



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

6th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 59

Wednesday October 22, 2003

Pages 3932 – 3993

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Nattilik)
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(Iqaluit West)
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(Tunnunig)

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

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(Kugluktuk)

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Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday October 22, 2003

Members Present:

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Haviyoyak, Mr. Enoki Iqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Hon. Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to call on Mr. Haviyoyak to say the prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, Members. Before we proceed with the Orders of the Day I wish to read the following communication from the Commissioner of Nunavut, dated October 21, 2003.

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following Bills during the sixth session of the first Legislative Assembly. Bill 44. Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 1, 2003/2004, Bill 45. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 2, 2003/2004, Bill 46. Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2004/2005, Bill 47. Supplementary Appropriation (O and M) Act No. 3, 2002/2003. And finally, Bill 48. Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 4, 2002/2003.

Signed by the Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq.

Moving onto Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 184 – 1(6): Fiscal Update

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Members are aware, this is the last time I will rise in this Legislative Assembly to update Members and all Nunavummiut on the fiscal situation of the Government of Nunavut, and to introduce the Capital Estimates for the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, throughout this first mandate of the Government of Nunavut, we have stressed the need to maintain a sound financial position. We have been able to do this while at the same time focusing our expenditure efforts on priority areas that best meet the needs of Nunavummiut and the long-term goals of the government as expressed in the Bathurst Mandate.

In order to do this, difficult choices had to be made that recognized the unique situation of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is unique amongst the other provincial and territorial jurisdictions in Canada. Our territory relies heavily on transfers from the federal government, more so than any other Canadian jurisdiction. This poses special constraints on us in planning our expenditures.

The major federal transfer we receive can be significantly affected by changes in spending in the provinces or at the local government level in other jurisdictions. Movements in our population estimates and those for Canada as a whole also have significant impacts on the funds flowing to us through the Formula Financing Agreement. These changes can result in either sudden unexpected pieces of good fortune or in sudden reductions in Nunavut's revenue flows. Both effect our planning cycle and require that special attention be paid to maintaining a healthy fiscal position.

Mr. Speaker we are currently re-negotiating our Formula Financing Agreement with the federal government. Senior Finance officials have presented a business case to the federal government that emphasized the need for continued strong financial support from the federal government so that we have adequate resources to deliver public services and to make progress on solving some of our social and economic development needs.

Minister Manley, the federal Finance Minister, will meet my finance colleagues from the other two territories and me before Christmas to discuss the Formula renewal.

Mr. Speaker, this will be the first time a federal Finance Minister has held a special meeting with territorial finance Ministers to specifically discuss our Formula Financing Agreements.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, during this mandate progress has been made in having the federal government recognize that per capita funding allocations for important health, infrastructure and other programs does not work for small jurisdictions such as Nunavut.

The recent Health Accord that Premier Okalik with his territorial colleagues resolved with the Prime Minister was specific recognition that the old methods are not adequate for the North. As well, the recently announced municipal infrastructure and housing funding is another important example that persistent and well informed arguments may be changing the view that the North can not be funded like other jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have been able to effectively meet the fiscal challenges that came with establishing the first Government of Nunavut. We have invested the resources available to us over our first 5 years wisely and have maintained a healthy fiscal situation for future governments.

Our Fiscal Performance and Prospects

The government has sought to ensure that a healthy fiscal situation would be in place for a new government.

In the budget speech earlier this year, it was projected that the government would have a deficit, for 2003-2004, of almost \$12 million. However, since I tabled the budget in March, a mix of circumstances meant we will not be able to maintain our planned target. Unexpected spending pressures in both program delivery costs and capital had to be dealt with in this fiscal year.

The single largest area of spending pressure is with the delivery of health care. Mr. Speaker, the increasing cost of delivering health care is a concern to governments across Canada. I have just returned from a Finance Ministers' meeting where this particular matter was raised by a number of my provincial and territorial colleagues. There is a need for us to ensure that we deliver adequate health care but at a reasonable cost. In the coming months this matter will be addressed at a joint federal/provincial/territorial Finance and Health Ministers' meeting.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that health care to Nunavummiut is maintained, we will be proposing to increase the budget for the Department of Health and Social Services for 2003-04 by \$26.3 million. A Supplementary Appropriation will be introduced in this Session for your consideration.

In addition to the pressures on the operating budget, capital expenditures are approximately \$10.7 million higher than approved in the 2003-04 Capital Estimates. This increase is due to the replacement of the Joamie School, the fires at Clyde River and Repulse Bay, and the decision to build rather than lease the Residential Care Facility at Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, in total we anticipate that additional expenditures for 2003-04 will be approximately \$36 million higher than budgeted.

Mr. Speaker as indicated at the beginning of this statement this government places a high priority on maintaining a sound fiscal position. Our heavy reliance on federal transfers means we must live within our means.

The new spending pressures have a potential to destabilize the governments sound management as we approach the close of this first mandate.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker the recently announced population adjustments associated with the 2001 Census mean that we expect to receive an additional \$30 million under our Formula Financing Agreement.

Also, in order to ensure that we leave a healthy fiscal situation for a new government we are proposing a net reduction in the operating budgets of departments, other than Health

and Social Services, of \$11.2 million. These reductions will be realized through efficiencies in government operations, and not through changes in programs that directly affect Nunavummiut.

Adjustments to individual departmental allocations will be introduced in this session for your consideration through Supplementary Appropriations to address the proposed changes to departmental expenditures.

The increase in expenditures will be partially offset through these lower expenditures and the higher revenues that we expect to receive as a result of the new population estimates. We now project that the deficit for 2003-04 will be approximately \$50 million. However, since our revenues exceeded expenditures during the first three years of this mandate, the Government remains in a sound financial position and we expect to close this mandate with a cash surplus in place for the new government.

>> *Applause*

2004-05 Capital estimates

Mr. Speaker, as indicated earlier, I am also introducing the Capital Appropriation Act for 2004-05.

For fiscal 2004-05 our government is planning to allocate just over \$108 million for capital expenditures on projects that will benefit communities throughout Nunavut. This is less than the \$143 million included in the Capital Estimates for 2003-04. However, it is still significantly above our target of \$75 million for capital expenditures that the Government would like to maintain because of the funding required for major projects that are underway.

I will now highlight departmental capital budgets for the upcoming year.

The Department of Health and Social Services will have the single largest capital budget for the coming fiscal year at \$28.6 million. Our objective is to improve the capacity to provide health care to Nunavummiut close to home, and reduce our dependence on facilities in the south.

In addition to the \$22.9 million included in the budget for three major health projects that are ongoing, funding of \$4.1 million is included for replacement of the health center in Igloolik, and \$1.1 million is provided to complete the Residential Care Facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, Consistent with the goals of the Bathurst Mandate to improve access to education and provide affordable housing for all Nunavummiut, 39 percent of the capital budget is for education projects and housing. Funding is provided for a new high school in Arviat, for school additions in Whale Cove and Iqaluit, and as noted previously, for replacement of the Joamie School in Iqaluit. In addition the budget provides for a new

territorial library in Baker Lake, student housing for the Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay, and a new Community Learning Center in Cape Dorset.

The Capital Estimates include \$10.1 million for public housing. This will be matched by the federal government through the Strategic Infrastructure Fund. The combined funding available from the GN budget and the Strategic Infrastructure Fund will enable the construction of an additional 80 public housing units in 2004-05. Mr. Speaker, all communities of Nunavut will benefit from additional public housing.

The Strategic Infrastructure Fund announced by the Federal Government on October 5, 2003 in Rankin Inlet also identified funding for larger scale water and wastewater projects. This is a priority need in communities, and the matching funding required by the Government of Nunavut is included in the 2004-05 Capital Estimates and the Five-Year Capital Plan.

The total budget for Community Government and Transportation capital expenditures in 2004-05 is \$19.2 million. This includes \$16.6 million for community projects, of which approximately one half is for community sewage and water projects. There is \$ 2.6 million for transportation projects.

The CGT budget includes approximately 115 projects with expenditures in almost all communities in 2004-05. In addition to the capital contribution of \$4 million for projects in Iqaluit, other major expenditures include sewage treatment upgrades in Cape Dorset, replacing the water supply line in Cambridge Bay, water treatment in Gjoa Haven, sewage and water works in Rankin Inlet, Coral Harbour, and Resolute Bay, and a sewage lagoon study in Kugluktuk. Communities will also benefit from new funding for local access roads, and upgrading of airport facilities.

Mr. Speaker, also of direct benefit to communities is the \$569 thousand budgeted for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. This money is for contributions to community heritage, youth and elders centers across Nunavut.

The Department of Public Works and Services will have a capital budget of \$7.7 million. This includes over \$5 million for rehabilitation and construction of bulk fuel storage facilities across Nunavut. Major projects to receive funding include the tank farms in Arctic Bay, Hall Beach, Resolute Bay, Kugaaruk, and Repulse Bay.

For 2004-05, the Department of Sustainable Development will manage a capital budget of almost \$2 million for various tourism, parks and wildlife projects around Nunavut. An allocation of \$575 thousand is included for a new wildlife garage in Whale Cove.

The Department of Justice will receive \$7.2 million for capital projects in the coming year. This includes \$6.5 million for a new Justice Center that will be located in Iqaluit. Completion is planned for 2005/06.

Mr. Speaker, for the past four years we have concentrated on developing the capacity needed by a new government to deliver services to Nunavummiut effectively. A major part of that effort has been directed towards developing our capital infrastructure.

We can be proud of what we have accomplished. Nunavummiut throughout the territory have benefited from new schools, additional public housing, new health facilities, and improvements to municipal infrastructure. We have done this by stretching the resources available through federal transfers to the limit. With growing demands for limited program funds, we will not be able to meet our infrastructure requirements alone.

The recent announcement by the federal government to increase infrastructure funding for Nunavut is a welcome move in the right direction. Mr. Speaker, the efforts of the Premier and my Cabinet Colleagues, working together with their counterparts in the federal government, has resulted in an improved understanding of the special needs of Nunavut. It is now increasingly recognized that federal allocations to Nunavut for special initiatives should be based on need and not simple per capita calculations.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by emphasizing that our capital infrastructure remains woefully inadequate. The challenge remains for the Government of Nunavut and the federal government to work together to provide Nunavummiut with the public infrastructure that most other Canadians take for granted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 608 – 1(6): 100th Anniversary and Celebrations Roald Amundsen at Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am going to be making a lengthy Member's Statement.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and all Members of the House the success of this summer's 100th anniversary celebration of Roald Amundsen's arrival in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, celebrations included performances by local dance groups, bands, drummers and throat singers. A new monument was unveiled. It is an impressive rock cairn overlooking the harbour on the north end of the community with a bronze plaque.

This monument was unveiled by His Excellency Ingvard Havnen, Norwegian Ambassador and by our own Premier Okalik. I would like to thank the Premier, the Ambassador and his wife, Elisabeth, for sharing this event with us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to emphasize that the community as a whole worked together to make this event a true celebration.

I would especially like to thank the lead coordinator, Anthony Anguttitauruq, the Recreation Coordinator, Dave Hunter, and the Northwest Passage Working Group that was chaired by Charlie Cahill.

Mr. Speaker, this event would not have been possible without the help and support of our community elders.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Gjoa Haven have many projects that they would like to see develop from this initial celebration. Plans are in place to create a community website dedicated to the anniversary. Mr. Speaker, I would like to unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude a statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you very much my colleagues, and thank you Mr. Speaker.

This will promote Gjoa Haven as a tourist destination. In addition, schools plan to dramatize the historic meeting of the Inuit and Europeans.

Mr. Speaker, the monument is only the first part of a vision to create a park overlooking the harbour and community. Next year, the ship from Norway will arrive in Gjoa Haven when the passage is clear. It would be wonderful if further development has been achieved by the time we welcome the ship.

I would like to encourage the Minister to work closely with the community to see this vision fulfilled. Later today, I will ask the Minister what plans his department has in this area.

I would like to show you T-shirts to celebrate this trip. We also have other promotional items that will be coming in to mark the celebration of the Northwest Passage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 609 - 1(6): Compliment Minister for Health and Social Services

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will wear my bright orange shirt tomorrow so that you will be able to see me in the House.

Mr. Speaker, it is not very often that I stand in the House to compliment the Government on a job well done. Today I have to take special notice to the Honourable Minister of Health. I know that sometimes that I am very cruel to him. I banter with him occasionally and I am always saying that he is not doing a good job.

Mr. Speaker, there are times when I stand up and say, "Yes, he is doing a good job," occasionally. This is one of those days that I will stand up and compliment the Minister for a job well done. As you know, we attended the grand opening, the grand opening of the new Kivalliq Boarding Home in Winnipeg this June.

Mr. Speaker, after so many years of Kivalliq people suffering in that old health facility or that old boarding home with the rats and the mice, and the non-air conditioned building and things like that we finally get a facility that is probably the best, I would say to the Minister, in Canada.

So I would like to take this time to thank the Minister for helping my constituents in my community, and also all Kivalliq people for finally have a boarding home that they can be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 610 - 1(6): Tragic Incidents in Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier, my colleagues, and also Patterk Netser. I would like to welcome you all.

This past summer we had some tragic incidents in my community. Two of my relatives drowned during a boating accident. Even though there are such tragedies, life must go on, especially for my relatives in Hall Beach and Igloolik. I would also like to thank the people in my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 611 - 1(6): Annual Medical Visits to Community

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I was not able to participate in this meeting because of the poor weather in Pond Inlet. For the fifty years that I have been living there, that was the first time that we have had poor conditions.

In the early sixties, the C.D. Howe vessel used to go to the various communities on an annual basis. During those tours the people would have medical check-ups done in the communities. It is a very different lifestyle today where we do not get the annual physical check-ups. For example, I do not even remember the last time when I had my lungs x-rayed.

In Nunavut, we do not get annual medical check-ups anymore, not like the days where the CD Howe used to go to all of the communities in the 1960s to do blood work and provide other physical check-ups. I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 612 - 1(6): Awarding of Contracts

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue of transparency and accountability as they relate to the Government tendering practises.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House I tabled materials relating to the Government's recent award of the construction for the Kivalliq Health Center.

As Members are aware, the Cabinet chose to award the contract for this major project to accompany that was not the lowest bidder. Mr. Speaker, a number of important questions has not yet been satisfactorily answered by the Government on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Government is consistently faced with the need to balance the principles of economy with the goal of supporting local business. However, as we have often heard our Finance Minister tell us, our capital dollars are in very short supply.

The Government needs to make sure that when it chooses to pay more than it has to for projects, they had better have good, solid ground in which to support their decisions. In this case, Mr. Speaker, it looks like the ground is pretty shaky.

We have been told, Mr. Speaker, that the Government entered into a negotiated contract with a joint venture company in order to achieve a higher Inuit labour component. I applaud the efforts to increase local labour and training and opportunities in our communities.

But the Government has not yet clearly explained to this House or to the public why it did not enter into a similar arrangement with the actual lowest bidder on this project, thereby achieving two goals at the same time more Inuit employment and the lower cost for the Government on the project.

Mr. Speaker, saving money is not merely an exercise for bean counters. If we can save a half a million dollars on a major projects, that frees up funds that can go to other important initiatives. \$500 thousand dollars can do a lot of good in any of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am a fair-minded person. Perhaps the Government has an excellent reason why it appears to have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars more than it had to on this tender.

But as you can see from the Public Works Minister's letters to me, the Government clearly does not appear very eager to provide full justification for its actions. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statements.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues and I have been fighting for the past four and a half years to reduce what I see as an unhealthy addiction to secrecy when it comes to the Government's contracting and leasing practises.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that is an issue that many of us campaigned on openness and transparency in Government. Our Standing Committees have made recommendations to this area; actions to address this problem have been slow in coming.

Mr. Speaker, later today during question period, I will provide the Premier with the opportunity to be open and transparent on behalf of Cabinet on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 613 - 1(6): Awarding of Contracts for the Construction of Houses

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the Finance Minister's Statement, he of course, wants to promote the services and everything else for the people of Nunavut. There's approximately \$10.1 million dollars that will be used for housing and there will be other projects that will be initiated, because of course the people of

Nunavut when they get new housing or new schools the people in the communities benefit.

Mr. Speaker it does support the people in the communities but it doesn't benefit the individual, and the money doesn't stay in the community. Usually the people who are contracted to construct buildings from outside of Nunavut or outside of their community and when they finish their project they usually go away with the money. They have to fly in electricians and other trades people in order to construct those buildings.

For example, if we are going to construct a building in Kimmirut we are well aware that there will be a lot of money used and the monies will leave the community. There are able people in the community who can construct those facilities but are not allowed because of the contracting services.

If we can award those contracts to the people in the communities there will be spin offs and the money will stay in the community. Who does the awarding of the contract? I will be directing these questions to the Finance Minister at the appropriate time.

If we really want to help the communities and we want them to grow economically then we'll have to take that road. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 614 - 1(6): Government Projects

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my Member's Statement. Our communities have elected us, and usually the monies are given by the governments and we're provided services and buildings and schools and everything else.

I think on rare occasions we should thank the government for giving us this money and for building the infrastructure in our communities. It is only through the hard work of the Ministers and their departments. We are now going to be getting a new school in Kugaaruk and I would like to thank the government for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 615 - 1(6): Appreciate the Projects and Construction in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Ng for his Minister's Statements regarding our fiscal position. I have been looking forward to hearing this for awhile. In Whale Cove is in need

of an office. They will be receiving approximately \$575 thousand, that's for Whale Cove and we'll probably be able to train Inuit who will become wildlife officers.

I would also like to thank our Premier on behalf of the people of Whale Cove. Mr. Paul Okalik, who was there to open the RCMP building and I would like to thank the Premier.

Again, we will be constructing a Health Facility in Rankin Inlet. We will be able to train people who are getting into the pre-employment trades, for example, painters, and so on.

We had made an agreement where pre trade workers will be hired with contractors. Those projects are starting to go ahead and I would like to thank the Government for giving us these opportunities to train Inuit who will be able to get into the workforce after their training period.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people in my riding, I would like to thank the contractors in our communities for working with us on this as they will be working with the Adult Education Centres. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Mr. Haviyok.

Member's Statement 616 – 1(6): Upcoming Plebiscite in Kugluktuk

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Inuinnaqtun Day and I would like say hi to the people of Kugluktuk.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issue of the upcoming plebiscite in my community of Kugluktuk in November.

Nunavummiut in four communities will go to the polls next month to give direction on the issue of access to alcohol. In Kugluktuk voters will be ask about whether they want to bring back an Alcohol Education Committee that will have the power to limit who can legally import alcohol, and in what quantity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention that I served on such a committee at one time. This is never an easy issue, as we all know. As we know that we face challenges of seeing families and friends go through such problems.

I have spoken many times on the need for Treatment Programs in our communities. I have supported efforts at the community level to promote healthy lifestyles and choices, especially among our youth of today.

I am very aware of the way that alcohol, like other drugs, can damage people's lives. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I encourage all voters to participate in the upcoming plebiscite. When voters go to cast their vote, I encourage them to think carefully about the choice that they make.

I think that it is important to keep that simply setting up a committee would not be a magical solution to the problem of substance abuse and bootlegging. It is important for people not to think that such a committee will solve all the problems in this area.

Everyone has a responsibility to choose a healthy lifestyle. Don't think that the committee will solve problems for you. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: The Member seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Then, Mr. Havioyak, please proceed.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you to all my colleagues. If a committee is established it will be important for its members to act fairly towards all residents. In the past committees lost credibility because people saw favouritism in their decision-making, they saw instant inconsistency.

I've also seen situations where people can legally purchase alcohol come under severe pressure to place orders for those who can't. Uqaqtii, I will respect the decision made by my community and I will work with the residents in whatever way I can. But please do remember that the best solution will start at home. Koanaqtit.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 617 - 1(6): New Rent Scales

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome my colleague to my right. He was unable to attend the session yesterday. I rise today to talk about housing.

Yesterday, Minister for Housing Corporation had made his report. On January 1, 2003 the new rent scale, Mr. Speaker, the community are very happy about this new system because previously they were using a system they couldn't even understand and is quite old.

Mr. Speaker the communities are expecting to see a better rent scale system, especially for the older homes. The price has depreciated so much and the price shouldn't be that expensive and they're kitchen is so small and their laundry room is quite small too, so the community residents are expecting to see some kind of a review done and during the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister on this issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 618 - 1(6): Proud of First Inuk NHL Hockey Player – Jordin Tootoo

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will not be talking too much on behalf of my constituents but there is one day that I will never forget in my life. I flew south on October 9. It was incredible to see an Inuk play hockey and this is the very first time that I've seen an Inuk in a professional hockey game and it was like a dream being there.

And it was a very important time and we became quite emotional at that time and I was very proud of that person called Jordin Tootoo. I was very proud of him and my son's name is Jordin and they have the same name and I was very happy to see him play at the NHL level and his parents were there and I enjoyed myself thoroughly.

I really want Nunavummiut to recognize Jordin Tootoo and he is such a very nice young man and he is a very caring person and I will give him my full support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I get used to not being recognized right away. Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I would like to recognize a couple of my Constituents here in the Gallery.

She was recently elected as the Mayor of Iqaluit, Elisapee Sheutiapik.

>>Applause

Also, an individual sitting beside her is a hockey fan, such as myself and I know that during the election he was so concerned he could not stay still, her husband, Brian Twerdin.

>>Applause

Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my niece, Malaya Netser. She is sitting right over there, my younger sister Mona and Patterk Netser is the new Member of the Legislative Assembly, that is their daughter. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members, I would like to recognize and must acknowledge a Diplomat from the British High Commissioner's Office working out of Ottawa, Ms. Catherine Picky, in the political division.

>>Applause

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like also take this opportunity to recognize the Mayor elect, Elisapee Sheutiapik and her husband Brian Twerdin. I would also like to recognize our Elder, Celestine Erkijjuk from Iqaluit and welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it also gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Gallery the same two individuals that were just introduced and I would begin by saying that many of the Members here know Elisapee Sheutiapik.

Elisapee worked for Mr. Ken McRury as the Regional Director for the Baffin way back in the late '80s and many people met her at that time.

Mr. Speaker, Elisapee was successful in the elections for Mayor two days ago, it seems like it was just yesterday. It was a late night at her campaign headquarters; she had many people show up. I know I was at her house a couple of nights ago where she had people working the phones, she did a very good job and a lot of work goes into being elected.

Elisapee has had an experience as a Deputy Mayor and also and knows the work and challenges that are there. I am sure I join Mr. Tootoo and Mr. Bruce Davis; we look forward to working with her on many of these issues for Iqaluit in the coming months and years.

Next to Elisapee, any person who goes into politics needs a partner, Mr. Speaker, and Elisapee's partner is Mr. Brian Twerdin. Brian is well known all over Nunavut, having been a resident for almost thirty years.

Brian is famous for hockey indeed, taking the Northwest Territories team at that time to Whitehorse, in the Yukon many years ago as a coach and just recently, last year, skating

with Ken Dryden, Mr. Ken Dryden and Wendell Clark and myself on a line that scored four goals with Mr. Ron McLean.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ron McLean noted at that time, that Mr. Twerdin, we would call him Huff and Puff because he was having a hard time going up and down the ice, but I was able to help him with some of the skating skills.

>> *Laughter*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Brian and Elisapee to this chamber and wish them very good luck in Elisapee's new role as a Mayor of Iqaluit and Brian's role continue to support the family in his role, not only in the business and entrepreneur, but as also father for Iola. I would like to take this opportunity welcome Mr. Celestine Erkidjuk and through a family like an elder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery, Brian and Elisapee, Captain and of course our elder. Moving onto Item 6. Oral Questions. Are there any Oral Questions? Mr. Havioyak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 595 - 1(6): Mental Health Worker for Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will address my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Regarding the assistants in the hospitals and mental health workers in the communities, there should be staff such as mental health workers in Kugluktuk. To date, that position has not being filled. When will it be filled? I would like information on this. For a long time it has been vacant. This is the question that I have, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister of Health and Social Services. Minister. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had mailed the Health Strategy a little over a year ago. We are in the position now to hire extra psychiatric nurses, as well as five child and Outreach workers. Mr. Speaker, I don't know when the position in Kugluktuk will be filled, Mr. Speaker, I would have to get that information and get it back to the Member because I don't have it with me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. There has not been anyone in that position and there seems to be lot of work and I just want to get information on this.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak

Question 596 – 1(6): Status of Annual Medical Checkups in the Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. During my Member's Statement I stated that there used to be C.D. Howe annual check up of patients in the communities. My question is, Mr. Speaker, since the 1960s when we had the C.D. Howe doing an annual medical check up, what is a status today for carrying out medical check ups on Nunavummiut in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, back in the days of the C.D. Howe, the C.D. Howe would go to communities, if the Member is correct, they would do lot of x-rays and blood work and so on because there was huge problem at that time with tuberculosis, for example. Because the trip was only an annual trip, when it went into the communities indeed, and many people were still living in out on the land, and people came in for a regular yearly check up. Since that time, Mr. Speaker, in every community we have health professionals and nurses stationed in the health centers. We have visiting doctors and physicians. At any given time, Mr. Speaker, a patient today can go to a Health Centre and ask for a physical examination or a check-up.

The difference between the fifties, where there were no medical professionals, other than in Pangnirtung where we had a hospital, and indeed Chesterfield Inlet, where there was a hospital, there was no other facilities available to most people in Nunavut at that time. So that is why when the boat went around once a year, everyone would get an opportunity for physical examinations, check-ups, and TB tests.

Today that is not the case; indeed they can get them at any time. I hope that helps to answer the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They used to have x-rays done on the C.D. Howe when there were no nurses in the communities. Today there are Nursing Stations in the communities. How often do the Inuit people have to get the x-rays now? Is it okay if they do not bother to get x-rays done every so often? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the fifties, when the C.D. Howe was going around, the x-rays were used, in most cases, for the discovery of tuberculosis. Those were usually chest x-rays. Today, in the year 2003, we have more technology that is available to us. There are other avenues available to medical professionals other than having to do just the chest x-rays, for example, on TB.

X-rays today, Mr. Speaker, are done for a variety of reasons. That can include, for example, tuberculosis; it can also include, for example, fractures, broken bones, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the x-rays now can be done and are carried out at the Health Centres. If there is a need for further examination than an x-ray, like a more elaborate one, then, Mr. Speaker, the patient can be sent, for example, to Iqaluit if they are from up island, and indeed to Yellowknife, or Winnipeg, if they are living in the Kivalliq region. That is the process that has been in place today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As there are nurses in the communities today, if I was to go to a hospital, I would get a medical examination. They would listen to my chest, and they would check my ears. I have not gone to a doctor for a long time but that is what they do.

What about the examination for blood pressure? Is it not the same anymore when they do examinations of your physical well being? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not a medical professional. Mr. Speaker, all the tests that are carried out in the Health Centres, and indeed, if it is in a hospital, by the nurses. The nurses are trained to take blood pressure. For example, that is done with the equipment that is available, in most cases; it consists of a pump and the pressure on the arm.

Mr. Speaker, all those types of tests are regular courses of action, routine procedures that are carried out in the Health Centres. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct in saying that indeed the technology today many other types of programs that are put into place are a lot different and better than what was in the past.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we can say with some degree of authority that the medical professionals and the services that are being given today are second to none compared to what we were dealing in the forties and fifties, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Health Minister and I are not medical experts. As the Minister stated yesterdays standards are not the same as today.

Can the Minister give me in writing the differences from years ago and today's standards, exactly what kind of tests I should get done if I go to a doctor or a medical professional today?

The reason I ask this question is the people would like to find out exactly what kind of examinations are considered routine when you go here to the doctor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member has raised a good point, the point being that many people when they go to a health centre they go there when they are not well, people go there when they are sick.

A lot of times we talk about the prevention side of medicine and I think the Member is correct, there should be an opportunity for people and we should be communicating a little bit better to go to a health centre or go to a family physician or go to the health centre and see a nurse for a general examination before an issue arises.

So I would be prepared Mr. Speaker in conjunction with Public Health through the Department of Health and Social Services to make that information available in writing to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 597 - 1(6): Awarding of Contracts for Construction of Houses

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I made a Member's Statement a while ago Mr. Speaker I talked about the housing projects in the communities, which I'm very happy about. However, last year when the Housing Corporation was going to construct buildings and houses, they mentioned they have to purchase a house to be built and to have it transported to the certain community, they stated that because of the money that has to stay in the communities and under Naujaat Challenge and Bathurst Mandate the government talks about the money staying in the communities.

We know that the money, all of the money does not go into the community even though they have a few people working in the communities.

What I would like to ask is does the Minister of Housing know who tendered for the contract this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'm not positive about how many tenders we received for each community for the public housing program I believe there are public proposal calls, tenders advertised for that, I can commit to finding out exactly what did take place in the Member's constituency and get back to him on that one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: I'm sure that the Minister can find out which company got the contract out there. If the Minister can let us know what kind of conditions are in the contract that would ensure that there was as much local labour as possible because my preference would be that the community gets the contract, but most times are desperate.

What conditions are in the contract to ensure that the company not only gets as much local labour as possible, but what kind of an enforcement is there to ensure that the contractor abides by the contract? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Housing Corporation follows the NNI Policy that the Minister of Public Works and within that Policy there are provisions for local hire, local businesses and etc. is part of the whole evaluation process for tenders. As well, they are criteria of thresholds to be met during the contract prior to being put up publicly and if components do not meet that, there are penalty revisions in the tenders for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could tell us if there has ever been any contractor fined for not abiding by the contract, and if so could the Minister also supply us with any details of the contracts that were done in the last year for us to look over to see if the contractors are abiding by the contract and secondly, if any contractors were fined or were not abiding by the contract. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will commit to putting together that information, but as Members know, there is also a major review going on right now with our partner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Public Works and Services in respect to the NNI Policy in trying to ensure that it is being effective and meeting the goals and objectives that were set out in the Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 598 - 1(6): Update on Situation of Fuel in Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer we ran out of fuel and I had already informed the Minister of Public Works approximately two weeks. I had also told him that I will be asking some questions and told the Minister to be prepared.

At that time, the people of Hall Beach started using low quality gas where there were some water mixed in with the fuel and after they had done a study, we were told to immediately stop using that fuel, but we used it for approximately three weeks and I had stated earlier, I had told the Minister and his Department to be prepared and I would like an update on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased that the Member was able to bring up this issue. We have many questions that we have to look into regarding this issue and we are working with people who are doing the study.

I cannot respond to his question at this time, but I will take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister has taken the question as notice; therefore, there will be no further supplementaries. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 599 – 1(6): Plans to Renovate Old Public Houses

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation. I have brought this issue up on more than one occasion regarding the public housing units that were built in the '60s.

They are inadequate and usually they have a washer and dryer placed right beside the stove. My question to the Minister is do you have any plans to renovate these buildings, these old public houses and possibly make them into one bedroom units? Could the Minister inform us as to what kind of plans he has in regards to the renovations of those 1960's public houses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do have funding in the capital plan for maintenance and improvements. I cannot say specifically right now, whether or not those specific units the Member refers to are part of that plan.

Certainly when the Housing Corporation capital comes forward, we will have that information available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for responding to my question. It seems that the Minister and the Deputy Ministers usually say one thing, but when they are responsibilities handed over to the community, then the whole thing changes. The direction that is given from the Minister is

usually handed down to the staff and to the community level and then the whole thing goes out of proportion.

These are old houses that I am referring to are three bedroom units, but they do not have a kitchen or dining area. They will definitely have to be retrofitted or improved and made into one bedroom units for example and I hope that happens during, with this Government. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we recognize that there are many needs out there in housing, both on the new public housing, social housing side and also on the repair, maintenance and upgrading anything.

And given the limited financial dollars available to the Housing Corporation, they obviously allocate based on as much as the need as possible and trying to affectively deal with many of those issues as possible.

Again, I would be happy to discuss the details once we get into the capital budget closer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

>> *Applause*

Question 600 - 1(6): Meet and Discuss with Coral Harbour Residents on Fuel Spill

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. As the Minister is aware, the Hamlet of Coral Harbour recently experienced a fuel spill in its harbour during the August Resupply.

The Hamlet is quite concerned because they have not yet received the full report from the Department concerning this spill and they would like to talk to the Department or with the Minister about making upgrades to its local infrastructure to help make sure that this not happen again.

My first question is will his Department sit down with the community to make the full report on this incident and discuss ways of preventing similar incidents from happening again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would also like to congratulate the new Member for his making his first question in the House. I've been having discussions with my Department staff and also the people in Coral Harbour. There

was no environmental damage during the spill and we will present the report to the Hamlet of Coral Harbour once it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 601 – 1(6): New Fuel Tanks for Kugaaruk

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question and it's not the first time that I will be bringing it up to the Minister of Public Works and Services.

In Kugaaruk we have different types of fuel in our communities. There's aviation fuel and so on. My question to the Minister is are we going to be getting new tanks to house fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has raised this question on more than one occasion. We have to keep in mind that there are limited dollars available.

In 2003/2004 there was some work done on the tanks I don't have the information in front of me but I will review my documents and I will inform the Member and give him an update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the Minister for his response. The reason why I keep asking this question is that there are requirements for fuel when we have to order medivac patients and so on. It's very important that there's an adequate supply of aviation fuel in our communities. I will bring this question up again as soon as I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. No questions. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rephrase my response. In the Finance Minister's Statement it was mentioned here that it would be included in the capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 602 – 1(6): Reason Joint Venture Contract Was Awarded the Project

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I had indicated in my Member's Statement my question is for the Premier. Mr. Premier I am very seriously concerned of the apparent decision, the decision that the executive council made not to award the

tender of the Kivalliq health facility to the lowest bidder. I think, not only to myself, but to the construction industry, the current, whether it be non Inuit-owned or Inuit-owned, that talk to both and they are both very concerned about it as well and feel that sets a very dangerous precedent on behalf of the government and its practices.

It has seriously damaged the governments' credibility in their eyes - the construction industry and the business community as a whole. We have a policy, a contracting policy in place, the NNI policy that I have mentioned here earlier today. I think, Mr. Speaker, it would be probably in the best of public's interest if the government could justify and let them know, put them at ease as to why they went into that decision and leave no doubt to the rumors and hearsay that have been heard out there that's been nothing but political lobbying and arm twisting that resulted in these types of decisions.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister, the Premier as I have done in my letter last spring request that he advise me, this House, and the public out there what specific reasons, exactly what the Council based its decision to award the contract to a joint venture group rather than to the lowest bidder.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Our government is often criticized for not trying to support the local businesses. Although I cannot get into the exact specifics of the discussion, which took place, the NNI policy provide for Cabinet to overrule a policy in certain circumstances, and also decide on contracts, and that is what happens.

We looked at the particular project in mind and the extent of the project that has potential benefits of the project, and looked at the overall cost of the project and benefits. In that light, we felt that supporting the local businesses outweigh the minimal cost that we had to incur.

My shareholders are the people of Nunavut. I will continue to do my part in trying to support those who are not based in southern Canada but those based in Nunavut. And my judgment will be based on these, to see what potential benefit that we can provide to local businesses.

Yes, there is NNI, but we all know that it hasn't been working to the promise that we thought it would deliver so we sometimes have to make decisions that some people might not be totally happy with. That's our job, and our job is to weigh benefits over costs.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all Premier indicated support the local businesses and I think maybe it only half true in this case or probably more than half or one of the proponents of the Joint Venture Group that the contract was awarded to is based in Nunavut but the larger partner in that group is based in southern Canada, as the Premier had indicated.

Again, it doesn't make any sense, and what kind of messages is it sending to the construction, the contracting people out there that if they want to get a contract in Nunavut, but they have to have a small component or contact or small partner or just join any kind of joint venture group with someone in Nunavut that is Inuit and they can put any kind of bid they want and they get the contract.

I mean, half of million dollars which is what the difference was in the contract I believe after NNI was applied.

Also the indications and correspondence that I tabled yesterday stated that Public Works was directed to go to this joint venture group and negotiate on their price after the whole tender process and also to negotiate a higher Inuit employment.

And again, my correspondence that I tabled yesterday, why couldn't this have been done with the lowest bidder and why wasn't it done with the lowest bidder? I would like to ask the Premier to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we would like to signal to the people of Nunavut is that we support you if you are locally based, we will do our part in trying to make sure that you get your share of the contracts and that is the message that we deliver.

The company that was for joint venturing within that another company was locally based where the project was being delivered and the magnitude of the project is quite substantial. The amounts that were under discussion were minimal in light of the overall project.

So, we looked at the cost, benefit allowances and felt that on this particular project, maybe a couple of hundred thousand dollars may outweigh the potential benefits to providing a contract to locally based companies in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier keeps referring to a locally based company and I am pretty sure in one of my correspondence or it was in the meeting, a reference was made to an Inuit-owned company.

Was one of the basis for their decision the fact that part builders from Edmonton, Alberta, was joint ventured with an Inuit-owned firm in this particular case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely. We support local and Inuit-owned in particular and we were seeking through this contract that we will try and do our part and we also review the policy itself in light of all of the problems that we have encountered over the last few years and making sure that it truly reflects the desires of Nunavut contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I note that the tender in question closed, I think it was in May 6 of 2003 and that the letter going out to the unsuccessful lowest bidder was I think very early in June. I also note as we go onto Inuit Firm Registry that the company in question was only added in June.

So, I would like to ask the Premier when did they make that decision to award the contract to the joint venture group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That advertisement also specified that the lowest bidder might not necessarily get the contract. So, everybody knew that even though they may have the lowest bid, the Government, at the end of the day, will decide as to the cost benefits and analysis.

We took it upon ourselves as Cabinet to make decisions that we felt would be more beneficial to the people of Nunavut and that was after, I believe, the closing and after June. I do not have the exact dates right now, but I can provide it to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 603 - 1(6): Signed Contract for Health Facility

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I may be ruled out of order here, but I want to follow up on the question by my colleague from Iqaluit in regards to tendering policies and practices in the Government.

I, for one, think that we are doing a terrible job at attracting and keeping local businesses going in this territory. My question today is, and I have to sit here and accept the decisions that Cabinet makes, because they make decisions based on probably what is right for the territory, whether I agree with it or not.

It gets to the point that we are talking about the Rankin Inlet health facility being tendered out and the pros and cons of it. My questions today to the Minister of Health and Social Services. There are two other health facilities in this territory that are being built.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to know is, do we have signed contracts for the health facility and hospital in Iqaluit, and the health facility in Cambridge Bay? Do we have signed contracts today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for his inopportune question. Mr. Speaker, first of all, we do have contracts in place. In the case of the Rankin Inlet facility, as the Member is aware, that project was taken over by the Government of Nunavut because of issues that had arisen with that project.

In the case of the Baffin Regional Hospital Project, Mr. Speaker, we have a developmental agreement in place with Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. That agreement, I believe right now, is about four point two million dollars. It entails all the site work that the Member has seen taking place already on the site, including the removal of the full access road being built, and other work associated with the facility.

In the case of the Kitikmeot facility, Mr. Speaker, the contract is in place with the regional development corporation there, and that facility is underway. It is my understanding, at the last report that it is on time, and well within the parameters of the Capital Expenditures Budget that was approved for. We are quite pleased with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is reassuring that the Minister gave me the answer. But at the end of the day, I support these three hospitals. I think that they have been needed in this territory for a long, long time.

I want to make it very clear to this House that I fully support that hospital being built on that hill there. I think that twenty to thirty years is overdue for building a new facility.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about fiscal restraint, and we just got a lesson today on it from the Minister. We are not as bad off as we thought we first were. Like I say, the Cabinet makes the decisions.

My question to the Minister is do we have a final price on these two other health facilities that are being built? Do we have a contract, and do we have a final price on them yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very quickly, I think that they are on this afternoon; we will be in the Committee of the Whole where each of the Ministers will be defending their Capital Budget, including Department of Health and Social

Services. At that time I will be able to give greater detail on what has occurred, and what is happening with the three facilities.

I can say very quickly that the budget has been approved; it has been approved in this House for those facilities. The Member only has to refer back to the Capital Budget on occasion. And indeed, that is what the budget of the hospital facilities are. That is the construction costs as allocated in the Capital Estimates, as identified by the Minister of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a reminder to the Members that the budget is not in the House yet. Therefore Members are permitted to ask questions. Feel free. Mr. Mclean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel I'm being a bit stymied here. I asked if we had signed contracts. Based on estimates when do we award contracts based on estimates. I always thought that we awarded contracts based on the tender price.

That's why I asked 400 questions for Committee of the Whole today on the health facility and I will do my question asking today. But I'm telling you I'm very concerned with the fact that we do not have signed contracts on the other two facilities and what's the final price on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker it's just a statement.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 604 – 1(6): Income Support Qualifications

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the Members of this House could not make it because of weather so the question maybe perhaps if I could make a preamble it's in regards to housing.

The people that receive income support that are students, how old do they have to be in order to receive income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe if the Member can clarify his question. Is he talking about students in grade 12 or is he talking about adult education students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about rent payments that are made to public housing, I will also be raising questions on this the Minister responsible for Housing, the people that receive income support from the Department of Education, is it at the age of 15 or 13 that they are eligible to receive income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister will just wait until we maintain quorum again so the question can be answered.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are eligible to receive income support at the age of 18. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): If I understand it correctly, if they are going to school they are eligible to receive income support at the age of 15 but they are allowed to have their own public housing to rent at the age of 19, I think that is what the Minister is saying.

If they are able to receive income support at the age of 19, the high school students that don't have attained the age of 18 do not qualify? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People at the age of 18 are qualified to receive income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 605 – 1(6): Reasons Contract Went Through Executive Council

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question again is to the Premier. It seems interesting that one of the arguments that they used for not going with the lowest bidder is being awarded to an Inuit-owned firm, it seems like that it may have been an Inuit-owned only after the decision was made.

I look forward to him providing us with that information when that actual decision was made. But Mr. Speaker I think it goes there's more to it I'd like to know, and I think a lot of people out there would like to know when or why a contract, through normal practices, is administered through the Department Public Works and Services and awarded and everything done through Public Works and Services, why did this one not go through that normal process and why did it go to the executive council to make a decision on? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we are all aware these health facilities have been in development for quite some time and the magnitude of these projects are much larger than what we are normally used to.

So as Cabinet we have been paying particular attention to all the three projects that have been taking place over the last few years and we felt that in this instance that providing a

benefit to local businesses outweighs potential costs of providing for further contracts to southern shareholders.

So we felt that in this case providing a local business for not a significant amount in light of the overall project would be more beneficial for our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker what the Premier is indicating is because of the size and the magnitude of the project that it goes to the executive council. Has that been the practice of all the major infrastructure capital projects that have gone on with the government since the inception of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For these facilities in particular we have been paying particular attention and we have become aware of the last few years of more recent times that the NNI policy needs to be examined closely and we have been paying more attention to the awarding of larger contracts of labour in light of all the comments we have received from the local businesses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I guess the Premier through his comments is indicating that it has not been the practice in the past it's just something very recent. I would like to ask is this the first incident in which this has happened. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For health facilities we have been working on this since we were formed as government so for these particular three projects is not news to use. Right from the day we were formed in our first Cabinet retreat we discussed P3 and these health facilities so we have been paying very close attention to these three projects in particular.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good lessons can be taken here on how to be evasive in answers on this one. I did not ask him when they started looking at the whole health facility; I asked if this contract was the first one that they looked at.

I know if you look at some of the larger contracts we have done over the years since we have been here, there was a \$17 million dollar high school in Cambridge Bay roughly. There have been other major projects.

We have a major project going on here with the reconstruction of Joamie School; it is going to be about \$13 million. Is the Government saying that, do not bother applying for these contracts unless you have an Inuit partner? Is that what the Government, the message that it is sending out there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to be evasive, I am trying to answer the questions the best that I can and as I said in the onset, our job is to try and weigh the benefits of particular projects and it is felt that in this instance, going with a local business outweigh the benefits of providing additional benefits to Southern shareholders.

So, that is the premise of this issue and we will continue to monitor the two other projects that are in place. We feel that we have to do our job in making sure that local businesses benefit from major contracts from our Government.

And as I said, as well, we are reviewing the NNI Policy to ensure that we do not have to intervene in these contract awards because we would rather have Public Works do it, but I think we need to enforce the Policy to ensure that local businesses get priority for any contracts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 606 - 1(6): Contract for Supply Ships and Erect Housing

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear the Premier talking about making sure that local businesses get the benefit. So, my question is very simple and straightforward.

Right now, they give out contracts based on supply ship and erect for social housing in Nunavut. Would the Premier be willing to direct the Government to cut the contract to supply and ship and allow local companies to erect? Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Premier Okalik. Minister Ng would like to take it.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As it deals specifically with the Housing Corporation contract, Mr. Speaker, yes, in fact in the Kitikmeot, there was a two-phase project where for one construction year, there was a supply contract and in the subsequent year, separate tenders for construction.

So, that was a pilot project. It has been done in the past with the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and again, we will certainly consider any avenues to maximize opportunities for local businesses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is not for the head of the NNI Policy, my question is to the Premier to see if he would direct this Government to look at housing, he is the Premier in charge of the Cabinet, whether he would be willing to look at directing this Government to cut the contracts to supply and ship and erect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Given the fact that the Premier has the right to redirect questions, any question to any Minister, it appears that that is his desire, so, Minister Ng, if you will carry on.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as indicated earlier, in the Premier's response, there is a major review going on with Nunavummi Nangminiqqtunik Ikajuuti and how to make sure that we maximize the involvement with aboriginal individuals and companies. We will continue to look at that as one of the factors.

I can say, I think we all know here that there will be a new government coming into place in Nunavut early in the new calendar year, the construction will start, after that, the tender process will be underway.

Certainly, it will be one of the issues that new government, new legislature will have to address as one of the priority areas. Given some of the comments around this Legislature today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary Question. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government could do a lot of meeting if they would put this forward before the new government directing the government to divide the contract.

I only asked the question to the Premier because of what is going on about local, local, local. Is he prepared to direct this government to cut those contracts to supply and ship and erect.

All throughout the questioning by the Member from Iqaluit Centre, he kept saying we would like local companies to get the contract. This is one way that we are creating better economic develop in Nunavut, if the local contractors in each of the communities get the contracts and supply the labour from within rather than from the outside. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier in response to the Member's question as well, there is under Nunavummi Nangminiqqtunik Ikajuuti local involvement component in all the contracts for the government, including the Housing Corporation Tenders for Public Housing.

Those are the provisions that we are using right now to try to maximize that involvement, and we will continue to do so. We will look at all options, really where it will maximize opportunities for local companies and local individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak: It is nice to hear that the Minister is saying all this. I do not mean to single out any one company, but let us say Ninety North or Sanajiit is building houses in Repulse Bay, I do not think Sanajiit or Ninety North have any shareholders in Repulse Bay, that is my point. It is nice to know that these companies are from the North, from Nunavut, but most times they do not have that Inuit component.

They do not have that component of having shareholders from each of the communities. We are interested about Inuit ownership or utilizing the companies in each of the communities that have shareholders in the contractors.

Would not this be the way to ensure that the community benefits by ensuring that the community builds the houses for that community? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in a situation of a smaller community where there may be a select number, or maybe only one local contractor available to do that work, we have, Mr. Speaker, we have at the Housing Corporation negotiated, there is a situation in Sanikiluaq, where we negotiated the construction component for Public Housing to a local contractor. We are receptive to that. The Cabinet has the authority to enter into solely negotiated contracts if those circumstances allow for that.

Having said that, like what the Premier said earlier, we have to weigh the pros and cons and the costs benefits, etc. But if those provisions are there to allow that and if it is supported by the community, supported by the MLA, then we will continue to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Bear with me for the next few minutes, we will go through the Orders of the Day up to Committee of the Whole, and then we will take a short break. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 020 – 1(6): Request for Proposals

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister responsible for Housing Corporation I would like (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this is for the Minister responsible for Housing. Following request for proposal what entities were

awarded the contract and what was the value for each contract for 2003-2004 N.T.I. retrofit program supply, ship and erect a single family dwelling in Arctic Bay, closing date was July 14.

2003-2004 fire damage replacement program supply, ship and erect single family dwelling in Arctic Bay closing date was July 23. 2002-2003 condominium home ownership program design, supply, ship and erect Rankin Inlet, Igloolik, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, and Gjoa Haven closing date was May 17, 2003.

2003-2004 construction public housing program materials supply only Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk closing date was May 9, 1903 or 2003, 1903 a little while ago.

>>*Laughter*

2003-2004 for construction, supply, ship and erect Qikiqtarjuaq, Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Sanikiluaq closing date was May 9, 2003. 2003-2004 construction public housing program, supply, ship and erect Arctic Bay, Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Clyde River, Pangnirtung, Grise Fjord, Pond Inlet, Hall Beach/Qikiqtarjuaq, Igloolik and Sanikiluaq closing date was May 9, 2003.

2003-2004 construction retrofit program, retrofit two program, supply, ship and erect Arctic Bay, Hall Beach, Pond Inlet closing date May 9. Public housing program 2003-2004 construction, supply, ship and erect Arviat, Whale Cove, Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake, Chesterfield and Coral Harbour closing date April 18.

2003-2004 construction in staff condominium ownership program, supply, ship and erect Cambridge Bay closing date March 21. 2003-2004 construction public housing program duplex and triplex construction labour only Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, and Kugluktuk, closing date February 19, 2003.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for this same information for those communities that received allocation for public housing in 2003-2004 but do not appear in the list as RFPs and I look forward to your reply and would very much appreciate receiving the information prior to the reconvening of the sixth session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 129 – 1(6): Interim Financial Report (Un-audited) March 31, 2003

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the interim financial report for the year ending March 31, 2003. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have a document to table pursuant to subsection 20-1 tabling of documents procedures.

Tabled Document 130 – 1(6): Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Election by Netser

Pursuant to subsection 20.1 of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the election by Nanulik.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Are there any further Tabling of Documents? Moving onto Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 40 – An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act - Notice

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Friday, October 24, 2003 that Bill 40, an Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act be read for first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Bill 42 – An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act - Notice

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, October 24th, 2003, that Bill 42, an Act to amend the Labour Standards Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

Bill 41 – An Act to Amend the Nursing Act - Notice

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October the 24th, 2003, that Bill 41, an Act to amend the Nursing Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Bill 43 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act - Notice

**Bill 44 – Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act No. 1
2003-2004 - Notice**

Bill 45 – Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act No. 4 2003-2004 - Notice

**Bill 47 – Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act No. 3
2003-2004 - Notice**

**Bill 48 – Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act No. 4
2003-2004 - Notice**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 24th, I will move that Bill 43, an Act to amend the Income Tax Act, Bill 44, Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act No.1 2003-2004, Bill 45, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act No. 4 2003-2004, Bill 47, Supplementary Appropriation Act Operations and Maintenance No. 3 2002-2003, and Bill 48, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act No. 4 2002-2003, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive the two-day notice requirements to allow for first reading of Bill 46, the Appropriation Capital Act 2004-2005. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The Minister is seeking to consent to Waive Rule 62 (1) so that Bill 46 can have First Reading today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed Minister Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004-2005 – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 46, Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004-2005 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The Motion is in Order. All those in favour. All those opposed, the Motion is carried, and Bill 46 has had First Reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004-2005 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South - Whale Cove that Bill 46, Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004-2005 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to seek Legislative approval for the capital requirements of the Government of Nunavut Departments totalling \$107 million, 889 thousand dollars to allow for the timely delivery of the capital projects for the 2004-2005 fiscal year and included is that we will be able to see capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Motion is in Order, to the principle of the Bill. To the principle of the Bill, a question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried and Bill 46 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a Committee.

Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister Statement 167-1 (6). Bill 46, with Mr. Irqittuq in the Chair and before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House recessed at 15:40 and reconvened at 16:08

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We can now call the Committee to Order. Mr. Anawak. Thank you. At this time, I would like to welcome you all to the Committee of the Whole. We will be dealing with the Minister's Statement 167-1(6) and Bill 46. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to deal with the Minister's Statement 167-1(6) and if we have the opportunity, I would like to start with the 2004-2005 Capital Budget, starting with the Department Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Agreed? Most Members agreed. General Comments for the Minister's Statement 167-1(6). Mr. Kilabuk.

Some Members: Agreed.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are ready to approach the witness table, and deal with the Minister's Statement.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Please proceed. Mr. Kilabuk if you could introduce your officials.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize; I did not have my mike on.

Chairman (interpretation): If you could introduce your officials for the record.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, I have the Deputy Minister, Leona Aglukkaq. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Leona. I'm sure that we'll be seeing the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit working group, but the question that we usually have is how effective this working group is going to be, and what kind of recommendations they are going to be coming up with.

While we are on the issue of language, when are we going to be seeing draft legislation that will be used as documents?

Sometimes I'm very proud to the Northerner and an Inuk, the signage and everything in Inuktitut because there are lot of people here who do not even bother to put Inuktitut signage in the place of business.

So this is an issue I had brought up by quite a while back and a person from Iqaluit, Qallunaaq said that not very many people speak in Inuktitut, which is not true. If we can have elders go into any setting, I want them to be able to read things in Inuktitut, in their own language and usually there are places, there are some things we cannot do and I'm glad to see that they are recommending changes to the Act.

One thing I wanted to focus on was what would be the responsibilities of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit task force and what would be a really effective tool, as I said earlier when are we going to see changes in the legislation so that all signage there will be a

requirement for it to be in Inuktitut and the Minister is well aware that his department was created and that one was the main focus of creating our own territory in the NWT they didn't think about the people of Nunavut or their language.

They went to the parliament using the British model and at that time when Tagak Curley started the negotiations to create a territory, they included self-government. That is one of the foundations that we base all our decisions on.

I do not have a lot of general comments but my question is in regards to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit taskforce. What power would they hold and are we going to be able to implement the recommendation within the Nunavut Government?

Those are my two main questions. The other one is in regards to the signage that is written in Inuktitut. Would that be in the Languages Act, or would it be included as part of your responsibilities?

I truly believe that there should be more signage in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on our general comments. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister for starting the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I know both of you very well. I know that you will be working hard in regards to the Inuit languages and the Inuit culture, and promoting the foods and clothing. This is your responsibility and I thank you for understanding that this is a very important part of this government.

I grew up at the time before there were too many Europeans here; I grew up in the traditional Inuit way starting as a child. There were times when it was hard to get food. At times we went through the starvation period when I was a child.

We had a very hard time, but in reference to the GNWT, they did not have that in their heart, and they did not know how important it was for the Inuit to promote their own culture language.

It was not in their heart, but when the Nunavut Government was created, it was the basic foundation, and that was the main reason why we negotiated our Land Claims Agreement and created the Nunavut Government.

We have been a Government for a little over four years. And there are a lot of times that the general public asks us what we are doing to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Government system. They are saying, "Look at our children, they are just speaking in English, and they had forgotten the Inuktitut language."

Especially in the Kitikmeot area, the children are playing outside and just conversing in English. When people from outside of Canada come in, it is embarrassing when they go to an Inuit community and the only language that they are conversing in is English. So

where are we going on this issue, and it is time that we realized the importance of preserving our language and promoting it. It is something that is near and dear to my heart. It is the way we eat, it is our culture. It is something that we are very proud of and it's up to us to promote it. We don't want to lose our language and culture. The Inuit languages have to be taken back so our children can converse in Inuktitut just like we do today.

I'll use an example; when I was a child I didn't speak one word of English. There were four of us including my mother and we had one language, that's the way I grew up. Inuktitut was the only language that we spoke, nobody spoke in English and that's how we grew up as children.

I knew everything, I was brought up in the Inuit culture and I didn't go to school until 1961 and I didn't know one word of English. Yes and no were the only two words that I understood yes and no were the only things that I understood and I heard people when they spoke in English and I wanted to learn but I didn't realize that today my children would be going to the other extreme.

I realized the importance of using the Inuktitut language in the community and I'm proud today that we have a department, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth that is responsible for the promotion and retention of Inuit language and culture.

I urge that the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit task force be given the power and not just with the legislation, that the recommendations be taken seriously and implemented by the government that they use as an advisory body to the Government of Nunavut. I look forward to that and we will give you our full support.

The people of Nunavut believe in this government and we were elected to represent them in this House. For the Members in the second Assembly, we have to believe that they will do the same thing that we have.

As one of my colleagues stated earlier, they may be given the power but will they have the power to influence the government in anyway. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I would like to see some signs in our languages so that our elders. In Kugluktuk we call them IQ in our language, but we call them Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

I like to speak my language, Inuinnaqtun, and I like to see Innuinaqtut and Inuktitut continue on in the future but as we stated earlier I am glad that Kitikmeot is improving. In the Kitikmeot they are starting to use the language and it's improving though it is picking up slowly.

But today IQ is what we have to use so that we can promote and retain our language and teach it to our younger generation and make it into a working language in our government. The more we promote our language in our government we will eventually get back our language, but I would like to see that the more we promote our languages in our Government, I think we will eventually get back our language, I would like to see that, how are you going to implement these Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into government. If we continue on trying to improve Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit language, I would like to see that promoted.

But long ago when back in our history, Inuit used traditional knowledge and also, if they want something that they say in this, if we want to get an old tool or if we want to use them, maybe if you find it that you replace it with something from your pocket.

But you keep the traditional tool alive because I was taught when I was seven, if you are going to get something from the land that was used as a tool, you replace it with another tool so that tradition is kept alive, but when Inuit did steal these old tools, they get scared of these old tools. If you touch this tool, you are going to have to see a shaman.

So, but today, I would like to see that we continue on with keeping our traditions alive. If you are going to take a tool from the land that you found, you have to replace it with something else in order to keep our traditional ways alive.

Today, the Government says they want to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and language. I think if we try to get the language back, it might be scary to some people, but it is not that way.

Today and the Minister also said in June that young people today should be given the opportunity to be trained or the opportunity to continue on with our traditional way, our traditional ways of language and culture.

So, I would like to see that even if we have to use it, if we can continue on to improve our language and culture in our communities, maybe in six communities.

I think that there is going to be a working group implementing these. I do not know when they will start, but I would like to know when Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, my voice is not all that clear today. Nevertheless, I would like to welcome the Minister and Leona to the Witness Table.

I do not know a lot about Inuit, even though I am considered an elder and I grew up in the traditional setting. There is an erosion of the Inuktitut language and its usage and the Inuit culture. The elders of yesterday and today are different.

We have seen people from Arviat developing the Inuit curriculum based on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I would like these courses to have the same wisdom used in the past because, without a doubt, this curriculum will be used in the future and be used to promote our language and culture and it will give them more strength in their identity.

The young people of today have the ability; every child has ability. If I use Kugaaruk as an example we have young people who are learning to build kayaks. An elder cannot build a kayak; they know a lot more than I do.

I can use myself as an example, if I don't know the traditional Inuit culture I look forward to the days where the young people will be taught our language and our traditional system.

As you can see I can write syllabics without the finals, but the young people can write syllabics with all the finals.

I look forward to the days where the Inuit, the young people will enhance their Inuktitut language and I look forward to the IQ task force and your department to work towards that goal.

The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not in writing yet, and I'm sure that it will be in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to bad weather, Mr. Iqaqrialu could not make it to the session. I'm sure he would have a lot to say about this but I would first like to welcome the Minister and his official.

Since the Nunavut Government was established the Inuit had high expectations with the Department of Culture and Language, Elders and Youth. They depended on to make sure that the department would service Inuit.

We know that the Nunavut Government is a public Government but the department itself for Cultural, Language, Elders and Youth, they are responsible for those things but we all know that department has the smallest funding.

This Department should be the most prominent department because it has an impact on our daily lives.

Mr. Chairman I would like to say, although I don't want to hurt anyone, I'm not trying to hurt anyone or point fingers and blame anyone. The department should answer to the elders, for example if I'm asked to work and have to bring up the Chinese language than it would be senseless for me to hold that job because I don't speak Chinese and that's how it is today.

I just wanted to use that example. I have few questions in regards to language.

In the past we didn't baby talk in Inuktitut, we need to have sensible Inuktitut conversations and we also noticed that people who work on the radio speak in Inuktitut and now we are paying more attention to the Inuktitut speaking media out there. We want our children to speak real Inuktitut.

When they hear us speaking in Inuktitut, we should speak proper Inuktitut so that we can be good role models for our children.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anyone else? If there are no general comments, we can go onto the questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): When we first became a government, we worked very hard to make sure that the department of CLEY was in its right place. I am sure that they have been working on some of the issues that we have brought forth in the past.

I am sure that there will be a Director for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. I am sure that we will see those Katimajit in our term here. As Inuit will always be working very hard to make sure that it is there. Even though we are not too vocal, we want to see it implemented in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anyone else? Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): I apologize. I was not in the House for a little while. I am sure that they will be establishing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. How effective will they be to the government in regards to Inuit knowledge, if there is an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit holder in the Katimajit, what kind of impact will they have on the Government as a whole, or will they just be under the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, or can the Government as a whole give direction to the Katimajit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit Council will be giving support to all the Government departments. Well they are trying to obtain Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit so that the services could be more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit relevant.

The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit is set up as such right now so they could meet four times a year in their initial stage. Also it is evident that they will be quite busy. I am sorry Mr. Chairman; I added English in that.

The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit will provide support on the daily operation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit so that they could incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to all the

government departments, and they will be servicing the government departments. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): To hear that is very good. However, will they know that they have to go through the Katimajit? When we talk about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the government departments? I'll speak in English (interpretation ends) I think sometimes the bureaucracy likes to think that IQ is a nice sounding word, but really what word is it.

I think sometimes that's how the bureaucracy thinks IQ. I guess my comments and advice are that there has to be an understanding right from the start that the recommendations or whatever the committee is going to be doing has to be listened to by the bureaucracy seriously, not as something that is nice to see but not necessarily to hear. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit in order for them to have appropriate power and recognition the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit was established by the Cabinet. My colleague has asked whether the government is going to be sensitive to this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. The departments of the government have stated to me there is a need for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

We'll be making recommendations and all the departments are in support of those so that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit was struck through the Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anyone else? Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I know that. I know that they will be sensitive to the Katimajit, I know that the government is growing but the bureaucracy of the government should have the respect and belief of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

I know you have respect for the person to the left of you but other department's bureaucracy will have to respect the Inuit knowledge. It's evident that the public thinks that we are slow in getting this going but I'm sure there'll be more support setting up and we'll hear some will not respect Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

But you as the Minister for Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth should influence the Cabinet members, that's what the Inuit people want and not just here in Iqaluit, Iqaluit had many non-Inuit people living in the community.

It's quite hard to tell what kind of support there is in Iqaluit, but outside of Iqaluit there is wide support of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. This is not a question this is a comment, that

you are going to have to work very hard to make sure that the Cabinet respect and listen to whatever has to be done in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I know that they are in support and if we can give you any form of support we would be willing to give you more support. As we are all elected to Nunavut government I know that we are a public government for Nunavut but it's not just the Inuit people that have to work hard. Non-native people know that it's important and they have been elected by the Inuit people to the legislature.

At times, some people might think, oh, I am a Qallunaaq, I do not need to touch this, they should be working on behalf and representing their Constituencies and I urge all of the Members to work harder on this.

As a Minister, you should make sure that all Members respect and believe this, not just by some of the Members; I just wanted to emphasis that again, that I am in support, I am available or we are available to give you all forms of support when required. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I do not hear a question. That was a comment. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have five questions and they are all short questions. The first question that I have, Mr. Chairman is does Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force have terms of reference? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They already have the terms of reference for that Katimajiit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tuttarviit Committee, what is their term as a Committee? Would they have indefinite terms? My other question is, is the committee just an advisory body or do they have other powers? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tuttarviit Committee Katimajiit that deals with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in all of the Departments come from the different Departments and because they work for the Government of Nunavut and they will have an indefinite term.

Perhaps, maybe in a few years, if they have to be replaced by the Members, they will probably be replaced, but at this time that they do not have an indefinite term of office. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: What kind of authority does Tuttarvik have? Is there staff in the Department? Are they assistant deputy ministers or Directors or Clerks? Who are these people? What kind of authority do they have to tell the Government, this is what term you are going to be using now since they are doing terminology workshops? Who approves that top terminology that this group comes up with? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tuttarviit Committee have not been given power or authority, but they could go to the Departments, individual Departments to urge them to do things that they, according to their Mandates of the Tuttarviit, recommend to the Departments what kinds of things that the Departments should do. They do not really have certain powers, even though they are staff from each Department. What they are trying to do is to encourage or to recommend to the Government Departments what kinds of things that they have to in regards to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It states that they are going to be dealing with terminology, Government terminology.

Even though I am an Inuk, if they are going to be dealing with terminology, when will they bring out the terminology? When do we have to use the terminology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): The new terminology that comes up will be compiled together such as the compiled living dictionary that will be doing the same kind of a thing as that. What we are going to be doing is getting the interpreters together and the staff and then they will be bringing about the terminology to be used, or word development from English to Inuktitut because there are a lot of words in English that have no translated versions in Inuktitut.

Different people tend to use different terminology so they are going to be doing this to try to get people to use the same terminology or the departments want to use the same terminology in Inuktitut.

The Katimajit, Tuttakviit will be helping with the workshops such as interpreters compiling terminology. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked a while ago that they will be dealing with terminology and they will do similar work as the living dictionary. I just want to use that as an example; how would I say living dictionary in Inuktitut.

What I am trying to find out Mr. Chairman is where will we be getting the terminology from and when will be using that terminology that they produce? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): There are a lot of words in English that we have to interpret. I talked about the living dictionary; we have an Inuktitut name called Asuilak, and that's also available through the internet, you can open up the page and you can look it up in the dictionary that I was talking about.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last one Mr. Chairman. I forgot what I was going to say.

The Ministers just said that the Tuttakvik Committee is already funded; are they coming from each department of the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Just to make it clear to the Members that Tuttakviit and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force are two separate entities and there are also some staff in the department that will be involved with Tuttakvik.

What we want to inform the Members about is names picked out to be Members of the Tuttakvik. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the goals of the Nunavut Government, there is a picture of those two little girls, which has to do with the Bathurst Mandate.

I think it had something to do with, like we already set our goals as the Nunavut Government and the people of Nunavut have their goals that they want to do.

As the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, you represent the people, and as a Minister and as a Deputy Minister, you serve the 27,000 – 28,000 people of Nunavut. As one Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, you represent all of the people, all of the communities of Nunavut and you represent the voters.

Like we said before, whether they are Inuk, whatever colour they are, your Department represent all of the people of Nunavut.

There were a lot of good questions from the other Members of this House. The Committee that is going to be formed, the Tuqtarvik Committee or Katimajit, we would

like to hear through CBC Radio and other media about the Katimajit that are going to be dealing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I realize that they know that they have the, they will have the experience and they will feel, they have to have a feel for their culture and their values.

As the Minister of your Department, we congratulate you and if we are going to appreciate that Katimajit, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force and the Tuqtarvik will probably be informing the public about what kinds of or will your Department be informing us about what their task will be or do the public know already or does the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth inform the public out there?

What kind of Mandate and what kinds terms of reference does this Committee have? Well, we would like to encourage you to inform the public on that because the public out there, our electors are out there wanting to get information as to what the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is going to do. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Katimajit that will be formed will be reporting on an annual basis with what they have produced and that will be information for the Members and the public.

And just to let the Members know that in Katimajit, there are eleven of them from Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk and we would like for them to be accessible to the communities. I would also like to tell them that they have to inform the people as to what their mandates are because I believe that information is very important and they will be providing an annual report on their achievements and accomplishments.

In the end they will be informing the public as to what they are going to be doing in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Mr. Minister for your response. When you visited the communities, you went Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, as an example the local education authority are hiring more Inuit into their system.

They have hired my sister who doesn't speak English, she is very good with the Inuktitut writing system and that's basically what my two communities are trying to do at this point.

Usually you have to have very good qualifications and credentials to become an instructor in the school system but today we are seeing more unilingual Inuit who are hired to teach our children in our Inuktitut language so that our children will learn about their history and language.

In the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth are you starting to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the system throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department does not have a human resources division in there but we used to have extra monies that would be used for cultural inclusion in the schools.

We don't have those monies anymore as the funding has lapsed; regardless of that our department tries to get any kind of support that they can into the schools but we don't have an employee that is solely working in that direction. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier on, in the schools the writing system is a bit different than those of the elders. As you mentioned the terminology workshop, in terms of that workshop, which ones are you utilizing more? The new terminology, as new terminology comes out which writing system do you use? Are you using the one that the school systems use or the writing system of the elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to compiling of the terminology, and whether we are using the old or the new writing system, we use the new one.

In the Kitikmeot there are more people who are using the new writing system and they are being taught in the schools, when they are compiling the terminologies. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): If the new terminology is utilized today, I know in the future it will be utilized even more, the one writing system. At times it becomes difficult for the elders to use the new writing system because they are not aware of the finals. This is good to hear.

As you mentioned, how do you appoint Members that will be sitting on the committees and the taskforce?

There are four recognized languages; Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun, English, and French. Once you are looking for appointments to the boards, as you mentioned, if you had people from the Kitikmeot, the Kivalliq, and the Baffin on that Board. This is what I thought. The writing system in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk are different; it is Roman Orthography.

What if we do not have seats available for those people from that region on that Board? Will this be how it will come about in the future in terms of appointments?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I do not want to start guessing at this point, but when we are having our terminology workshops we use the dialects of the people who are participating.

We also hold meetings in the Kitikmeot area and they compile Kitikmeot terminology and the people who participate in such meetings are elders, interpreters, and the stakeholders. They are the ones who compile the terminology in the Inuinnaqtun language.

When we are talking about appointments, we all get recommendations from the particular regions who should sit on this taskforce. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I would just like to mention to you that there should be seats available on those board, even if there is one, because our writing system is different, I emphasize this.

For instance in Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk, their writing system is different within the Kitikmeot. There are two in the Kitikmeot, which is why I emphasized it because our writing system is different. That is what I was trying to mention.

Last, but not least, of my questions. You mentioned there were six communities here, which will have responsibilities within Nunavut; which ones are they? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are originally starting with three communities and we have identified three further communities. The original ones were Cape Dorset, Whale Cove, and Gjoa Haven, and then we have Clyde River, Chesterfield Inlet, and Pelly Bay.

We cannot start with all of them, but it is in the long-term plan and we will be identifying further communities in the future. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Patterk.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions. The first is in regards to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. When are they going to start and if

we do not agree on the Bills, will they be given the authority to make rulings or decisions should we come to this type of a situation? If you understood me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To your question as to when they are going to start, I am very pleased to say that they will have their first meeting tomorrow. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit could be directed or be involved in coming to a decision and decide on which term would be used, but this Board could also work with the Standing Committees and the Government Departments.

They have a lot more work coming their way and with the increase in their work, then this will increase the number of meetings that they will have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you. The Minister stated that this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit will be producing annual reports. I would like further clarification. Are we talking about the reports or recommendations that will come with this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit? Thank you.

Chairman: Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be making their first report on their activities in January. They will be producing reports on their activities throughout the year. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Will they be making recommendations? Are they going to be making recommendations also to this Government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): They will produce a report on their activities and recommendations to the government. They will all be included in their annual report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to their recommendations, we're in 2003 and in January it will be 2004, the Minister stated that they will be making the first report in January 2004 and if they make recommendations, would that give us a year to implement the recommendations they have drafted?

Would that mean that we would be viewing the recommendations in the 2004 and finally implement them in 2005? I think that process would be too long if that is going to be the case. I would like further clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier they will be producing annual reports based on their activities and recommendations. To use an example, I'm sure that they will make their recommendations but that doesn't mean that we have to wait a whole year before we implement the recommendations.

As I stated earlier I would give them my full support and we will implement their recommendations. Their reports will contain the activities that they have undertaken as well as their recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, are their terms of reference written already or will the Katimajit make their own terms of reference? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all in their initial meeting they'll be given what kind of mandate they will have and what kind of issues, responsibilities they will have.

The government departments have their priorities every time they give their priorities by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit then the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit will deal with the departmental priorities and that way they can find out what kind of priorities they have and those are some of the responsibilities they have but at the initial meeting that's what they will set up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The way I understand this is it seems the terms of reference have already been set out. I hope that's not concrete; I hope it's not written in stone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we're not going to give them exactly what they are going to be but we will be orientating them on what kind of roles and responsibilities they have and what kind of authorities they have. We want them to be able to have some room to work. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One thing that I don't understand and need further clarification on is will the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajjiit have the power and authority that they need? I need clarification on that whether they will have some form of authority or power. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The word 'having authority', that's being asked quite a few times. I can just explain the meaning of it, Mr. Chairman. The IQ Committee will be making the recommendations and they will do their work for the Department of the Government and also work with the departments. And according to the way it is set, way how it is should be working out.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My second question. If you have stated that they will be utilizing the interpreters, there are quite of few interpreters/translators in Kitikmeot and Qikiqtaaluk, and the writing systems differ from each other. For that reason, also Kitikmeot and Kivallirmiut, although their dialects are similar to each other, the Kitikmeot dialect and writing system are totally different from ours. Will they be able to use their own writing systems? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. According to what the languages used prominently in what community, that's what we would be going by today. For instance, the way the writing system is used and in what region and that's what they would be working on. And you think that dialect and or that language or their writing system. And we know at times, we face challenges when there's difference in dialect even though you both speak Inuktitut.

Because there are terminologies that we have to work on, they can work on the terminologies in Inuktitut and come up with the new word, in Inuktitut, especially when they are trying to get terminology for interpreting and translating. But we all know that this has been a challenging issue for us especially when we have to do away with the differences of dialects. But when they meet, when the IQ Committee meet, they will meet to resolve the issue. Thank you. Mr. Alakannuark.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, the reason why I asked this question, in Kitikmeot when you hear them in their own dialects, because we have heard that someone say that in Qikiqtaaluk they use more syllabics than the Kitikmeot,

that is one of the reasons why I am asking this question, whether this is the case or not. Thank you.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to explain to you that through our department, our department will not be telling what language, what dialect is to be used. Whereever Inuit come from, they should have the right to use what dialect they wish and we will not be imposing any rules on that. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do want to thank you for all this clarification. For those individuals from those regions who use their own writing system and this will go on as status quo, even though we have different dialects. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the communities themselves will be using their own dialect and writing system and we will be in support of them to make sure they use their own dialect and writing system on a local level. They will still have to use their own dialect because that is their foundation of their culture because the language is the foundation; yes, we will be in support for them to use their dialect and writing system. Thank you.

Chairman: Are you finished? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was envisioning that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is respected and yet it doesn't seem to be respected.

I have heard from the elders when I passed through Rankin Inlet, an elder talked to me, Veronica's mother came to talk to me, the traditional way of reviving a drowned person, bubbles appear around their mouth and the elders say that the traditional way of reviving the drowned person is to never wipe the bubble from the mouth and if you do wipe it, they are not going to be able to be revived, but if you leave the bubble on their mouth they will stay alive. Modern medical people today wipe those away and according to the traditional way of reviving a drown people we were never allowed to wipe the foam that's coming out of their mouths.

I'm sure that as a Minister you have heard about this; I thought we were dealing with that, perhaps were just paying service as a government to come up with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit when they were not being focusing on things sensitive to Inuit. My mother is a traditional healer; she works with people with impetigo and she uses blubber to mend them and to heal them.

Medical doctors today do not recognise the traditional ways of treatment. When we are not going to be sensitive to this, I feel that this is just lip service during this discussion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Natsiq. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague and I seem to be discussing something different topics than what we're trying to establish now or has been requested many, many times. Inuit, especially those who work for the government department have requested this and it's also one of their goals in our Bathurst Mandate, and we want to strengthen it.

This is not just lip service; we are working very seriously on it and that's how we have established this and I'm very proud and happy to say that the initial meeting of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit will happen tomorrow.

As Katimajiit, these are Inuit and they have elders, were all there and they were also involved with individuals who are experienced in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We would like the Legislative of Assembly Members to give them support so that we can enhance their process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Are you finished? Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lastly, I would like to briefly speak about how they will be starting. We know mature adults have assimilated European culture that's why I was quite concerned about this.

Because this is not a European culture we're talking about, for example we believe that we've been assimilated too much, if we're told what to do, even though it's not our culture, we start believing it and start working on, because we've been assimilated so much.

I will use a couple as an example, I feel should be dealt with by the department, by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit like councillors or social workers.

There are social workers out there and because so many are based on Government qualifications, even though they are Inuit, there are many, many barriers that we have to face with the qualifications because we have to abide by the laws.

Within the responsibilities, perhaps, like if they counsel a couple, this councillor is not going to talk to anyone about that. As an Inuk person, an Inuk councillor approached by a young couple, in Inuktitut that councillor would speak to the parents to resolve the situation, but in the Qallunaaq way, there are confidentiality issues to deal with.

So, this is just one of the examples I am using. Many believe that they have to abide by the laws and rules and they are not native people; they do not know the traditional Inuit

ways and that should be one of the priorities that this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit should deal with.

And also, but those are just some of the examples I am using, but those are the ones that I would like to see, even though it seems to be funny and yet it angers us to hear. Not too long ago, a few days ago, this person in Chesterfield Inlet harvested a polar bear out of season and they confiscated the polar bear hide.

How he harvested the polar bear was fine, but he harvested the polar bear out of season because the polar bear management zones are different and in their management, polar bear management zones seasons close on different dates.

Perhaps, that polar bear just came from one zone to the other. That did not make sense. If you did something, such as to have quotas and some rules to follow, yet we cannot harvest polar bears during the summer. This is just an example; those are some of the examples that can be dealt with.

For instance, if an individual harvests a polar bear, that individual was dealt with in a non-Inuktitut way, his polar bear skin was confiscated. When you see that happen, you think that the wildlife biologists or the officers only think that these polar bears are not going to come out of their polar bear management zone.

You can only harvest polar bear from this area only, not from that management zone. Polar bears are wanderers; they swim during summer to long distances and walk on the ice, also to long distances in the wintertime. They go back and forth; they migrate back and forth.

Yet, that polar bear skin was confiscated as an example and I know that polar bear was in the other management zone where he would not have been harvested it out of season.

These are some of the things that I stress that the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit should focus on or pay close attention to. Those are some of the areas that they should be working at.

We faced a challenge earlier, a few years ago when this individual wanted to harvest polar bear using traditional ways, using a dog team and that is when we faced a problem there.

I feel that we should be considering and paying closer attention to these things so that there would be fewer barriers that Inuit face because many barriers are totally outside of our tradition and culture. The reason why we run into barriers is because they are not from our culture and tradition. That is my conclusion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I did not hear a question. That was just a comment. Do you have any comments? Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Member for giving us a good example of the problems that we encounter today. We have to remember who we are working for.

The Inuit people will have to be represented by our Government, and our Government must start using more Inuit ways so that we evolve it into our Government as a working language. The people who will be taking on these items that are not part of their culture, if they feel that it needs to be changed than the Member raises some good points to work off of. I just wanted to thank the Member for his example that was understandable and relatable. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I have no more names on my list. Do we agree that Minister's Statement 167-1(6) has been concluded? 167-1(6) is concluded.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and Leona Aglukkaq. What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like the Minister of Health and Social Services to make his Opening Statements for 2004/2005 for Review of the Capital Estimates for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister for Health and Social Services. Do you have Opening Comments? Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure today to bring forward and address the Committee of the Whole on the Review of the Capital Budgets for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Assembly, thank you for the opportunity to present today the 2004-2005 Capital Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Before I begin, I would like to introduce the members of my staff who are with me here today in the Gallery. Directly to my immediate left is Ms. Rosemary Brown, who is the Capital Planner for the Department of Health and Social Services, based out of Rankin Inlet, who is well known to a lot of the Members here. Mr. Bernie Blais, who is the new Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Wayne Govereau, who is also a Senior Policy and Planning Analyst.

And next to Wayne is Mr. Eric Whitford, the Certified Management Accountant, the fiscal guru who was lent to the Department from the Department of Finance, who has ascertained that the financial stability of the department is very good, and indeed working

on some of the recommendations being made. We want to thank Eric for being available to today.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the delivery of a wide range of health and social services programs across Nunavut.

The delivery of these programs, Mr. Chairman, requires facilities that are up to date, appropriately sized for the population, and well equipped to meet the needs of all residents of Nunavut.

It is our intention over the next ten years to continue to renovate and replace Health Facilities built before 1985 in order to meet the changing needs of our communities as well as our programs. This includes mental health, Mr. Chairman, home and community care initiatives to support residents in our home communities.

Included in the Capital Estimates is funding, Mr. Chairman, I think that you are going to be pleased to hear this. Mr. Chairman, included in the Capital Estimates is funding for the completion of the Health Centre in Igloolik. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Member from Igloolik, and for Hall Beach, who has worked very hard with the Hamlet there, and the people of Igloolik to have a new facility.

It was one of the priorities of the Hamlet back in 1999 when I first went there, so thank you to the Member.

In January 2003, the development of the residential care facility in the new Member's riding from Chesterfield Inlet requested that the Government of Nunavut take over the construction of that facility.

The transfer of the project went very smoothly, construction is on schedule and we would hope to be able to have occupancy in early 2004.

Identified in the capital estimates are the cost for the 3 major health facilities that are currently under construction.

The Qikiqtani hospital project, Mr. Chairman, is on schedule, with site work occurring now and major construction starting in early 2004, with completion and occupancy in 2006.

The Kitikmeot health facility is now in the major construction phase and is scheduled for completion in early fall 2004. Mr. Chairman, major construction is also underway for the Kivalliq health facility and it is expected to be completed in late 2004.

Again, I want to add that Minister Ng, brought yeoman service, along with the Members of the Legislative Assembly from the Kitikmeot have been instrumental in bringing this forward on the Kitikmeot facility in Cambridge Bay and I want to give credit especially

to Minister Thompson and the former Minister Anawak for their work on the Rankin Inlet facility.

Also identified in this year's capital estimates are funds, Mr. Chairman, to renovate the existing student hostel in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Chairman, I want the Members to take note of this from the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Chairman, there are also funds identified in the capital estimates to renovate the existing student hostel in Cambridge Bay and transform it into the requested medical boarding home.

Other arrangements are also being investigated, Mr. Chairman, to establish a boarding home in Rankin Inlet. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services will continue to be very active over the next few years. Guidance and support of all Members is appreciated, especially from the Standing Committee on Health, which has given us good direction in putting the capital as well as the O and M together.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to discussing our Capital Estimates for 2004-2005 with the Committee over the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Do you have your officials here? Does the Committee, the Minister agree, for his officials go to the witness table? Do you agree? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make some introductory remarks as we begin deliberations on the 2004-2005 Capital Budget of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Capital Estimates for 2004-2005 show that the Department of Health and Social Services has a budget of nearly 29 million dollars, representing almost 27 % of the Government's overall capital budget.

Mr. Chairman, the greatest proportion of the Department of Health and Social Services continues to be directed toward the development of 3 new regional health facilities. In fact, the projected budget for those facilities in the upcoming fiscal year has increased by 3.5 million dollars since last year's review.

We have reviewed the 2003-2004 Capital Estimates where the overall budget for the completion of those facilities over the next five years is projected to increase by at least \$10 million dollars.

Members continue to have concerns that without finalized contracts in place for the development of the two of the three health facilities, the projected cost will continue to rise with serious implications for the future Government's financial position.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, Committee Members were disappointed that projects in smaller communities such as Repulse Bay and Taloyoak, which have already been altered or delayed due to planning problems, are now being deferred due to priority being given to the three regional facilities.

The Committee noted the Departments cost-saving initiatives to establish a transit boarding facility in Cambridge Bay for individuals from neighbouring communities who will be coming in to receive services.

However, boarding home services in other jurisdictions, especially Yellowknife, continue to be a concern. It is the Committee's understanding that various aspects of service delivery in Yellowknife are currently being restructured and look forward to an update in the House in the very near future.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee have, on many occasions, expressed the view that services for the elderly, behaviourally disturbed children, persons with psychiatric disorders, and people with physical disabilities are more effective by being located within communities where individuals receiving services can be closer to their families.

The 2004-2005 Capital Estimates show that the group home project in Chesterfield Inlet has now been taken on as a Government project. Members are disappointed that the Minister has not followed up more vigorously on earlier suggestions to evaluate related needs across Nunavut and develop plans for providing services to the disabled.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my Opening Remarks. I would anticipate that individual Members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I move to report progress at this time. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a Motion to Report Progress. There is a Motion on the floor to Report Progress. All those in favour. All those opposed. Carried. We can have the Speaker come back to the House. Thank you.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (Mr. Irqittuq)(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 167-1(6) and Bill 46 and would like to report Ministers' Statement 167-1(6) is concluded. And Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor; is there a seconder for the motion? Ms. Thompson. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Opposed. The motion is carried. 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. Reminder for tomorrow at 9 o'clock in the morning, the Standing Committee of Health and Education will meet in the Nanuq committee room. At 11 o'clock, Standing Committee Observations in Tuktu room.
Orders of the day for October 23, 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 29 - 1(6)

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 12
- Bill 33
- Bill 46

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 Thursday, October 23, at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:33*

