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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Ovide Alakannuark

(Akulliq)

Enoki Iqittuq

(Amittuq)

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(Arviat)

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(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng

(Cambridge Bay)

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Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Iqaluit East)

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Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak

(Kugluktuk)

Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk

(Nanulik)

Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak

(Nattilik)

Deputy Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Minister of Sustainable Development

Hon. Jack Anawak

(Rankin Inlet North)

Minister of Justice; Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation

Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

Jobie Nutarak

(Tunnunig)

David Iqaqrialu

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Editors of Hansard
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 979-6770 Fax (867) 979-6811 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday May 18, 1999**

Members Present

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Levi Barnabas): I would like to ask Ms. Thompson to say the opening prayer.

>>Opening Prayer

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the Orders of the day Item # 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Ministers' Statements 11 - 1 (2): X-Ray Assistant Program Graduates

Hon. Ed Picco: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Uqaqti last Saturday 13 students from 9 different communities in the Baffin Region graduated from the first ever X-Ray Assistants Training Course. Mr. Speaker, these students have had much to be proud of, they have worked very hard and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate each one of them for their commitment and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, the X-Ray Assistants Program is an example of the kind of Medical Training we want to see more of. In Nunavut we must open the door to Nunavummiut to pursue careers in the health and social services fields. Students like those who graduated on Saturday represent a step towards a goal of increased self-sufficiency for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Donald Havioyak, who stood in at this Ceremony on Saturday as I was out of this town. Once again, Uqaqti I congratulate them, I wish them the very best in their new pursuit. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers Statements. Item # 3 from the Orders of the day. Members Statements.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Members' Statement 33 - 1 (2): Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take this time to congratulate the Elders of Baker Lake for all their hard work, dedication and foresight in their efforts in establishing the Baker Lake Inuit Heritage Centre. This was a Project with virtually no funding and done by the Elders of Baker Lake themselves on a volunteer basis and when my fellow Colleagues comes to Baker Lake, they will see first hand what our Elders can achieve. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Members Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Members' Statement 34 - 1 (2): Congratulations to Students of Inuglak School

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to make a statement and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the recent accomplishment of some of our students and teachers for which I'm especially proud. From Whale Cove, grade four to six students at Inuglak School of Whale Cove formed of group in order to enter a competition titled the "National Scholastic Create A Book Contest". Sixteen Students were responsible for all facets of book preparation from writing and editing of the story, to the lay out of the book. This competition is open to any school, which holds a Scholastic Book Fair and it's held right across Canada. It is important to know that the winning entrants are professionally published and sold all across Canada at Scholastic Book Fairs. The Winning School also receives a 1 thousand-dollar Cash Prize.

(interpretation ends)

I would like to further highlight the extent of this accomplishment. That Inuglak School submission was completed by students, whose first language is Inuktitut. I'm happy to report that Inuglak School won first place out of one hundred eighty entries from across Canada.

This is an ideal project for the students of Inuglak to work together in order to create culturally relevant material that is now a source of pride. I would especially like to note the contributions of the following teachers. Project advisors, Michael Montcombroux, Ken Jacobi, Sue Callard. I'd like to also mention the individual students that participated, Mona Panika, Tina, I think I'll just say the first names, Tina Kaurayok, Lazarus Teenar, Samuel Igviksaq, Peter Scottie, Malaiyah Enuapik, Dolores Maktar, Florentine Voisey, Rachel Misheralak, Germaine Ekwalak, Karlene Napayok, Alana Copland, Michelle Nattar, Lisa Grace Sheetoga, and Laura Uluadluak. I'm sure the Members would like to congratulate these students at this time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Members Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Members' Statement 35 - 1 (2): Traditional and Contemporary Heat Sources

Mr. Iqaqrialu: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wish to ask you whether I can state this for two minutes. Thank you Mr. Speaker. For a long time now from a while back, with my stepfather and grandfather we left by dog team, we lived and took shelter in an igluvigak and the storm came up and we had no stove or lamp. We had to keep warm by ourselves and now behind me, that spot light behind me is quite warm and although there's nothing to be heated and I'm just sitting here, it really makes me sweat and I just wanted to ensure the people know that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Tootoo

Members' Statement 36 - 1 (2): Condition of Iqaluit Roads

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Iqaluit has the honourable distinction of being Canada's newest and smallest Territorial Capital. However, it also has the dubious distinction of being perhaps the community with the largest pot holes in the entire country. As our Capital, Iqaluit is for many visitors, the first and last sight of Nunavut. A Capital should reflect the beauty, strength, and character of it's jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit does all of this and more. Just yesterday while driving behind our new Minister of Health and Social Services I was startled to note that the Ministers' van suddenly took a dip and disappeared from view. Several tense seconds passed, before he emerged from one of Iqaluits' infamous pot holes. I am certain that all Honourable Members will join me in expressing relief at his narrow escape. As visiting Members will have noticed, we wear seat belts not just to protect ourselves in the event of collision, but to prevent the roofs of our vehicles from being dented as we bounce over the pot holes.

Mr. Speaker I fully support Council and Mayor Kilabuk in their efforts to address this issue. I will do what I can to help ensure that the Council receives adequate resources to fix our roads and hopefully to pave them. Mr. Speaker our community is a capital for all of Nunavut and has much more to offer to visitors and residents alike, than a bone shaking drive. I urge us to get to work on this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements, Mr. Anawak.

Members' Statement 37 - 1 (2): Thanks to Constituents, Family and Members

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Rankin North. It is a great honour and privilege for me to be here as their representative in the first Nunavut Legislative Assembly. I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve Rankin Inlet North and all the people of Nunavut in the first Nunavut Government.

Mr. Speaker the decision to seek elected office is not taken lightly. I wish to recognize all the candidates who ran in the February election and especially the candidates in Rankin Inlet North. I congratulate my colleagues here for their hard work and dedication and their electoral success. We all know how difficult political life can be for our family members and none of us would likely be here without the help and support of our families. I would like to pay tribute at this time to all our families and to my wife Caroline and my children, I express my special appreciation.

Mr. Speaker we're all here because we want to make life better for our constituents and all the people of Nunavut. I would like to thank my colleagues for having elected me to Cabinet and for giving me this unique opportunity to contribute to improving Nunavut. Also I thank the Premier for the portfolios I hold. The areas I have responsibility for, Community Government, Housing and Transportation and Justice are all areas close to the people.

I'm very pleased to have the chance to work for improvements in these areas, which are very important to the people of Rankin Inlet North and all the communities. I look forward to working with all my colleagues around this table. I respect your commitment to your communities and I appreciate your support. I will do what I can to assist you, to work together, to make changes for the better for the communities of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Members' Statement 38 - 1 (2): Sympathy to Bereaved Family

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have bad news to make a statement about. This morning here at the Regional Hospital, an elder from Cape Dorset died. I want you to keep thinking about the family in your prayers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Yes I have heard and that family has relatives in my community. We will write a letter of sympathy on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and to the members of the families in Cape Dorset. Thank you. Members Statements. Going back to orders of the day, Returns to Oral questions. Returns to Oral questions, Item # 4 orders of the day. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return 2 - 1 (2): Question 12 - 1 (2) Hall Beach School Addition

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by the MLA for Amittuq on May 13, 1999 regarding an addition to be built onto the school in Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker, decisions surrounding capital projects and which ones were to proceed this year were based on three criteria. A capital project would proceed if:

- Construction work on the building had already begun;
- There was already a binding commitment to proceed; or
- There was a critical safety issue which required the work to be done.

Mr. Speaker the proposed work on the Hall Beach school, after being reviewed by the capital projects review committee was deemed not to meet this year's criteria. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Anawak.

Return 3 - 1 (2): Question 2 - 1 (2) House of Commons Standing Committee Report

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development tabled its' Seventh Report (interim), entitled "Aboriginal Economic Development: Urgent Issues Arising From Visits to Northern Quebec and Nunavut", on May 7, 1999.

The Department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation has received a copy of this report. The details of this report are under review at this time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to oral questions, Mr. Anawak.

Return 4 - 1 (2): Question 5 - 1 (2) Constituents' Letter

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Mayor of Kimmirut wrote me a letter on April 20th regarding the community's arena. I have responded to that letter and sent a copy to the MLA for Kimmirut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Returns to Oral question. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Manitok Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My Constituents from Whale Cove, probably won't be here usually, so I'm very happy to present, because they are very good supporters and part of my constituency, David Kritterdlik and Susie Kritterdlik.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to our meeting, the Session of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish to recognize those I grew up with as children and whom I worked with. I would like to recognize Susan Sangoya my paternal cousin and Jose Tigullaraq my maternal cousin. Please stand up. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I represent two communities in my constituency. I'm happy that we have visitors here from Taloyoak, they started yesterday, Mr. Speaker from the Kitikmeot and it's fairly large and as I have stated previously, I had nobody to recognize. Today, it's my pleasure to recognize visitors, the Mayor of Taloyoak Denis Lyall, and Louie Primeau his Senior Administrative Officer and as well John Davidson, I believe you all know him. Thank you Mr. Speaker for recognition of these leaders.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Welcome to our Session for those who were stated. Recognition of Visitors of the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize an individual that's been in the Gallery every day since we started. Without his efforts the rest of Nunavut would not be able to see what's transpiring here in the House. I'd like to recognize Henry Nowdlak from IBC Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo, please feel welcome. Recognition of the visitors in the gallery, Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. So many people here of course in Iqaluit, especially from Iqaluit east, I tried to recognize at least three a day. Today, Rebecca

Williams the ADM for Justice, resident of the Iqaluit East Constituency, Mr. Chuck Gilhuly, well known business man, former SAO of Cape Dorset and resident of Iqaluit West, and Mr. Peter Itinnuar a former MP and all around good guy and employee of the Government of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Please feel welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of visitors of the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Kitikmeot residents, I want to recognize Denis Lyall and John Stevenson, welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): For those of you visitors who have not been recognized, I recognize all of you, please feel welcome to our first legislative assembly. Return to orders of the day, item 6, Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 37 - 1 (2): Research into Gasoline in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask a question to the Minister of, but I forget what it is, it's fuel and petroleum products. Ms. Thompson, when she was in front of the standing committee, I raised a question in respect to the gasoline and octane levels. I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, whether there has been any research into the gasoline used in Gjoa Haven area.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson Minister of Public Works.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I spoke with my senior officials, shortly before lunch. The question was raised previously by the MLA, I'm having this researched at this time and I will make the findings known and I will let the Member know what the results are, but at this time the results are inconclusive. I can only state that it's under review at this time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm holding a response from the Government and Gjoa Havens letter and my papers are starting to fall down. When our MLA, who was a member of the NWT Government, raised questions starting from January of 1999, as well on February 18, there was a letter written and as well there was a March 15 letter sent as well.

There's quite a few pieces of paper in front of us, especially from the communities I'm representing. I'm not sure where they are going, because it's in transition, because they keep getting sent back, so I'm wondering if we're playing musical chairs here with the letters from the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that there's confusion right now, although we want to believe our new government and at this time we are in a transitional period, we can't rely on an answer from the other government or from the Ministers to which we posed the question.

Like my other colleagues Mr. Minister, I would like them to know that what concerns them when I come here is raised. There are 50 drums, they wish to order, the 50 drums of gasoline would cost about \$36 thousand dollars or more. In that case, for example, the Hamlet would be using their surplus to make this purchase. I want to raise this in the Legislature, Mr. Speaker, because they have been sending these copies of the letters, which had been sent originally to the NWT Government and I believe as well to the Nunavut Government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The concerns raised by the communities, there are quite a few. As I'm the New Minister, I'm trying to make sense of them. I believe that I will bring my senior officials to Gjoa Haven and there should be a meeting at the beginning and there will be a leaders conference in Kitikmeot at the end of next month. I will go with my senior officials to meet with them. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Minister I thank you for your quick response and if you could come to my community, that would be very good. I also have to respond to my constituents. How much time should I state you will require to make a response in respect of the gasoline issue. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I will meet with the MLA along with my senior officials and I will inform them of the meeting tomorrow. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 38 - 1 (2): Urgent Funding Requirements for Hamlet of Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to pose this question to the Minister of Community Government. In our community of Clyde River,

the Hamlet of Clyde River has been awaiting for transfer of \$ 58 thousand and \$ 20 thousand for (*inaudible comment*) identified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Anawak, Minister of MACA. Minister of Housing & Transportation.

Hon. Jack Anawak : Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation and I understand this issue, I believe that it's a deficit, or a budget deficit in Clyde River. I knew there was a problem even before I became a Minister and while it was still under the purview of the G.N.W.T. government. As I became a minister, I spoke with my Deputy Minister, well unfortunately I've not had the opportunity to talk with him about this. I know he's dealing with the issue, perhaps I can tell him that it is being taken care of, however I will inquire as to what the status is. I'm sorry, if he raises another question, I am not trying to close it, if he wants to add a supplementary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a while now, this has caused problems in our community, specifically to the Hamlet in respect of the operational funds. This has now become an emergency issue, I do not want this deferred or delayed, I think you have to meet with your officials right away and meet with them in Clyde River because this is something you can deal with. It's been ongoing for a while now, and perhaps if you can direct your officials to deal directly with the Hamlet, that would please me tremendously if you could do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Anawak, Minister of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, they are able to deal with this and they will work with the Hamlet to resolve these issues. I know that they're working with the Hamlet SAO in Clyde River, but I'm not sure what the progress is and I will inquire as to the status of this work in Clyde River now. I'll check to see if they are working with Clyde River Hamlet but I would like to tell the MLA, Mr. Iqaqrialu, yes, this concern of his, we will deal with this immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien?

Question 39 - 1 (2): Decentralization

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Acting Premier. Mr. Speaker, all the members in the room realize and know how important decentralization is to the smaller, less fortunate communities. Yesterday, I posed a question to the Minister of Finance in reference to if the funding was incorporated into the budget to ensure that the decentralized model would take place. The Minister indicated that the funding was incorporated into the budget, and that was good news.

Unfortunately we also heard that, the Premier indicated that they have commissioned a study to re-evaluate the decentralization process. I'd like to ask the Acting Premier as to who is doing the study and why the study is being done. Thank you.

Speaker: Two questions, Mr. Ng, Minister of Finance. Thank you, Acting Premier.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as it stands now, it isn't, per se, a study

from the perspective of what people would perceive as a study. What is actually happening is the staff under the executive in intergovernmental affairs has a small working group of officials made up of government representatives that is putting together information that will allow for presentation of some options in respect of decentralization.

I think what the concern is, quite frankly, is even though there is monetary PY's out there for the decentralized model, some of what I wasn't aware of yesterday, and became aware of afterwards, speaking of after the Committee of the Whole, when I had an opportunity to review more details with my officials. Some of the relocation costs weren't fully provided for, to my understanding, for the decentralized model, so the PY positions are there, there is some travel budgets attached to that for the individuals, but there isn't total relocation costs, establishment costs as it stands now. I think what the members have to recognize too, is that it's easy to put in the position, but you have to have the support, in respect of housing, in respect to the office space. Those are the kinds of issues the committee as a whole has to grapple with in respect of timing for putting in the positions for decentralization and meeting the needs of the staff that are going to be put in place. Thank you.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is it fair to say, then, if a community has the office accommodations, has the housing accommodations in place, then has the human resources available to fill these positions, and as you've indicated yesterday, the funding has been incorporated into the budget, if all these factors are in place, would there be any reason why these positions could not be filled A.S.A.P.? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Ng, Minister of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it goes back to the priorities of the government, and the timing, back to the timing of the implementation of decentralization, and of staffing of the government as a whole. Again that's another factor that has to be taken into consideration. Members recognize that not all the headquarters functions are up and running fully as it stands now, anywhere from 30% to 40-45% for some of the headquarter levels of departments right now.

In particular the department of Human Resources, if I could use that for an example because it's under my responsibility, that is tasked with filling and recruiting on behalf of all the departments, they don't have the capabilities right now of going out there wholesale and trying to fill all the positions. So it's a matter of setting some priorities

and having a rational schedule and timing and a plan for how we're going to implement it. That's where the difficulties are right now in respect to the government planning and procedures in establishing the decentralized model. Thank you.

Speaker: Qujannami, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien, supplementary.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Acting Premier saying that, I hope he's saying that, the decentralized model is not in jeopardy, that we're only talking about logistics and timing, and that the communities that are ready to take on these positions, whether it be this month, next month, or six months, that there shouldn't be any concerns or any fear that these positions will not come to the communities as they were promised. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Acting Premier.

Hon. Kelvin Ng : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has said that we're committed to the principles of the decentralized model as they were laid out, and it is a matter of the logistics. If I can use another example that has been brought to our attention, the community of Gjoa Haven and having liquor warehousing in that community, whether or not that makes sense. Another matter for example that has to be considered is the community of Kugluktuk and Legal Registries when all the support services for filing in the legal system are based here in Iqaluit. So those are the kind of dilemmas that the cabinet as a whole, the issues that have to be looked at, if you're going to move one because of problems, what are you going to do to supplement or offset that move? Those are the broader implementation issues that we're trying to come to grips with. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Second supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The final question would be when does the Acting Premier think that we can be in a position or the cabinet can be to, I guess, reassure the smaller communities that the positions that have been promised to them will indeed be coming to the communities? When do we think that we can give the communities a firm commitment? I know it's fine when we say that we're committed to it, but I guess the issue is when? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. That was...sorry, that was your final supplementary. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Premier indicated that there would be cabinet discussions session on that, I believe he mentioned the date to June 29th or the 30th. At the same time I believe that he also committed that it would be a matter of discussion in the strategic planning sessions planned for Baker Lake.

So based on the outcome of the discussions there, I would say we're looking at late June-July sometime before hopefully we can confirm decisions one way or another on this whole issue that's of concern to all of Nunavut and a lot of our communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Questions? Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 40 - 1 (2): Transition Planning for Dissolution of Boards of Education

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Education. I was wondering if in light of this government's decision to eliminate the boards of education, I was wondering if the Minister can inform us if there is transition in place going from the boards to the new system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: My apologies. Mr. Arvaluk. (interpretation) Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk?

Hon. James Arvaluk: We are in the process of working on the implementation plan and we will be in a position very soon to hire a co-ordinator for that implementation and also deal with the business plan as to how the transitional period will take place, but I cannot give you the final steps as to how the implementation will take place at the moment.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that they are going to be hiring a co-ordinator to co-ordinate those efforts, I would assume then that they do have a plan in place? If he could just affirm that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk, Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, can the member repeat the question please?

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated that they would be hiring a co-ordinator to co-ordinate the implementation plan? I would take that as indicating that the department has an implementation plan that they will be implementing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Arvaluk, Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, after the decision was made in Kimmirut and subsequently with the regular members, we started wheels moving immediately after that because before the decision was made, before Kimmirut, we couldn't foresee how the recommendations would take place. When the recommendation to have no boards was taken later, then we didn't really have time, to date, to put all the implementation plans together before the members sat. As soon as that becomes available and as soon as we

hire one, that hiring does not come from the Minister or the department itself, it would only make a recommendation to the cabinet. As soon as the cabinet makes a decision, then I would be happy to report.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Third question, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to getting the information. I was wondering if the Minister or his staff has plans, it sounds like they're developing a plan, if he will be consulting with the boards, the regional boards, staff members, with the community education councils, and with the staff in the schools that are the service delivery people, in consultation as far as how to take a look at developing this transition plan. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk?

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would be the major part of the coordinator's job, is to consult with the regional boards, the communities, Hamlet councils, and other interested groups, and the regular members as to what would be the best business plan to develop and this naturally will take....we have a year... till July 2000, July 1, 2000. I'm hopeful that it will be done sooner, but the consultation process will take place as soon as possible.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was wondering if the Minister also let his planner to plan a mechanism by which the people that we just talked about, the boards, the DEA's, and also the schools are aware of what process will be taking place in the next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk?

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Shall we move on? Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 41 - 1 (2): Decentralized Positions for Hall Beach

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've a question to the Minister of Finance regarding the jobs. I believe there are seventy-two and a half PY's in my constituency. My question is are we going to get those seventy-two and a half PY's in Hall Beach?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure about the specifics of Hall Beach, but again in answering the question from Mr. O'Brien, it would be part of the whole

decentralization review and the timing of implementation in respect to availability of housing, availability of office space and the timing for hiring. Thank you.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure you responded to my question, Mr. Speaker, but I would like to know that... I would like to know whether decentralization should have started right from April 1, when Nunavut government came into being?

Speaker: Mr. Ng?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, obviously, if I could have hired all the people and had them in place by April 1, then that's the ideal situation. Having said that, we all recognize that it wasn't possible to do that. As I indicated earlier in my response to Mr. O'Brien, there are headquarters functions that are critical in trying to get up and running and there's also the issue of the positions from the decentralized model. We are trying to plan that out in as quickly a time fashion as possible so we can bring some certainty and closure to the issue. I know members are concerned about that and the government is aware of that and we just want to try and make sure we are not rushing into things and paying the consequences of making moves without having them planned out. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Third question Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I understood your response. With the finances allocated for the PY's, is there money available to move these people out to the communities under the decentralization plan? Is there money already allocated in the budget to move those people out to the communities?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I had indicated there is some dollars for relocation within the budget of Human Resources, but there isn't enough to establish 100 per cent of the positions based on those decentralized, because it was always recognized that it wouldn't be possible to do everything within the first year of operation and it would have to be a phased in process over a number of years. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. McLean.

Question 42 - 1 (2): Regular Members Input to Decentralization Review

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Acting Premier regarding decentralization and his comments, saying that the departments of Executive, Intergovernmental Affairs, and Cabinet are working on rearranging the model. As we know, decentralization affects 10 communities and as regular members are we going to

have any input into this little quirk, or is it going to be dumped on us in our retreat in Baker Lake?

Speaker: Two questions. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, we are not planning on dumping anything on anybody in Baker Lake. I think what we are doing now is trying to take an assessment on what is out there and what is available and trying to outline some of the problems. As I had indicated and I used the Gjoa Haven example of the liquor warehouse and the Legal Registries in Kugluktuk, and lay out some options that might be put forward for members to consider in the overall scheme of trying to implement decentralization. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Third question, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: So the Acting Premier, is he committed to advising the rest of the people that are effected by decentralization what decisions are going to be moved, so we don't go into Baker Lake on the retreat, and no surprises. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Finance Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most definitely, there is no plan to be rearranging anything at this stage, just assessing what is out there and realistically what can be done right now. That is the main basis of what we are trying to assess. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. Nutarak.

Question 43 - 1 (2): Infrastructure and Decentralization in Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to Mr. Anawak, Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Regarding staff housing, the infrastructure that is being built in anticipation of decentralization in Pond Inlet is slated to be built this year. I wonder if that is going to go ahead? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I am sorry, would you ask him to repeat his question please?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak, would you rephrase your question please? Thank you.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): There is supposed to be infrastructure built this summer in Pond Inlet but there may be a delay because of the land availability there, or quality of it. So my question is, are the plans going ahead to build the infrastructure or are those going to be delayed. There may be some problems that will not allow the construction to go ahead because the land fill site has not been restored. I don't know what the plans are to restore the land that is near where the infrastructure is happening this summer. I want a clarification of what the plans are.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Anawak, that was a question directed to you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as the Acting Premier I should take that because the question has to do with the broader financing, and quite frankly, with Nunavut Construction company. Given the agreement that they have established with DIAND for constructing the office space and the housing for turnover to the Nunavut Government as it stands now that agreement is still in place. The Nunavut Construction company with the federal government is developing that same infrastructure. We have no participation in that except for when it is finalized we assume responsibility for those lease payments. But if the Honourable member has some concerns about the timing on that, we will certainly find out what is going on with the planned infrastructure in his community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Maybe I should be directing this to the Minister of Public Works. I wonder if the old land fill site is going to be restored and if it is going to be restored this coming summer. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I would just like to inform everybody that you are supposed to be directing the same line of questioning to the same Minister and if you have other questions that you should take these one by one. (interpretation ends).

I will ask Ms. Thompson to answer, because that was where Mr. Nutarak directed it. Ms. Thompson, Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. From what I understand from my department, regarding the land fill site in Pond Inlet, there have been funds set aside to restore the land, but I will find out exactly what the funds are to be used for and I will look into the plans further and get back to the member. I know that there have been some funds set aside for the land fill site in Pond Inlet. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 44 - 1 (2): Rent Scale and Public Housing

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will direct this question to the Minister of Housing. My question is that the public housing units and those people who rent them, the price of rent keeps going higher. I wonder if the rent scale is going to be reconsidered in the near future? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): We have not had an opportunity to look at that yet, but on his concern, that will be one of the topics that we'll be covering when we have discussions on housing. The lowest rent is 32 dollars and, once a person becomes employed, their rent goes way higher than that. So, I'm not sure if this is the question that he's asking about, but that's one of the issues we'll be addressing during our meetings about rent scales. We have heard in the past that, once a person becomes a wage earner, their rents go way up and, I think, they start paying 30% of their wages. So, we'll be looking at this in the near future. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Second question, Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is a supplementary question to the same Minister of housing. The rental units in the communities are becoming scarce and, we have a population growth that is growing who are demanding their own housing. So, the occupancy rate per unit is very high and there's been overcrowding, and that causes problems. So, now, is it being considered that there be more public housing built in communities? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Community Government, Housing & Transportation Minister, Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just returned from Ottawa recently from a meeting about public housing. I met with the Minister of CMHC, and we'll be meeting again in the near future to address the shortage of housing and overcrowding because it has been a major concern in our area and in our country.

We would like to see the communities be self-sufficient. I'm not saying that this is what we'll do in the future but, I had a meeting earlier today with the people from Taloyoak who want to work on a program to enable the people to own their own homes. That's what they want to do in their Hamlet. We would like to see more communities taking the initiative to provide homeownership or make more it more accessible to be a homeowner in the communities. That's what the residents of Taloyoak are doing right now and we would like to see more of that in the communities. I do understand, however, what his question is but I'm not sure if we will be obtaining more funds for us to address this issue. Our colleagues in Ottawa are well aware of this problem, too.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 45 - 1 (2): Nursing Shortage

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In some communities, especially in the smaller communities, they have one nurse in their health centres that work 24 hours a day. They are only human, and they should be taking rest breaks. How are these nurses going to be replaced so that they can take their break in communities? Also, in some communities, even though they may have more than one nurse, they are still short staffed in their health centres, and the nurses are expected to work 24 hours a day. Do you have a program whereby these people can be relieved from time to time? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker, and thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. It was a good question. The concern right now, Mr. Speaker, is not unique just to Nunavut. Indeed, it seems to be a national problem, and that is the availability of nurses and professional nursing staff.

In the cases in communities where we have only one or two nurses, and they're working 12 and 14 hours a day, I have been in smaller communities, in Igloodik and Kimmirut, and I have seen first hand that concern. What we want to try and do, from the departments point of view, is to put in place a recruitment and retention program, which we're working on right now. So that we'll have a pool of nurses that will be available at the community level. What we're doing at the department, Mr. Speaker, is trying to get to the point where we have a number of nurses in these communities that will actually fill the void that is there right now. For example, in the communities where we have two nurses that are working 12 hour shifts, that is not acceptable. We realize that. I realize that. The Members of the House realize that. But, after saying that, Mr. Speaker, the concern is to actually get nurses, get them up and to have them trained, hopefully, locally, will be one area to look at, alleviating that problem. Of course, we don't have that right now available to us.

So, one of the things that we're hoping to announce over the next few weeks is the nursing program at the college, so we can hire them and have locally trained nurses. Until that day, Mr. Speaker, we have to wait and see what we put in place for a recruitment and retention program for the current nursing staff that we have and, hopefully, get the number of nurses we have at the community level up to respectable levels. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think this is a major concern and I think this has become a crisis. I know that if you decide to address it quickly and treat it as a first priority, I think that you can do something about that. I would like to see you deal with this, as soon as possible. Especially in the area of nursing shortages, so that people can take comfort that if they should get ill, they will be taken care of.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, indeed, my department and the government take the issue of shortage of nurses very serious. As I said before, it's not just unique to Nunavut. Indeed, we just heard a couple of weeks ago that Mr. Harris of Ontario was putting about 250 million dollars back into the health care system and hiring 10,000 nurses. We've got to look at recruiting nurses from the same jurisdictions that Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, and other southern provinces are looking at the same pool of people that are available.

We have to look at, on the recruitment and retention side, what we need to put in place to maintain and retain the nurses that we have working for us. Indeed, many of the centres right now have what we call the nightingale nurses where they come up on contract, and they work for 3 months, and they go back to south. That's not providing the continuity we want to see in our communities. So, I agree with the member. We are working on the recruitment and retention program right now, and I'm hoping that over the next several weeks, as we develop that program, we'll be able to bring it forth to the Standing Committee on Health of this House, discuss it with them and take consideration at that time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm talking about the area of Nunavut. Specifically, I'm not concerned about the rest of Canada or southern Canada. Rather, I'm talking about Nunavut specific issues. Are you also involved in recruiting nurses for areas other than Nunavut? I'm concerned about filling the positions in Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Iqaqrialu. Minister of Health Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I've known Mr. Iqaqrialu for a long time, and I know that he's asking that question very seriously. I would like to say to Mr. Iqaqrialu, and the members of this House, and the audience here and those watching on T.V., what we're trying to say is that the nurses that we're trying to hire here in Nunavut, we have to compete against the same pool that Ontario is trying to hire.

Nurses just don't come out of the ground. They have to be trained. There's X-number of nurses available, and we're competing against other jurisdictions. When we're competing against other jurisdictions, to get nurses to come to the north, we have to be able to offer them a good benefits package. We want to offer them good working conditions. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, those are all the things that we're looking at in the retention and recruitment program. Later this week, or early next week, when my budget comes up for the Department of Health, we'll be able to elaborate on some of the ideas that we have in actually hiring and retaining the nurses that we have at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, I want reiterate that I live here, my wife, my children, my in-laws, my relatives, my friends, we all use the same services that you do. I take this role very seriously, and I'm trying to look from the departmental perspective, what we can do to maintain quality and the standard of health care that we deserve here in Nunavut, and that's second to none in Canada. That's what I meant by saying that we're trying to recruit nationally. We have to compete against those other jurisdictions. And it's not easy.

One of the reasons why we're looking at health boards, and elimination of health boards, is to be able to take a Nunavut perspective. So, we should be hiring nurses for Nunavut, not for specific regions of our home. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Last and final question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My final question. If we're just going to be recruiting from outside of Nunavut, I don't think that that is acceptable. But, for the Nunavut residents, I think that we can also train health care professionals for Nunavut specific jobs. I think by providing educational opportunities and training opportunities in Nunavut that would stop a lot of recruiting that's happening right now in southern Canada. Nunavut nurses can learn to be nurses in Nunavut. I think that would solve a lot of our problems. Perhaps education programs, or program funds should be identified by your department so we don't have to keep looking outside of Nunavut to hire these people.

Speaker: Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member. Earlier today, I made a statement where we had nine X-ray Technologist graduates here at Nunavut Arctic College for the first time in Nunavut. I think we should be very pleased and happy about that. We have already seen the successful completion of several of our residents trained as Community Health Representatives, CHR's. Mr. Speaker, we've had an entrance program two years running now for the nursing program. At the end of that program over the next several months and years, we'll have trained nurses here in Nunavut. That's what I was talking about when I said, we have to train people here in Nunavut. That's how we will be able to, hopefully, supply a market for local talent. That's the way the department is looking at it, and that's what we're trying to bring forth. And, again, later next week when we have the chance to look at the health budget, we'll be able to look in more detail at some of the plans and processes that I would like to bring forth as a Minister in this Department of Health. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. I will now ask members that haven't asked questions, yet, to ask questions. I know I have your name Mr. O'Brien, but I'll allow Mr. Akasuk to ask questions. Mr. Akasuk. Oral questions.

Question 46 - 1 (2): Arctic College Nursing Training Program

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Maybe this is directed to the Minister of Education. At one time, at the Arctic College, there was a program that was getting underway at to train nurses. I wonder if the program is going to be reinstated and for that to be able to go ahead in this coming semester.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Education James Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is being considered at this time because the health care students were unable to continue on with their courses. Once I'm able to answer your question, and how the program is going to be designed and what the decision is about going ahead for this program, I'll be able to answer that.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 47 - 1 (2): Rehabilitation Programs for Inmates

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Anawak. At the Baffin Correctional Centre, here in Iqaluit, I think that the Department of Justice refers to it as a warehouse, where you put away people. The people who are inmates of that facility are not provided with any rehabilitative programs. I wonder, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has a plan, or his department has plans to establish programs that are geared towards treatment of the inmates and to change the attitude of the facility from being the warehouse for people, so that there are rehabilitative programs for the inmates.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, thank you. We don't want to put our people away to warehouses, especially our people. I have had meetings with the officials in the Department of Justice, specifically in the area of correctional facilities, including the one in Iqaluit, and the YCC in Yellowknife. We also have inmates who are in penitentiaries in southern Canada, and, following their time in these facilities, they have to return to their communities and they will be coming through the correctional centre, here in Iqaluit, on their way home. What we would like to do is establish programs for them to return to communities. That's exactly what we want to do. We want to establish facilities that are more directed to the lifestyles of the geographical area that they come from. For example, we're looking at young people who may be able to take programs where they can go on an out on the land training program. We are looking at these current programs in preparation to return them to local communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Jack Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 48 - 1 (2): Consulting Contract, Department of Health

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister indicated a few weeks ago at one of our Committee meetings that he was in the process of hiring a consultant to assist with some new models that would relate to the Health Department, or health boards, I wonder if he could elaborate on the actual contract itself - the terms of reference - and actually who was doing this work? Thank you.

Speaker: Two questions for Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. What we spoke about in the Committee, and what we said subsequently was that, under the Department of Health, we want to put an organizational plan in place. And, again, using a process with the Standing Committee of Health in the Legislative Assembly, and with the current health boards that we have in place until March 31st, the year 2000, is to look at the process where we will have a plan after March 31st for the delivery of Health and Social Services in the three regions that we have right now in Nunavut. The contract for that work to be developed over the next several weeks will be in conjunction with the Department of Education. I am not aware that the contract has been let - right now per se and, indeed, I don't know if you're allowed to actually table, for example, a contract to an individual, whatever. The terms of reference of the contract, once put in place, I could commit to table that in the House if that's what the Member's requesting. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Second question, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was under the impression that the contract was actually let, and that the person was in place. Just for clarification purposes, is the Minister saying that is not the case?

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware if an actual contract has been let or if an individual is actually in place working. So I will take that question as Notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. The question was taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 49 - 1 (2): New Staff Housing Units

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services. The question deals with staff housing. I would like to ask the Minister if she knows, because I noticed the units that are being used for staff housing in Noble house are occupied, I am wondering if she can

indicate to the House when the Urbco units up on top of the hill on the road to Apex, when they will be available for use. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't have the details in front of me so I will have to take that as notice, or the member can ask the question when the department is with me during my budget. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson the question is taken as notice. Oral questions. I am sorry, Mr. Puqiqnak, the question hour is over, you will be able to ask your question tomorrow. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Replies to Budget Address. Orders of the Day, item 11, Petitions. Mr. McLean.

Item 11: Petitions

Petition 1 - 1 (2): Keewatin Regional Health & Services

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of Keewatin Regional Health & Social Services announcement April 14th regarding Gloria Penners service at Ublivik will end June 30th 1999. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 144 signatures of residents of Baker Lake and Mr. Speaker, the petition states that many people of the land are concerned about losing Gloria Penners services. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 11, Petitions. Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Report 3 - 1 (2): Ajauqtiit, Review of Draft Business Plans and Preliminary Budget Information 1999/2000 Main Estimates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to review the introduction and general recommendations from the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit.

Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Standing Committee is to review issues related to the Government of Nunavut' obligations in respect to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement and also to review the budget of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, members of Ajauqtiit reviewed the draft business plan and preliminary budget information for the Legislative Assembly on Tuesday, April 27th, 1999. During a presentation from the Speaker, Levi Barnabas, and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

Members had an opportunity to review some of this information in earlier orientation and other meetings with the Speaker and the Clerk of the Assembly. However, in this meeting, the Speaker in effect appeared as a Minister and the Clerk as a Deputy Minister and the members asked questions as they would of any other Minister or department official.

A total budget allocation for operations of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut is 9 million, 748 thousand. In general recommendations, as with other Standing Committees, members experienced some frustration in reviewing financial print outs that were initially provided only in English. Members thank the Office of the Legislative Assembly for preparing an Inuktitut, more user friendly format and providing it to the members after the meeting. However, in light of difficulties effecting all committees, members passed the following motion:

That all materials or correspondence provided by the Government of Nunavut Departments or Ministers to the Members of the Legislative Assembly should be done in both English and Inuktitut. That sufficient resources be allocated for translation services to ensure that this happens on a timely basis.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes my introductory comments. I move, seconded by the member from Hudson Bay, that the report be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration in concurrence with the 1999/2000 Main Estimates. I further seek unanimous consent to waive rule 91-4 to move the report into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 91(4), that the Committee report be tabled at the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? Since there are no nays, Mr. Tootoo you have unanimous consent. Thank you. Item 12. Reports of the Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Report 4 - 1 (2): Culture, Education & Health, Review of Draft Business Plans and Preliminary Information on the 1999/2000 Main Estimates

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation) : Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will be reading the report on the review of draft business plans of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health. It has seven pages. Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health. Mr. Speaker, it is going to take me a while so bear with me.

Terms of Reference.

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health is to review the latest policy proposals, draft legislation, departmental business plans and estimates. Review bills referred by the House. Review Departmental Performance, and consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee has oversight responsibility for the following:

The Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Education, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Unless otherwise referred to in the terms of reference in any other Standing Committee, all Boards and Agencies that fall under the responsibility of the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Minister of Education, and the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Introduction.

At the point of the Standing Committees' review in April of 1999, the Government of Nunavut was only three weeks old. Nevertheless, in spite of its youth, the Government has had to make plans and move forward quickly with the budget for the new fiscal year. Much of this preparatory work was done by Departments prior to March 31/99, under the leadership of the Office of the Interim Commissioner. However, as elected members of the Legislative Assembly, it was our duty to review and make recommendations concerning the plans and the budgets for the three departments of Education, Health and Social Services, and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to ensure that they meet the needs and priorities of Nunavummiut and the new Government of Nunavut.

Presentations were made by the Ministers and their departmental officials to the Standing Committee which included draft business plans mostly developed prior to February 5th. 1999. Draft capital plans, mostly commitments by GNWT prior to March 31, 1999 and one-page budgets or main estimate summaries. Members also had the opportunity to ask questions to obtain further details and some Departments provided additional information following the hearings. As this is the first time that the Standing Committees have performed this review function, members have some questions and recommendations about the process for all three Departments.

General Recommendations to All Departments:

The need for detailed and realistic plans and long term goals. In general, there is support for draft business plans as presented, however while some departments have various specific goals and proposals, the Standing Committee is concerned at the lack of detail in others, as well some goals and objectives seem very ambitious for the time frames presented. The Standing Committee is concerned with setting up expectations that may not be met due to limitations in our financial or human resources. At the same time the Standing Committee appreciated the efforts of the departments which outlined longer term strategic goals and objectives, even up to twenty years.

Recommendations:

That the Government of Nunavut Departments create detailed business plans which specify achievable goals and objectives for the business planning cycle of one or three years, and detailed work plans for the current fiscal year.

That the Government of Nunavut Departments create long term goals and objectives

which the current programs are designed to meet. That the Standing Committee be consulted in the development of these plans before they are finalized.

Footprints.

It is unclear from the presentations to the Standing Committee what directions the departments have received regarding the recommendations that are in the Footprints Documents prepared by the Nunavut Implementation Commission. There appears to be some inconsistency as the departments are fulfilling some Footprints recommendations but not fulfilling others. Is there a list of principles or criteria by which Departments are making decisions?

Recommendation:

- That the Government of Nunavut generally implement the recommendations of Footprints unless there are good reasons for pursuing an alternate course of action, and these reasons are publicly outlined.

Decentralization:

Footprints recommended a decentralized government. The Office of the Interim Commissioner reviewed these recommendations and in October 1998 made a public commitment for a number of decentralized positions under different departments to go to specific communities. It is unclear from the presentations to the Standing Committees as to what the plans are for these decentralized positions. Which communities will have which positions and what is the expected time frame for these positions to be established? Furthermore, how will the services that have been contracted back to the GNWT be integrated into the decentralization plan? For these three departments in particular, it is not clear as to how the decision to abolish the Regional Health and Social Services Boards and the Regional Education Boards will impact on the decentralization and maintenance of the current service levels.

Recommendation.

- That the Government of Nunavut departments provide the Standing Committee with detailed plans regarding the decentralization by community by position and with time frames. Where the departments are proposing to take an alternate course of action than in Footprints, or to the 1998 public statement on decentralized positions, a review of alternative options and compelling reasons should be provided to the Standing Committee.

Inuit Qaujimanituqangit

All departments stated a commitment to making Inuit Qaujimanituqangit a cornerstone of the new Government, and under the Office of the Interim Commissioner this was a component of both division and the goals of governance of the new Government.

However it was disappointing that no department presented a clear articulation of what this means. As noted below, the Standing Committee embraces the involvement of the communities and elders in policy development and program delivery as two components ensuring a culturally sensitive government built on Inuit traditions, and Inuit ways of doing things.

Members also welcome the commitment by the Cabinet to making Inuktitut the working language of the Cabinet and the Government, and various initiatives proposed for the departments to increase the capacity of the staff to speak and understand Inuktitut. These are clearly part of the process of using Inuit Qaujimanituqangit, but the Standing Committee knows that Inuit Qaujimanituqangit is much more than this, although mindful that developing consensus as to what Inuit Qaujimanituqangit means across Nunavut will be a difficult task. It is probably one of the most important tasks of the new Government of Nunavut. Without a clear understanding about what our goals are with respect to Inuit Qaujimanituqangit and how the Government of Nunavut staff are to integrate it on a day to day basis, there is a tremendous risk that it will remain good intentions, or words on paper. Members do not want the Government of Nunavut to take that risk. Members were advised in the follow up that the Nunavut Social Development Council sponsored a conference on Inuit Traditional Knowledge in March 1998, out of which came a working group which also includes Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Department and other departmental officials. Members welcome this beginning and encourage a collective effort to build on it.

Recommendation.

- That the Cabinet build a strong policy statement about their commitment to Inuit Qaujimanituqangit as the foundation of the Government of Nunavut. That as an immediate priority, that the Cabinet direct the Department of Culture and Education to continue to work in partnership with the Nunavut Social Development Council and others regarding Inuit Qaujimanituqangit to develop a policy discussion paper for consideration by the people of Nunavut about Inuit Qaujimanituqangit and how it should be integrated into the Government of Nunavut.

Community Input and Support

As noted above, all departments spoke of their commitment in making Inuit Qaujimanituqangit a foundation of their work, however, there are very few details as to how this will happen. The Standing Committee welcomes the stated commitments to work with our communities. Members of the Standing Committees believe that if the departments truly utilize the communities needs first in making decisions about policy or programs, that they will be utilizing the community heritage as well as traditional knowledge. However, even when the departments give an example of community bodies and organizations that they wish to work with in the future, few details were provided as to how this would happen. The Standing Committee notes that the GNWT Government had a stated commitment to community empowerment and in the past they negotiated the transfer of responsibilities to some communities in Nunavut. For such as the delivery of

Social Services, however, it is uncertain what the Government of Nunavut policy will be in this regard. A member used the example of Pond Inlet where negotiations have taken place for transferring social programs to the community government but to date it seems to be on hold.

Recommendation

That the Government of Nunavut Departments provide the Standing Committee with a written statement their commitment to working with communities and detailed plans as to how they will accomplish this. What is their goal in the delivery of these important services, in particular for these three departments, how do they intend to work with this and what support do they intend to provide to the community groups. Specified in their presentations, the District Education Authorities, the Community Health Committee, the proposed Community based Inuit Cultural Heritage Committees and elders councils and societies. The standing committee welcomed the stated commitment on behalf of each of these departments to draw on elders and Inuit Qaujimanituqangit into their programs.

However there was concern that beyond the good intentions, there were no detailed plans and at this point there seems to be no policy direction to the government as a whole. As noted above, if Inuit Qaujimanituqangit is going to be one of the cornerstones of this government, the Cabinet has to make a very clear statement in this regard. Departments must have clear plans and elders must be supported and allowed to participate.

In order to meaningfully involve elders in the policy making process and into program delivery, the Standing Committee believes that elders councils or societies in each community require consistent support. This support should provide the appropriate co-ordination and administrative support, physical facility support and compensation for the elders' work.

It seems clear that the department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth does not have enough funding for this task. While no one department seems to have specific funding programs directed to this purpose, it was noted that many departments have funding programs that could be directed to this purpose and some have done so to date. Departments should be encouraged to work together to ensure that a co-ordinated effort makes this happen.

In the case of the three departments being reviewed, funding programs at both the Federal and Territorial level could support elders councils to play a role in community wellness. Using, for example, Brighter Futures, prenatal nutrition which is in health, and in the schools, education, in the teaching and delivery of arts and crafts programs with arts and crafts funding. As well they should support women elders by using the Status of Women funding. These are but to name a few.

Other departments, for example, Justice, community Justice and Sustainable Development, utilizing economic development, also have programs which could be partnered into such an initiative. Where the government of Nunavut could look in

creating partnerships with local Hamlet Councils as well as Inuit Organizations. Local Hamlets often provide income support through financial administration and meeting space for elders councils and these needs should continue to be supported in some communities.

In some communities, churches and heritage groups have provided support to elders associations and these groups should be part of the process. In furtherance of the role of elders councils, in working to preserve the local heritage and culture, Inuit Organizations, such as the Inuit Heritage Trusts and the regional Inuit Organizations should also have a role to play. Members believe that the resources are there only if a focussed and co-ordinated effort mobilizes them to be used for this crucial purpose.

Recommendations: That as an immediate priority, the Government of Nunavut prepare a policy statement on the involvement of elders in policy development and program delivery or services.

That the department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth prepare an options paper for Cabinet after consultation with other departments and stakeholders on funding support to elders councils at the community level which would build partnerships amongst departments, local governments as well as Inuit Organizations utilizing existing funding programs at a federal and territorial level as well as local resources to ensure the participation of elders in policy development and program delivery or services at the community level and Nunavut wide.

That the departments develop detailed plans for integrating elders in policy development and program delivery within their mandate.

Sharing of information in the budget review process. Although Ministers continually stated that there would be a close working relationship between the Cabinet and the regular members, members of the Standing Committee were frustrated at not being given the budget and program detail which was required for them to conduct a proper interim review.

Some departments were more forthcoming with community specific information and financial details. It is regrettable then, that it is from imperfect information that the Standing Committees must make their recommendations. Members expect that the inadequacies of the current process are part of the growing pains of a new government and that, with a few changes, the goal of a close working relationship between the Cabinet and the regular members will be fulfilled in the future. Very short now, just bear with me.

Recommendation: That draft departmental budgets or Main Estimates be provided to the Standing Committee prior to the budget being tabled in the House, including details on expenditures in each program area, including detailed expenditures by community. It should be in plain language and understandable formats, as well as in Inuktitut and English.

That the departments should provide mid-year progress reports that would be reviewed by the Standing Committee in October of this year, 1999. They should include detailing the programs which have been initiated to date, they should outline specific expenditures to date and entitlements and providing information on plans for the remaining fiscal year.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I think before we take a break, I would like to recognize someone. Mr. Nutarak, I'm sorry, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, my comments are finally ended but I have a couple of motions.

I move that following the review of the draft department business plans and preliminary information on 1999/2000 Main Estimates, rule 91(4) be waived and the report be tabled to the Committee of the Whole and that I would like to receive unanimous consent.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak would like unanimous consent to waive 91(4) and table the report of the Standing Committee to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? Mr. Nutarak you have received unanimous consent and the rule 91(4) has been waived and the report will be presented later on. Prior to our break I would like to recognize those who are present from Nunavut Trust. Peter Krittiqaluk, the chairman, Jack Kupena, Charlie Lyall, and James Takawgak Arreak. Welcome to the session, we will have a fifteen minute break and return.

>>House recessed at 3.47 pm and resumed at 4.11 pm.

Speaker: Item 13, Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 13, Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 2 - 1 (2): Placement of Doctor in Baker Lake

Tabled Document 3 - 1 (2): Ambulance Service in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a couple of documents to table. One regarding health care and the placement of a doctor in Baker Lake and the second one regarding ambulance service in Baker Lake.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 4 - 1 (2): Report # 7, House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like at this time to table report # 7 of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development. This is an interim report on urgent issues arising from visits to

Northern Quebec and Nunavut by the Committee. The Committee felt that the urgent need for better housing and community infrastructure and the negative impact on NavCanada fees on northern communities merited prompt attention. I urge all members to review this report on these crucial issues that effect every single one of our communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 5 - 1 (2): Report on Meetings in Clyde River and Broughton Island

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document regarding meetings that were held in Broughton Island and Clyde River regarding the Hamlet. Three chairs, of previous members, Tommy Enuaraq, Mayor, Loasie and myself, Mayor James Kalluk will write a letter to the Premier, Mr. Okalik and these letters will be read for signature and we would like the Cabinet members and the regular members to have a meeting regarding these issues.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Number 15, Notices of Motions. Item 16, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 20th, 1999, I shall move that Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act, be read for the first time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Arvaluk.

Bill 3 - Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, May 20th, 1999, I will move that Bill 3 - Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act, be read for the first time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Notices of Motions for First Readings of Bills. Item 17, Motions. Motions. Number 18, First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Number 19, Second Reading of Bills. Number 20, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

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

Speaker: Committee Reports 1 - 1 (2), 2 - 1 (2), 3 - 1 (2) and 4 - 1 (2), with Mr. Iqaqrialu at the chair. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Chairperson, (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Ok, we will follow the procedures during this Committee of the Whole. Yesterday we were dealing with the estimates and at this time we will move on to Human Resources. Are there any other questions or comments to be made in that department? Since there's no comments I would like Mr. Ng to go ahead with the Human Resources, I believe, that's your portfolio if you would go up to the witness table with your officials unless you wish to make opening remarks from your chair.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I am pleased to present the main estimates for the Department of Human Resources for the fiscal year 1999/2000. This department is a central agency which provides a wide range of services to the entire government in areas such as recruitment, training and development, job evaluation and labour relations. There was no equivalent department in the previous government prior to the division.

The Department of Human Resources has a close relationship with the Department of Finance and Administration, which manages the payroll system and participates in collective bargaining. The centralized approach to the delivery of Human Resource programs reflects the fact that the Nunavut Government is a relatively small organization. The 99/2000 budget for the Department of Human Resources is just over 10 million dollars. The largest component of the budget is removals to and from the community of employment and recruitment at about 6.3 million dollars. The remainder of the budget is divided amongst the directorate, policy and planning, staffing policy, and an Assistant Deputy Ministers' Division which includes regional offices, labour relations, training and development, and job evaluation/organizational design. The department has no capital funding in its budget.

To carry out the activities of the department we currently have in place seventeen employees at headquarters and four in the regions. I am pleased to tell you that 68% of the staff are Inuit. Hiring for the Baffin Regional Office in Igloolik will not take place until office space and staff housing are available. Current plans call for infrastructure to be available in 2000. The regional Human Resource Services will be handled out of Head Quarters operation until then.

Mr. Chairman, we still have some major skill gaps to fill, the biggest one being labour relations. It will take some time before the department is fully functional and ready to deliver the complete range of programs and services outlined in the business plan.

The Departments first priority is staffing up its own operation and providing centralized recruiting services to other departments who are doing the same thing. The biggest challenge we will face over the coming years is the renewal of the collective agreements.

The two unions, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, and the Nunavut Employees Union have both served notice to commence negotiations.

Finally I expect the Department to be a positive force in promoting a stable and representative work force that reflects the values and the vision of our government. Mr. Chairman I would be happy to answer any questions that the Members may have. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Kelvin. The Government Operations Committee Chairperson, Mr. Akesuk, I believe has a comment to make. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Tootoo will make comments

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead then, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman this is comments from the Standing Committee Report on Government Operations as it relates to the Department of Human Resources.

Minister Ng appeared before the committee on the morning of April 29th. The Main Estimates summary provided to the committee indicated a total of 1999/2000 expenditures of \$10,835,523.00. The committee again recognizes the central agency function of the Department and has the following brief comments and observations.

On competency based human resource systems, the departments' draft business plan stresses the need to remove artificial academic requirements in its' job evaluation system. The competency-based system is intended to help achieve the Inuit employment plan of the government. The committee is supportive of efforts designed to maximize Inuit employment in government and looks forward to regular updates in government wide progress in that area.

In regards to the Human Resource Development Strategy, the committee was advised that the Department in partnership with the Department of Education, NTI and DIAND are currently discussing options with respect to the program which ends in March of the year 2000. The committee looks forward to receiving information on progress in this area.

In regards to labour relations. The committee was informed that the department has not yet staffed the position of Director of Labour Relations. The committee was advised that when the position is staffed the department will be able to start developing a strategy in this area.

The departmental organization charts. The committee was advised that departments are currently in the process of having their organizational charts receive final approval. When the approval process has concluded the committee would like to be provided on a regular basis, updates on each Government of Nunavut departments progress on staff up.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments on that. I would beg your indulgence. I have a couple of motions to read.

Committee Motion 5 – 1 (2): Regular Reports on Staffing GN Departments

Mr. Chairman I move that the committee, that this committee recommends that the Department of Human Resources provides the committee with regular progress reports on staffing the Government of Nunavut Departments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor any questions or comments to the motion? If there is no comments, are you in favour? I believe everyone is agreed. You are in agreement, we have to find out whether you are in agreement or not. Agreed? But I will only find out if you have a show of hands. All in favour? Show of hands please. Ok we are in agreement. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo did you have another comment to make? Go ahead.

Committee Motion 6 – 1 (2): Mid Year Progress Report

Mr. Tootoo: Yes Mr. Chairman I have another motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Department provide mid year progress report to the Standing Committee for review in October of this year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Are there any questions regarding the motion? If there are no question, do you agree? Motion carried. Do you have anything else Mr. Tootoo? Thank you, if you have no further comments, Mr. Ng. I believe that you would like to make a report. With your officials you can go up to the witness table. Thank you. I believe everybody is up there at the witness table. If you would introduce the staff from your department.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have with me Ms. Leona Aglukkaa , Acting Deputy Minister of Human Resources. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation) : After your report we will open up for questions and comments. Go ahead Minister Ng. or if you don't have any comments to make we could open it up to the floor for questions and comments right away. Any questions or comments? O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't have any general comments but I do have a, I guess a general question Mr. Chairman. It would seem to me Mr. Chairman that this department is probably the critical force as it relates to decentralization, and I guess my question would be is that not the case or is it some other department or Minister that would be in charge of decentralization?

Chairperson (interpretation) : Mr. Ng do you have a response please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut, the Cabinet, hasn't tasked any specific Minister or any Department right now with the lead on the whole decentralization issue. It is within the prerogative of the Premier right now and Executive right now by the mere fact that it has not been passed on to anybody specifically. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien, I have a hard time remembering your name, but go ahead.

Mr. O'Brien: It is okay Mr. Chairman, you can call me what ever you feel is appropriate. I have been called many names. Mr. Minister, in reference to the fact that this department is, I guess the key department to hiring and training, I would ask you how you see your department, even though the Premier hasn't identified a Minister, which I feel is kind of unfortunate at this point in time because it is probably one of the most critical issues facing the smaller communities that are waiting for decentralization to occur. Given the fact that hasn't happened, how do you see your department fitting in to this overall plan as it relates to human resources for the decentralized communities?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien, your response Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, obviously we have a critical role in respect of supporting the departments wherever they may be in recruiting for their positions. That is the centralized support that this department provides, and also in respect to holding the benefits of the relocation of the new employees and the development of staffing. So those are the key areas. The provision of being involved in the acquisition of the staff housing as well. Those responsibilities lie within this department. That is the critical support that we will provide to for the decentralization of Government positions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation) : Thank you, Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: In reference to training for decentralized jobs. What efforts or what plan do you have in place at this time to get people ready to take on these positions, realizing that, as it was indicated in your earlier report, that some of the academic qualifications are being revised to make sure that we give northerners an opportunity to obtain these jobs even though they may not have the so called academic qualifications or diploma. What is the status on your training plan?

Chairperson (interpretation) : Mr. Minister would you respond to that?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am told that right now through the involvement of the NUHRDS strategy, that there are forty two individuals who are funded under that program or within our system. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation) : Mr. O'Brien, go ahead.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is more of a comment for the Minister and maybe he can relay this back to the Premier that I think it is critical that the Premier appoint either a Minister, or a department to be the lead department for decentralization. We understand that there is going to be a meeting in Baker Lake that, we are going to be given the results of a report that has been conducted or a study a guess, but I think we may be putting the cart before the horse, I think we have to get some structure to make sure we have somebody who is the lead person whether it be the Minister, whether it be yourself, Mr. Ng or any other Minister, so that we can tackle this problem in an organized fashion. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. I believe Mr. Minister would like to make a reply.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman, that may well be why the Premier hasn't assigned, maybe he feels because it is broader and the importance of the issue that he is holding it himself. We haven't got into that debate yet and obviously everybody recognizes the importance of the issue, so I will certainly relay that back to him. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister and Mr. O'Brien. At this time Mr. Puqiqnak?

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): My name is not Pokniknak it is Puqiqnak. Mr. Chairman thank you. The Minister stated this morning that there would be a liquor outlet in Uqsuqtuq and there was a comment made that we would not want to be a liquor outlet based in Uqsuqtuq. Looking at the employment, looking at how employment effects the community, I would like you to clarify whether this liquor warehouse is going to be based, where this liquor warehouse is going to be based. Whether it is, if they don't want it in Uqsuqtuq, which other communities are you looking at? It is not, I would like everyone to understand where this liquor warehouse is going to be, I am sure nobody can just walk in there and get a case of beer because, of course, you need a permit to get the liquor, but I think that there should be that you would be able to get license in order to buy liquor. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister would like to answer that question?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairperson I may have erred earlier in my answer to my question. It may not have been a liquor warehouse, it may have been, I got it mixed up, from my understanding and recollection, I think it was the Liquor Licensing Board that was slated to be moved and the administration that was going to be moved to Gjoa Haven and of course the merits of that based on the fact that the only liquor warehouse in Nunavut right now is here in Iqaluit, and so that is where the mix up might have been Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Puqiqnak, I believe you have another question.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes it is very true, we were not talking about having the liquor warehouse based in Uqsuqtuq, with decentralization, there is going to be employment in the agencies in the communities and when you look at the report, Uqsuqtuq is mentioned there and it says that it would be the Liquor Licensing Board that would be based there and of course all the correspondence regarding to licensing, Liquor Licensing, would go to Uqsuqtuq. That's the understanding that I got from reading the report. I would like everyone out there to understand that. It is not going to be the liquor warehouse that is going to base there it is the Liquor Licensing Board that would be there. Of course if you are going to be moving the Liquor Licensing Board to any other community outside of Uqsuqtuq, we would have to know and there has to be some kind of alternative department that has to move there. We have been getting the proper information out to our community in that regard. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. At this time we are not, we are on the issue of Human Resources. Let us stick to the item, we are not talking about the Liquor Licensing Board here. That is for your information. Mr. Puqiqnak do you have another comment to make?

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Well I am not trying to talk about liquor or Liquor Licensing Board, I just wanted to get the proper information out there so that there is not any misunderstanding. I just wanted to make that clarification. I just wanted to get the people the proper information.

Chairperson (interpretation): Well, you could have got that information out in a brief comment because of course when you start debating you tend to spend a long time. Ok, any comments? Irqittuq?

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): My friend down there at the witness table. I did pose a question earlier, but I would like to ask again, because in his opening comments he said that the Baffin Regional Office in Igloolik will not take place until office space and houses are available. When I posed my question earlier you didn't give any direct response but my question was whether this could have taken place on April 1 with the creation of Nunavut. With the relocation dollars for staff, what is going to be happening now with that money that was earmarked for our relocating staff to Igloolik?

Chairperson (interpretation) : Thank you. We talked about that this morning. Regarding the Igloolik school, Mr. Minister if you would respond to that question.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We couldn't have had it up and running on April 1, because there wasn't a department in the GNWT so there was no positions established for April 1. But on the question of relocation funds that might be within the department that are there now, that is a pool of funds that will be, it is not specific for

Igloolik positions it is for Nunavut positions and the recruitment and relocation of staff within all of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I believe Mr. Irqittuq has another question.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. I realize that they're in one pot of money, but is it possible to reserve those dollars so that they can generate interest?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. If you would respond to that question Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, if there were to be a surplus, within that expenditure, of this department or any other department that would be reassessed at that time to see where other needs may develop. As it stands now that is the allocation that is within the budget and until we get into operations we won't know if it is sufficient or insufficient. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq, any further questions. Thank you for your response Mr. Minister. Any other items? Maybe later. Thank you Mr. Irqittuq for forgetting your question. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In regards to Human Resources I would like to make a comment. The larger communities will, of course, have employment positions and there are the smaller communities that have been asking for employment positions. I think we have a tendency to forget about the smaller communities and dollars are not allocated for the smaller communities. What kind of plan do you have so that the smaller communities, like Pelly Bay or Repulse Bay, are included in these decentralization plans? I would like clarification on this point. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Minister your response please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well Mr. Chairperson, I don't know if I can respond to that question. It is not because I don't want to, it is because of the fact that this government is working with the decentralization plan that the Nunavut Implementation Commission proposed and it was modified through the Interim Commissioners' Office. We know that it didn't take into account every single community, it tried to focus on establishing functional government offices in several locations. I think what the member probably wants to get to in respect of generating income earning opportunities it is probably more relevant to some Sustainable Development issues, economic initiatives that might be more appropriately addressed when their budget comes up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Thank you for your response and that clarification, but I do want everyone to realize that the smaller communities should be included because the more they know about the Nunavut Government the more support that they are going to give it. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I don't believe that's a question. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. First of all I would like to ask about those communities that were going to get decentralized positions. Their infrastructure has been built already but some of the building materials have still not been getting into the communities. Will they be going into the communities this year on sealift? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, as I think I answered to Mr. Nutarak on Nunavut Construction. They're responsible with the Federal Government for developing housing and staff office space for the decentralized model and at the same time we'll probably ask for an update on the overall timetable for finishing those facilities and that infrastructure. Thank you,.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk, I think you have another question.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Since the government is going to be looking at decentralization and you are going to be looking at their capital needs. Those positions that were slated to our community, so the schedule for building infrastructure, for staff housing, would that be effected by the schedule of the arrival of these materials? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister you want to respond.?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Yes that goes back to the whole basis of the decentralized discussion that took place earlier today and over the past. Yes there has to be the office space and the housing for the position and it's a matter of figuring where each of those is at and what planned positions are going to be put into place and trying to map that out on a plan. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Do you have another question Mr. Akasuk?

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Minister the communities will have to receive those decentralized PY's and they are going to need office space and staff housing and we want to see more positions decentralized from the government. I wonder if there has been additional training provided to those people who are slated to be moved to the communities? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Ng if you wish to respond to that?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I believe that I indicated earlier that under the Nunavut Unified Human Resource Development Strategy which everyone call NUHRDS, there are several programs that have been funded under that to develop Inuit training and career advancement. There is public service career training programs, Nunavut Senior Assignment Program, Executive Master of Business Administration program, executive secretarial training, there's been media communications training and there has also been the Nunavut Government student employment. So there are various programs that have been funded to try and bring up the level of experience and skills overall throughout Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I think those are all the questions you have. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I don't know if this is your department or not, so correct me if it isn't. Regarding staff housing policy, we're all over the map on this one, Mr. Minister, because in Iqaluit, government employees are eligible for a subsidy on a one bedroom apartment for which they only pay 700 dollars a month and they get most of the utilities paid for. A two bedroom apartment they get for, I think the figure is 1200 dollars a month, and the utilities are paid for. In a place like Baker Lake and Arviat, possibly Rankin Inlet, you can check that, it's different too. There was leases signed in the previous government that had to come over according to the Nunavut Act.

So you have people in Rankin Inlet in private accommodations that are paying 2 thousand to 2,500 dollars a month for accommodations. I had a call from Baker Lake regarding the nurses and some new teachers that were hired that they have to be going out to the private sector to find accommodations and they would be going for up to 2 thousand to 2,500 per month plus utilities, whereas across the street there is an old government sector building leased out to the government that is subsidized. Is the Minister committed to, I don't know if this is his department, to making it fair, equitable and transparent like we have been told. To make sure that government employees are all treated the same, whether they are in Iqaluit or Pelly Bay or Baker Lake or Repulse Bay or Coral Harbour? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng, I think you can clarify that question.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman the department of Human Resources is involved in the allocation of staff housing units and also in the review and development of policies regarding staff housing. The department of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services is involved in the actual leasing portion of that. But, yes I am aware of the discrepancies between headquarters and regional staff in some of the regional centres and we are going to try and bring some consistency to the whole issue. It is, as you indicated, a bit complex, there are some units and leases that we

have inherited from the GNWT, there are others that we inherited from the OIC. So there's different factors that have to be taken into consideration. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean you have more questions.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Something that has come up in the last few months, and we are a small territory spread out over a vast distance. We all have quite a few relatives in Nunavut and I think I can speak for all of us. When there are direct appointments made into positions, people that are making direct appointments, are they aware that they may be in a conflict of interest by appointing certain relatives into certain positions in the government? We talked about this in other matters in regard to conflict of interest and the misunderstandings that people have. My fear is that if we are not very vigilant, that direct appointments may come back to haunt us. Does the government have a policy for where a senior civil is hiring, and it is one of the relatives that could be appointed, is there some kind of checks and balances that certain people don't get hired because they are relatives? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Minister would you respond to that?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, Cabinet is the only legal mechanism that can appoint individuals directly into positions of this government. So there are certain criteria that have to be met before direct appointments can be made. I don't have that with me here, but as it is Cabinet and the Executive, it is probably the Premiers' responsibility under EIA, I might be wrong, if it is in the HR responsibility I will find out. If it is EIA, they can provide that information. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean you can go ahead and ask another question.

Mr. McLean: This will be my last one Mr. Chairman for now. Thank you. Will the Minister have available, and I am not saying next week, the PY's in detail of the government so us ordinary MLA's can have access to it, and if it is available now can we get a hold of it to show what people are in place and where? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Ng do you have a comment to make to that?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. You meant for all of the departments of government I take it? Yes. We will see what we can provide in a summary form. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo, Iqaluit Centre, you have the floor.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Just a few questions to follow up on Mr. McLean about the organizational chart. Have all departments have finalized organizational charts at this time? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am told we don't have all of them in yet from all of the departments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead Mr. Tootoo, you have another question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I'm not sure if the Minister understood, I wasn't asking if he had received them, I was asking if all departments had finalized, approved organizational charts for each of their departments. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I think Mr. Minister you can provide a better response to that.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson it is probably more appropriate when they come up about their specific organizational chart. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, you can continue.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The Minister indicated in his opening remarks that they have 17 employees in headquarters and four in the regions. Does he have an organizational chart for his department that has been finalized and, if so, out of that 17 or those 21 positions, at what levels are they staffed at right now? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I would just like to say at this point that we are conducting our affairs in Inuktitut, so if I say boss or president, I am struggling with Minister, so if I say boss or president, I mean Minister. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, I like boss. Anyway, yes we have an approved org. chart with 47 positions and 17 filled out of 47. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): You have another one Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I have a number more, but one more on this topic is, does the Minister have an idea of a time frame in which his department will be staffed to its' full capacity? I guess one of the reasons I am asking that, I believe as another member mentioned earlier, this department is a central hiring department for all of the government departments, and I just wanted to make sure that they have the capabilities or the capacity that is required for the volume of hiring that is anticipated over the next few months. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I can't say for sure, I mean obviously there is a priority right now because we are one of the departments that provides the human resource support for the other departments. So Cabinet has recognized it as a priority in trying to get this as one of the departments to try and get staffed up first and we are trying to do that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you boss Ng. I also want you to know when I say Minister I am trying to speak English. I think Irqittuq, you wanted to ask another question. Go ahead.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The Minister at the witness table, I have some more questions to ask of him. A number of jobs in the offices which are centralized, whether they be in Igloodik or in another community. I asked this question before, but I would like further clarification about it, about the qualifications of the people who are hired locally. Will they need to have the same qualifications as the ones hired in Iqaluit, or has there been some consideration given to experience or equivalencies? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq, your question is in order. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, it was raised earlier and our goal is to staff as many positions as possibly based on competency on being able to do the job, not so much on the technical qualifications of those individuals. That is where the department is moving, the whole government of Nunavut, so your evaluation is based more on being able to do the job more than your technical background. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. I think you have another question Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The jobs which will be advertised and, so no matter where the jobs are, will you be looking at the residents first before hiring outside of the community? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister Ng did you want to respond to that?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes Mr. Chairperson. Yes most definitely, if the positions can be filled locally that would be the first priority. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Are there any other comments or questions under Human Resources, while the Minister is at the witness table? Mr. McLean, go ahead. I apologize, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, my question is in relationship to pay equity. I am just wondering if the Minister can give us an update as to where this

issue stands, in relation to implementing a gender neutral job evaluation system for the new Nunavut Government?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Ng you may respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, the collective agreement that was reached by the GNWT with their employees, which transferred over to the Nunavut Government and the Nunavut based employees, was a gender neutral classification, it took that into account. So all the positions that were transferred to Nunavut after division came over with the new job evaluation method and the new Hay Plan as well. In addition to that, the newly created positions for headquarters whether it is in Iqaluit, we are all being evaluated using that plan as well. So it is all gender neutral. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien further comments.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Is it fair to say that there are no difficulties at this point in time with the pay equity as it relates to the concerns that we hear from the Western Arctic, given the fact that we have people here that are effected by the pay equity issue. Are things kosher, are we anticipating any problems with this system that we have inherited?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. It is our understanding that at this point in time there are not problems with the new job evaluation system. I believe there is some mechanism for an appeal system for those individuals who feel that they were not properly categorized within certain pay ranges. But, generally, broadly across the board, most of the problems are gone, we feel. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien would you like to ask another question.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. My final question is in reference to the Affirmative Action policy. If you could give the members a brief update as to where this issue stands with your department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng, either you or one of your officials could respond.

Ms. Aglukkaa: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The Affirmative Action Policy was transferred over to the Government of Nunavut. There were minor revisions to it and we have incorporated the Article 23, Inuit Beneficiary Preference, as priority one under the policy. So any recruitment plans that we have in place, individuals are required to identify whether they are beneficiaries of the claim or not, to be considered into any positions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you very much Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Any other questions or comments to the department of Human Resources? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. My question relates to an issue that was mentioned earlier. I was wondering if the Minister could advise as to how many positions that the government has staffed through the open competition process, and how many have been staffed via the direct appointment process. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng, or one of your Officials can reply.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't know the total numbers that had been staffed, I can tell you that there's only been two direct appointment made by this Cabinet. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo would you like to make another comment.

M. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I wonder if the Minister would advise us of the circumstances that allowed the Department to hire or fill those positions without using the open competition process and advertising those positions to all the people of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, because those two individuals completed their management training program with Arctic College and had a specific interest actually in the Department of Finance, that's why I know those two individuals. Thank you. If I may add, those two positions are targeted for decentralization to one of the communities, when they complete their training as will. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, you may go ahead and ask your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Another issue that was raised earlier in regards to the last question about affirmative action. How does the Department rate their, someone that is a long term resident, that may not be a beneficiary of Nunavut, but was born here and lived here all their lives? Will those individuals still receive preferential treatment under the affirmative action program? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the affirmative action policy, they would be designated priority through category. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Questions or comments, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I was listening to Mr. Tootoo, through translation, but it's okay. In regards to Human Resources, when we discuss this matter, I just remembered, that we've been thinking about the article 23. Lena Pederson's' Boarding Home for Kitikmeot, I would like to discuss that matter, because in 1989 around that year, the Boarding Home was established for Kitikmeot and it was utilized by the patients going down and the staff members were Inuit people. After the Nunavut Government had been established we have to utilize and do our business according to article 23. In the past, Lena Pederson was our MLA quite a ways back and she's been working very hard to get the Boarding Home for the patients in Yellowknife and she was working very hard to get that established, so that the patients will be going to Yellowknife for treatment can be, so that they can feel welcome. We've heard much that after the Nunavut Government was established we now have to do things according to the article 24 and we should be prioritising or we should be contracting people from within Nunavut. It seems quite embarrassing, although we had worked very hard, but it's quite embarrassing, because we are not utilizing the Article 23. We have to do something according to Article 23 and 24 because we have to abide by those Articles. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Right now I want the Members to be aware that I am now using Clyde River dialect. Mr. Ng, you may respond now. In regards to your question, seems like your question should be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Ng, you could respond to it if you'd like.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Minister, I'll let them. When his budget comes up it's probably more appropriate.

>>Applause

Chairperson: (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak, I think he answered your questions, do you have any further comments?

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank your Mr. Chairman. In regards to Human Resources, I thought we were dealing with Human Resources. As Nunavut residents should have employment opportunities and we should also be contracting Nunavut residents. I feel that Nunavut should be contracting that Boarding Home from within Nunavut, but in regards to the Minister of Health, I know the Minister for that Department, but I was trying to talk more in line of employment. I wanted to ask you a question, because we would like to do things according to Article 23. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Department of Human Resources Minister Ng, would you like to respond. Thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member makes a good point, but the Department of Human Resources is responsible for hiring for the Government Departments and providing training opportunities for the residents of Nunavut and particularly employees as well. I think that members' questions are better probably raised when Public Works, Telecommunications comes up in respect of contracting provisions of Article 24. When the Department of Health and Social Services Boards comes up in respect to that same provision with the contracts that were let by the Board. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. The clock is ticking and we've got a few issues to cover, Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman, back to Housing and staff. Can you advise us if there is a Staff Housing Policy or provide us with the details. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are currently using the GNWT Allocation Policy and I'll be glad to provide that until such a time as we develop our own and refine what we have. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Akasuk

Mr. Akasuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So you guys are using the GNWT Housing Policy? Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Yes we are using the GNWT Allocation Policy. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo your questions.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to Staff Housing Policy and the allocations of staff housing units under the previous Government, that was a responsibility for the Financial Management Board that contracted to the NWT Housing Corporation. Just wondering if the Minister can explain to us, who has the lead role in it now and the whole process of who's responsible for what part and if it's actual functions are still continuing on the same as it has in the past. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng or Aglukkaq.

Ms. Aglukkaq: Qujannamiik, Itsivautaa. It differs between Regions. In Kitikmeot there's a committee that allocates the units for government units and that's with Human

Resources, Financial Management Board, Public Works. In the Keewatin it's a combination and there's also been contracts to maintain the units outside of Government. In the Baffin, I believe with Housing Corporation that arrangement to maintain the government inventory of units was contracted to the Housing Authority. The allocations were conducted by senior government staff from Public Works, FMBS at that time and I believe, Health Board and Education, so the co-ordination of allocations continues to be conducted by public servants with the maintenance of units conducted by associations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Aglukkaa. Mr. Tootoo do you have any other questions?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am aware of that process and how it works and I was just more or less wondering now, is that still in place or is there a different method of allocating and who's responsible now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng or Ms. Aglukkaa

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe that I indicated that the allocations policy, all those procedures carried over after April 1st and we haven't changed to date, but it is subject to review right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo you may continue again.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could ask if the Minister could look into how the process is being done right now, because I've been aware of that allocation committee that previously was responsible for allocating units in the Baffin, that's no longer responsible for that they've been told, it's out of their hands now and there is someone else responsible for the allocation of units that are out there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng or Ms. Aglukkak

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that the current allocation committees are still in place, there's been some changes as a result of personnel changes in that, then turn over and that's one of the reasons, but anyway that process is still the same right now. Thank you

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can acknowledge the Ministers' Comments in answering the question, but again, could the Minister indicate whether all the units that are available for staff housing in Iqaluit, including the new units that were obtained through the OIC and the Noble house units, and up the hill if those units too are also allocated under the same process. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng or Ms. Aglukkak

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there's two different processes. The two different processes from what I understand, are a regional allocation committee and a headquarters allocation committee. That's where some of the differences might be coming into play. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Minister, I think it does explain this as you said earlier that the same process was being followed. There was only one committee, that was allocating units prior to April 1st and now it appears as you mentioned, you have two separate committees allocating units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I don't think your looking at any other response now Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, well before April 1st my understanding is the OIC had an allocation committee and GNWT had a regional allocation committee. So after April 1st, that's where you end up with the two Committees. I mean those are the kind of things that we're trying to streamline in the development of a new Government of Nunavut Policy in relation to staff housing. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Is that end of your time Mr. Tootoo? Thank you Mr. Tootoo, any further comments or questions?

Go back to line by line, these have to be passed, 4 – 4 under Human Resource Chart and this is the Directorate. For the 1999/2000 operations and maintenance budget. I believe you're looking at the page 4 – 4 operations and maintenance. The Total operations and maintenance budget. Again I read this as \$ 687.00, I believe this is \$ 687 thousand dollars are there any comments to the amounts. All the Members have agreed, Thank you. Capital items, total capital, nothing, so the total expenditures for the Directorate is \$ 687, for those in agreement. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk : I just want to ask Mr. Chairman, the Minister made a short comment as he was doing his introductory statements, that the Human Resources, he stated that there were no capital purchases in the total human resources portfolio. Should we even mention capital when there's no purchases or no budget for Capital items.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you following the same book? I've been told that although there is no amount in these slots, we still have to refer to them because again that's part of the Government protocol. The total expenditures for the directorate is 687 thousand dollars, you agree? 4 - 5, Policy and Planning operations and maintenance budget in total is \$ 116 thousand dollars, not much, agreed. For total capital, the total

expenditures and there is no total capital, so therefore the total expenditures for Policy and Planning is \$ 116 thousand are you agreed, good.

As I'm learning, I'm progressing more smoothly here. 4 - 6, Staffing Policy for Operations and Maintenance, total operation and maintenance is 6 million 253 thousand dollars are you agreed? Capital items in total there is nothing, therefore the total expenditures is 6 million 253 thousand. Are you agreed, you guys agreed before you even ask for the agreement. Thank you.

4 - 7, Assistant Deputy Minister, operations and maintenance, total operation and maintenance 3 million, 780 thousand. Are you agreed, Mr. Tootoo did you make a comment to this item?
Proceed.

Mr. Tootoo: Looking under this as an Assistant Deputy Minister, for further training programs for the government, earlier the Minister mentioned the EMBA program that was done jointly with the NUHRDS. I was wondering if this is something that is going to be continued in the future, or is that something outside the Departments' budget. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng do you wish to respond to this?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, that's something that's outside the budget.

Chairperson (interpretation): I was speaking to myself for a second there, thank you for reminding me. The Capital items there's a zero balance, so therefore the total expenditure is 3 million, 780 thousand dollars. Are you agreed. Now turn to page 4 – 8 this is primarily information item, distribution budget, are you agreed?

Now to return to 4 – 3 the details of expenditures, operations and maintenance total operations and maintenance is 10 million, 836 thousand dollars. Are you agreed? Capital Items, total capital items is zero balance, therefore total expenditures is 10 million, 836 thousand dollars. Are you agreed? You may applaud.

We need to complete this, have you agreed that we have completed the Human Resources Budget? I would just like to thank the Minister and officials for having their presentation. Agreed. Thank you. I would like to thank Mr. Ng, and his Assistant Deputy Minister, because they took the time.

Now to go back to orders of the day and my question to you now because we still have to deal with the Justice. How do you wish to proceed in respect to the meeting item. O'Brien there he is.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress for today.

Chairperson (interpretation): I forget you Mr. O'Brien. I'm sorry you cannot make a motion, you can only agreed to this at the Committee, you either have to agree or state, are you agreed. Thank you this has been concluded, I'm sorry those who are against, none against. At this time in respect to the Justice meeting item, I didn't quite understand, excuse me for a second. Now the Speaker will return to his seat or do you wish to make a comment?

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes I just want to do a little training, you guys state criminal justice but we actually mean justice it is just phonetic disagreement.

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Speaker (interpretation) : To return to the Orders of the Day, Item 21. I am sorry I cannot hear. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation) : Mr. Speaker I would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker your committee, has been considering Bill One, Committee reports one, two, three and four. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation) : Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Is there a seconder for the motion. Mr. Picco? Seconded by the Hon. Member Mr. Picco. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 22, Third reading of Bills. Item 23, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Wednesday 9.00 in the morning, regular caucus here in the Parish Hall.

Orders for the Day, Wednesday May 19, 1999

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors to the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions

9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing Committees and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions, First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters:
 Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 1999/2000.
 Standing Committee Reports 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2) 4-1(2)
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation) : I have a few comments before we close this session and I would like to take this time to thank the six pages who we had today for the five days. These pages are students at the Inuksuk High School here in Iqaluit and I believe this is their last day as pages for us. I will try to pronounce their names and if I pronounce their names wrong please forgive me.

Kooyoo Amagoalik, KY MacKay, Jimmy Soucie, Stephany Rose, Andrew Morrison, Elaine Lloyd. Please show them applause.

>> Assembly adjourned at 5.48 pm.

