in the area of compensation and benefits.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, Members are pleased that the remainder of the increase is for the financial assistance of the projects that promote Elder and youth initiatives. As this has also been an area of concern in the past, Members would wish to see more funds available for grants and contribution programs.

Mr. Chairman, Members look forward to hearing more about the Department's Language Strategy, which is being developed to ensure that Inuktitut is the working language of the Government by the year 2020. Members support this initiative.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee is very pleased about the department's effort to collect oral history from elders across Nunavut. This will be very valuable to our youth and to the educators in Nunavut. We must ensure that we record the stories of our Elders before it is too late.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee looks forward to learning more about the creation of youth cultural programs that are intended to bring our Elders and youth together. The Committee is aware that this department has funded a similar project in Kugluktuk.

Members look forward to hearing more about the Elders and Youth Strategies that are currently under development by the department. Mr. Chairman, Members were pleased that the department is now providing an annual grant to Elders and Youth Committees in the amount of \$2 thousand. The Committee would like to be assured that communities will be made aware of how to access this fund.

Mr. Chairman, Members look forward to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit that will be made up of Nunavummiut to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within our government. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a major topic and is often brought up in the House. Mr. Chairman, Members are also concerned about the slow pace of establishing the Elders' Council.

Members would like to see a list of grants and contributions made by the department to be tabled annually in this House. Members would like to see the Department ensure that

groups and individual in all communities and regions have a fair chance of applying for funds from the department.

I am sorry I did not prepare to read this opening statement.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my Opening Remarks. I anticipate that individual Members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2003-2004 Main Estimates and Business Plans. I would like to close by reinforcing the comment made by Members over the past several years regarding the importance of ensuring that this department has the resources and tools necessary to fulfilling its important mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Before we start each member has ten minutes for general comments. Every time we review each department, each member has ten minutes for general comments. We are now on general comments. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a very brief comment. The Chairman has mentioned all of our concerns from the Standing Committee in regards to the minister's opening comments on page 3. I'm glad that he put page numbers in his opening comments. I'm glad he did have page numbers, on page 3.

The department is establishing a yearly of grant of \$2 thousand for each of Nunavut's elders and youth committees and at the top paragraph to promote Inuit oral history because I have been talking about this issue for the past 3 years because before all the elders die we have to start recording them.

We have to actually start recording them to prevent the oral history and the knowledge of the elders of how the elders have survived and what they have heard. I'm very pleased that you will be working on this issue.

I know that we should have, back in the 1970's when NWT got their first government established, we should have been dealing with this right away. Only the researchers have been working on this issue and I do want to see adequate funding for this because there is quite a few number of elders and this is a very important task and its even though the elders die off even though our younger generations when they become adults so that they will know by using CD-ROMs. Then we can look through the reports.

This has to be done as soon as possible and I do would like to see adequate funding provided for this program and also because this is an urgent case now and I'd do want to see you deal with it as an urgent emergency matter.

Yes, we our elders who have that knowledge are getting very old and also I had asked that question and some elders do write their memoirs or write their diaries.

A Pond Inlet elder resident Mr. Nutarak, writes his daily diary starting from the days when the missionaries first arrived and when the RCMP first arrived and he wrote down all the family trees of the residents of Pond Inlet.

I don't know if he ever seen a tree but he's made a family tree. Starting from way back when and I do like to see that perhaps get a hundred thousand dollars funding for that. That this hundred thousand dollars could be used by one PY and that individual has worked for many years collecting information that just an example.

And there are other people who are writing down their memoirs and yes we need to collect and record the oral histories. Once these people are gone. I don't think we can get their knowledge by talking to their graves because they can't respond because they're no longer alive. This is an urgent case now.

Mr. Chairman, many of us have regretted not knowing our oral history as to where we came from. If there is no foundation, our children will never know, although they may know where Henry the eighth came from and where Martin Frobisher came from, they may know where Christopher Columbus but they wouldn't know their own history. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Main Estimates for 2003-2004 and Business Plans, Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Although I do not have much comments to make, but I will make a brief comment. I would like to thank your officials and staff for working with the Elders and the youth.

We do have many customs and traditions and values, even I am forgetting some of the traditions and I know some of the values and customs, but on calling your relatives traditionally like your in-laws and your cousins, your kinship is no longer being used traditionally.

The Elders know your body parts and they know the animals bones and body parts names. Yes, even I have forgotten some parts of the names for these animals, but the Elders know all the names.

It is becoming very urgent now that it is time we have to start working on that, but I am very glad that and thankful that you are working on it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to say a short comment in regards to the Department. I am very pleased to hear that the Department is helping towards using initiatives in terms of grants and contributions, whether the youth are going down south to promote Inuit culture outside the territory. So, I am happy to hear that this initiative is being done.

And as well, in the Minister's opening comments, this \$2 thousand dollar initiative is now in place, it was not in there before. That is good to see, although it may be small, it is a start.

Perhaps, it was the day before, I commented on the Kugluktuk infrastructure from the Federal Government, but once that funding disappears, it suddenly would be a problem where to get that money from.

Perhaps, two-three years down the road, in our in advance if we plan where the youth were to get their funding in terms of their youth initiatives. Perhaps, we can start planning on this right now.

As you know, if it is okay that if we get Federal dollars for youth initiatives, but it is not always the case, you know, year by year. So, it is a concern for the youth, you know, when they want the programs, you know, to roll on a yearly basis. So, it is a concern and I am wondering where the next dollars would come from for the youth initiatives. What I am saying now is, it is fine, but in terms of the early contributions, if the Federal dollars are gone, you know, it will create a problem. I would like to see that its in place on a yearly basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no one else on the list. Would you like to go page by page? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's opening comments I was proud of the minister through his opening comments he mentioned and from hearing the different plans there is a big improvement from the beginning since 1999. And we can really see good progress.

We as Inuit are starting to deal with our own problems. Although slowly but surely, we are getting better results from the government and in encouraging Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the Health Minister also set up in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinators for departments and the CLEY department is really answering to the requests for the needs and the increase in the budget is good to see and there should also be a consideration to even increase the funding even further for the department so that we can adjust the urgent needs to record elders history and different projects.

There is going to be even more solution because this is a very new department. We're going to have to figure out ways on how we can preserve the Inuit culture and languages within the departments and governments and we're going to need a lot more time to structure the departments and we are in the legislature and we have to all promote Nunavut made products as well also promote the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and as well, I'm really glad to see the respect that is being gained for Inuktitut languages and culture through this department.

I'll leave my comments at that. I'm just commending the department and I encourage them to keep working hard and to increase their budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no one on my list at this point. Would you like to go page by page?

We're on page 8-5. Directorate. Branch summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2 million, 633 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 8-6. Branch summary. Official languages and services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 826 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm really glad to see that section on page 8-6.

As youth today, the languages are quite difficult for young people now. For instance, it's hard to try and remember all the terms in Inuktitut. Having forgotten a lot of the terms, we need to figure out ways of communicating, although it may not be the right way to say it but for instance, walrus terms, there's *puiviik*, when in fact there are other meanings for that.

So, those are the types of things that we really need to teach in teaching Inuktitut language, as to have courses in Inuktitut and English terms when they're taught in schools.

They should also always keep in mind, how do you say this in Inuktitut because as interpreters, or bilingual people, we always just try to be so efficient and we may not be saying it the right way, so we, I think should have more courses for interpreter/translators to come up with the right terms. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes Inuktitut terminology development has started. Last year, they had a workshop on the Inuinnaqtut language and at this time, they're working on the Inuktitut language terminology development for interpreters and language development. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same page, compensation and benefits, is there an increase in the number of PYs, is that why there is an increase in there. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there has been some restructuring within the department. The divisions that were set up in heritage, langue services, youth and elders division, so in fact we had to set up new PYs for the division. In the heritage division, heritage, language, elders and youth division. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Official Languages and Services, Branch Summary, total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 826 thousand dollars. Agreed. Thank you. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): I apologise, I guess 8-7 is further to 8-6, so my question is regarding they're actually pretty accurate and there is no change or increases or decreases at all in any of the main estimates for traditional language promotion and protection, \$100 thousand dollars and \$200 thousand dollars for what looks like the same exact program. What is that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100 thousand dollars on the top part can be accessed at \$15 thousand dollars each and the one \$200 thousand dollars are for grants and contributions that are \$15 thousand dollars and over. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. 8-6 and 8-7 are the same. These are just further. Total Operations and Maintenance for Official Languages and Services, \$1 million, 826 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 8-8. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8-8, part of my question is on 8-10 for the Nunavut Arts, Cultural, and Heritage Activities. Culture and Communications Programs. I would like ask a question regarding all those projects.

I am not too sure exactly whether these are for Grants and Contributions. Are those for communities who would like to take on those projects, or organizations? Who can apply for these funds? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. On page 8-10, these are Grants and Contributions for the promotion of the Arts. The \$250 thousand is to encourage individuals, or organizations actively involved in the preservation. On page 8-9, these are also Grants and Contributions for those projects. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. 8-8, Branch Summary, Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$2 million, 991 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Page 8-12, Branch Summary, Community Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 772 thousand. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8-15, the \$2 million, 550 thousand dollars allocated from the Federal Government for the Official Languages Agreement for Nunavut. Is that for the French and Inuktitut languages? Do you use 100 percent of that funding from the \$2.5 million? Or do you always have to ask for extra funds from the Nunavut Government? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Although that is not a part of 8-13 and 14, and 8-12, this is a separate information page, but I think that it is okay if we go ahead and discuss 8-15.

We distribute this fund and we always use up all the funds for the Official Languages Agreement and it is very well used by the Nunavut Government. We always use it up and we do not usually need more than that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Community Programs, total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 772 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. 8-15 is just for further information. We will go to 8-4. 8-4. Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Arvaluk had his hand up and I thought that you would call his name.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I apologize but it is just a question. Nothing against anyone, regarding these Main Estimates regarding page 8-11. Just a question for Grants and Contributions, it looks like new money of \$100 thousand dollars for a Toponymy Program. If I may ask, if you'll allow me Mr. Chairman, can you please have them elaborate on that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): If that's alright with the committee. Okay. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Toponymy program to provide financial support to individuals and communities, amount of \$100 thousand dollars. I'm just asking for information purposes if you could elaborate. I'm pleased to

see it there, but if you could have them elaborate on what this new monies is exactly for. Can the Minister please explain it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a program that we are happy to do. It's to provide names for hunting places outside of our communities. This is what the program is about.

This is for putting traditional place names on the maps. This is what the program is about. By looking at all the lands outside of you community and then using their traditional names of the hunting grounds. That's what it is. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): These are the last parts of some of the department, second last one. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you very much. There's a place name here in Iqaluit. Iqaluit used to have names outside their community. It states that, it was really good that Iqaluit people were given some money to put in traditional names for the areas outside of Iqaluit.

The Minister stated that this program is for the preservation of traditional place names outside of the communities. Who can access those funds? Can the 26 communities access funds from this fund.

So, for instance, there are 25 of them that want to access funds from this program. Would they be able to access it or what's the limit that a community can access? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can clearly understand your concern because if all the 26 communities ask for fund for this I would have to ask for additional funds or they may have to wait for the next fiscal year. There are usually an elders council in the community or elder's committee and if they want to access the funding to do preservation of place names, then they could work with my staff and they would kind of find out what areas they want to do and then that's the amount of money they would be provided with. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): That is good to hear. I would like to commend the department for starting this program.

I'll tell you a little story. I was asked to go get some people from this outpost camp and I knew their traditional names around Pond Inlet area.

They all had their traditional names in Inuktitut. It doesn't matter what the land looks like. They all have traditional names. I was asked by a young person to go get these individuals from the outpost camp. So, he gave me the name of the lady, name of the place, and I took off and I looked around everywhere and that was the first time I've been there. It wasn't the first time I've been there. There was these Qallunaaq that were there at that I have to go get.

I believe that the traditional names of places should be called in Inuktitut with their original names or original titles. My question is, has this been advertised to the public in Nunavut or is it already well known by the people in the community or by the elders committees in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be advertising it to the people in the communities but we wanted to be able to provide this and then advertise to the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back to page 8-4. Branch summary. Detail of expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$9 million, 222 thousand. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this page I don't really have a question but something of a comment about the culture the Department of Culture, Language and Elders and Youth are dealing with the elders and the language and the culture of elders and young people and all Nunavummiut.

NWT bought about the HTOs and then they made a mistake and they wanted them to be able to look after or manage their wildlife in their communities. That has always been not our tradition.

Our tradition has been is hunting and to manage our wildlife and to be spiritual with the animals. That's the belief of the Inuit people and they have to be able to use up the whole animal.

We have to think about like for the future and for the benefit of our children, we have to be able to teach them the value of wildlife. Like we use it for clothing, we use it for tools, we use it for food. You have to be able to believe in those things. You have to believe in it to in order to use it all.

Can you as a department talk with the Minister of Sustainable Development like perhaps take that wildlife department to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the wildlife management, we would be able to like, hunting is a very big part of our culture.

So, if that wildlife division could be given to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, that would be that we would have a better system. Like, it is part of the

culture of the Inuit and I feel that the issue be given to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, if I will be the Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and Sustainable Development I would be happy with that. But we have to, as Executive Council Members, we will have to review that before we make a commitment to that.

Perhaps, if the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee could probably look into it as well along with the Executive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Detail of Expenditures, 8-4, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$9 million 222 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the Department's Operations and Maintenance of Culture, Elders, Language and Youth is done?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister and I would also like to thank your staff for being able to attend. Do you have any last comments?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would also like to thank my staff and thank the interpreters for being able to assist us today. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Legislative Assembly Budget is the next one. Just before we start that, maybe we could break for about five-minutes while everybody is preparing. Thank you. Five-minutes break.

>>Committee recessed at 20:12 p.m. and resumed at 20:24 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Order. Thank you for coming back. We will be dealing with the Department of Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker and his officials, would you like to come to the witness table.

Mr. Speaker, could you call your officials to the table. Does the committee agree that his officials come to the witness table?

Sergeant-at-Arms please escort them in.

Do you have your Opening Remarks, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, just for the record I want introduce so that everyone knows. John Quirke, the Clerk of the Assembly. A thirty-two year veteran of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. And also on my left, your right, Steve Pollock, the Director of Corporate Services. Mr. Chairman, if it is alright I will proceed with some brief Opening Remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

It is a pleasure for me to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the 2003-2004 Main Estimates for the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to begin by thanking the Members of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit for their comments and input into the Assembly's budget over the past year. I look forward to Members' questions and comments today.

Before getting into the detail of this year's proposed budget for the Legislative Assembly, I would like to take some time to account to you today for our performance over the past year, and look ahead to our work to come during our final year in office.

Over the past year, the Office of the Legislative Assembly has worked to support Members in the development of the Legislative Assembly's statutory base. As Members know, we have successfully introduced and passed a new *Integrity Act*, a new *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, a new *Elections Act*, a new *Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act* and new amendments to the *Retiring Allowances Act*.

I am pleased to tell you that over the past year, the Assembly has kept fully up-to-date in meetings its statutory tabling requirements for annual reports and other documents.

At present, over 50% of the positions in the Office of the Legislative Assembly are staffed by beneficiaries.

We successfully held the fall 2002 decentralized sitting of the Legislative Assembly in Pangnirtung. Staff will be in Baker Lake in early May to prepare the groundwork for the spring sitting of the Assembly.

As we enter our final year in office, elections readiness and transition issue will become increasingly important.

Work is well underway in getting the operations of Elections Nunavut up and running. Members may have seen the ads have already been placed in Northern newspapers to recruit returning officers for the general election. The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is working to staff up her office in preparation for the work ahead.

All of us remember what it was like during the first few weeks after we were elected to the Legislative Assembly. Over the coming months, we will be asking Members for their ideas how to best deliver the orientation and transition program for the Members of the Second Assembly.

I would like to turn now to the detail of our proposed expenditures for 2003-2004.

The 2003-2004 budget will be the fifth budget since the new government took office. In 1999-2000, our very first set of Main Estimates budgeted a total of \$13 million, 151 thousand for the Legislative Assembly. Five years later, our 2003-2004 Main Estimates project total expenditures of \$12 million, 989 thousand.

I would like to draw your attention to a few highlights from our expenditure plans for 2003-2004 budget. You will note that our estimates have dropped from 2002-2003, primarily because of the one-time cost associated with the new supplementary retiring allowances plan that have now been paid.

Because the next general election will be held during the next fiscal year, in February of 2004, the budget for Election Nunavut has been increased by \$1.2 million. This will be the first general election administered entirely in Nunavut, under the new *Elections Act*.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I would like to again like to thank the Member over the last number of years, and I welcome your comments and suggestions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, welcome. I would, at this time, call on the Chairperson of the Committee of Ajaqtiit, Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to give the Committee's opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2003-2004 Main Estimate and Business Plan of the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Later on, Members of the Committee will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee Ajaqtiit, has had an opportunity to meet with the Speaker and his staff. The Speaker was able to give an update on the Assembly's proposed expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee is pleased that the Legislative Assembly continues to be fully up to date in meeting its statutory tabling documents and expects this to continue. The Committee notes that the Office of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut has been very transparent about tabling the implemental cost of its decentralized sessions.

Mr. Chairman, with the general election set for February 16th 2004, the Committee looks forward to a smooth transition from the first to the second Legislative Assembly. The Committee is pleased that the Chief Electoral Officer is working hard to be prepared for this election.

Having said that, Mr. Chairman, the Committee is also pleased that the Office of the Legislative Assembly has plans to orientate new Members as well as having a transition program for that second assembly.

The Committee would suggest that orientation for new Members, especially unilingual Members in such areas of the rules of the Assembly, using computers and email, and accessing Members' services.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee continues to be pleased with the artwork that is showcased in this Assembly. The Committee encourages the Assembly to ensure that all communities have an opportunity to have their artists' works on display.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee commends the Assembly for establishing its own network domain. Members also appreciate receiving assistance in the Inuktitut on IT issues. Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks.

I anticipate that individual Members will raise their own comments and concerns on the assets of the 2003-2004 Main Estimates and Business Plans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, deputy chair of the standing committee. I have repeated this a few times but each member has 10 minutes for their general comments. We'll move onto 1-5. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 1-5, Contract Services, \$1 million 90 thousand dollars is that for the Hansard. Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't believe we spent this much money on contract services. Food is a very small part of it Mr. McLean. But the contracts are cleaning, security, warehouse leasing, broadcasting and Hansard. That is the bulk of the contract costs.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really appreciate it when I see very expensive. I too speak in Inuktitut and also, my Inuktitut comments, I use my Inuktitut comments using Inuit culture but I don't see it in the Hansard, what I have actually said, in the Hansard, word for word.

I have only seen the interpreters translation into Inuktitut and then it's translated into Inuktitut and I don't really appreciate that but my colleagues who speak in English, their words or comments are recorded in what they say.

So, when are we going to start using the Inuktitut floor being used in the Hansard, not using the interpreters interpretation? Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're aware of the concern that the member brings up and we have heard it before from other members. I assure you that the staff there our contract staff are doing the best that they can to keep up with the members and the words they have before them.

I can only tell you that there is difficulty with the number of dialects that we have to deal with and at the pace that we run through business here in the house and that the staff are trying their best.

We have talked to the staff about this issue. They are aware of it and we're certainly hoping that things will improve, as they have. It certainly is not perfect yet, but we're working towards improving the situation for members. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: I didn't know that writing the original wording of a speaker would be harder to do than to actually translate it and re-type it. I'm not quite sure what it's got to do with what the speaker is talking about.

Because it would be, like in English. You would be transcribing from the tapes, as you hear them. The second question I have, Mr. Chairman, is blue copies, blue Hansard. Some of our constituents demand that they like to hear what we said yesterday.

These blue prints are extremely difficult to fax because it's dark paper. Can make a consideration to using lighter paper, beige or white for blue Hansard. I know it's maybe traditional but with the remote communities such as ours that's very difficult to get to them quickly so that they could give us a call back and to verify what if we represented their concerns and that very next day.

So, I would like to suggest is if the speaker can make a consideration to switch from blue to white. Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is the first time we've heard of this concern. It sounds like a reasonable request. I don't see any problem with changing the paper to white which is the traditional way of doing the blues that we call them.

Like I say, it's a reasonable request and I don't see why we cannot accommodate the member in his request. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I mean in Inuktitut what is the average plans in the near future that there be transferring the into Inuktitut soon because I know, correct me if I'm wrong on this, so I know that they're not translated yet in Inuinnaqtun.

Is there any plans, I should also say too, that I'm aware, we are short of interpreters, translators, in Inuinnaqtun and they're big, big documents that would take a long time to do but I'm just wondering if the speaker had considered or make some plans to start doing that in the near future. Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again we're aware and share the same concern with what the member stated. I would suggest this point that we could bring this issue to the MSB for consideration. It is a fairly significant budget item but in many cases that shouldn't be a factor when determining which language the workings of the house are.

So, I would suggest that we can bring it to the MSB for consideration and look at the overall budget commitment to for this increase. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? Page. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. 9-5. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$6 million, 145 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 1-6. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Expenditures on behalf of members. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 652 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Branch summary. Office of the Speaker. Total Operations and Maintenance. Page 1-7. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Travel and transportation. It's almost three times higher than the previous years. Is it because the speaker has to travel quite a bit? It is because we will be travelling this coming summers. Is that why there is a large increase? Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd love to answer that question but the clerk here is dying to address us all. I'll allow Mr. Clerk to address your question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Members will go back to page 1-5, you will notice that the travel budget for the Office of the Clerk has decreased by about \$120 thousand. Quite a bit of that money was moved into the Office of the Speaker.

The money for the Speaker is the conference travel, the money for travel for other Members to participate in Commonwealth Parliament Association meetings. All that money has been moved from my budget into the Speaker's budget. So, that is why the increase, it is just a transfer from one activity to another, but it is travel for conferences and Mr. Speaker will take Members with him. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 1-7, Office of the Speaker, Total Operation and Maintenance, \$335 thousand, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 1-8, Office of the Legislative Assembly, Branch Summary, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Total Operation and Maintenance, \$1 million, 200 thousand. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): At the top, compensation and benefits, as Mr. Speaker has said that there will be general election held and that we will utilize this \$1.2 million dollars for the general election.

During his opening comments, he stated that compensation and benefits and there is an increase by \$200 thousand dollars for the general election. How many casuals or returning officers will you be hiring from this? Thank you.

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Quirke has the details on the monies being forwarded for the elections.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Quirke.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the Member's question about the \$200 thousand dollar increase. That is the staff pre-election officers and will work in Rankin Inlet. It also includes the funding for the Chief Electoral Officer.

The question on, in terms of the number of returning officers, etcetera, etcetera, those people that the Chief Electoral Officer will hire and how many she will hire for the one, two communities, but whatever the case is, the cost of those people are actually in the fees and payments of \$300 thousand dollars.

That is where those people will be paid out of and I do not know how many she is going to hire, but she will obviously hire the amount that she needs to do the job and returning officers to deputy returning officers to poll clerks to people who will knock on your door to get you on the voters' list.

So, that is where that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Page 1-8, Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1 million, 200 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Office of the Legislative Assembly, Branch Summary, page 1-9, Offices of Independent Commissioners, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$657 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go back to page 1-4, Office of the Legislative Assembly, Department Summary, Details of Expenditures, Total Operations and Maintenance, \$12 million, 989 thousand, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that we completed the Office of the Legislative Assembly Main Estimates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker and your officials. Do you have any final comments?

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank the members for their support and their staff and that's it. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Order please. Order please. Order.

>>*Laughter*

We'll go through Bill 30. If we can get our law clerk here. Welcome back Sue. You probably have Bill 30 in front of you. Main estimates, 2003/2004, do you have it in front of you. Bill 30. Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act, 2003/2004. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 3, on page 3, Schedule; Vote 1 options 1 and 2, Operations and Maintenance, Total. \$699 million, 970 thousand dollars. Do you agree?
Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Just a simple question regarding the main estimates. For \$699 million, 970 thousand dollars, is that for all the departments that we've reviewed or is this including the Capital appropriations? For capital.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is strictly for the Operations and Maintenance of the budget review that we've just gone through for the past couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What about the capital estimates? Is there a separate bill for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital was done last fall and the supplementary bills were done earlier today, they are Bill 31 and 32. So this is strictly the Operations and Maintenance for 2003/2004. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When are we going to deal and review the capital estimates? I'm just concerned of those contracts we have to be dealt with.

We're only dealing with some of the Branch Summary for those capital estimates and we had to go through the details just like we did last year. I thought we would have to do that. Some of the capital estimates I have questions about. So, that's why I'm asking these questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, the capital bill was done last fall for the current, upcoming 2003/2004 fiscal years. Those are the tenders that are out; some of those tenders are out now in the news papers.

The capital for the 2004/2005 year will be reviewed this coming fall once we go through the preparations and the appropriate standing committees etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were going to meet till 9:00. That's why I just needed to kill a bit more time.

January, February 14, or the 12th, the Canadian Government had some funds for Pond Inlet for the airport terminal construction. Do we need to approve that for that project here in the house? There was one for Kugluktuk and Pond Inlet for the airport terminal construction.

There was an announcement recently but I haven't seen it through these main estimates but I guess we don't need go through the house for that? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a Supplementary Appropriation for the ship program agreement outside between CGT and the Federal Government. I believe it took place in Pangnirtung session.

I couldn't say, I can't recall right now. It's a Pond Inlet terminal building was a part of that or if there is another one coming but I'll certainly check on that for the member and advise him tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to bill 30. Operations and Maintenance. \$699 million, 970thousand Do you agree? Total Operations and Maintenance. \$699 million, 970thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turn the page. One of page 33. Do you agree? Four, do you agree? Five, do you agree? Thank you. Do you agree that bill 30 is now ready for third reading? Do you agree?

>> *Applause*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Sue. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): It's 9:00 o'clock now so I move to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): The Speaker can return now.

Speaker: Returning to orders of the day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee has been considering Bill 30, Bill 31, and Bill 32 and would like to report that Bills 30, 31, and 32, are ready for Third Reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Chairman, there is a Motion on the Floor. Is there seconder for the Motion? Mr. Ng will second the Motion. The Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 30 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act 2003/2004 – Third Reading

Bill 31 - Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act, No. 3 2002-2003 – Third Reading

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act, No 2. 2002-2003 - Third Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 30, the Appropriation Act 2003-2004, Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2002-2003, and Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003 be read for the Third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The Motion is noted. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Motion is carried, and Bill 30, Bill 31, and Bill 32 have had Third Reading. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for Friday, March 28, 2003

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions

5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 21-1(6)
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 34
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 28
 - Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 28, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant at Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 21:03*

