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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Hunter Tootoo**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday May 25, 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 Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. Levi Barnabas): Mr. Iqaqrialu please begin with the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Ministers' Statement 15 - 1 (2): Weekend Fire In Iqaluit**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a fire broke out in a six-apartment social housing unit in Iqaluit early Sunday morning. Despite the concerted efforts of the Iqaluit Fire Department to save the unit, the unit was totally destroyed. As a result, 20 people are now homeless.

Thanks to the Iqaluit Fire Department, we are fortunate that there were no serious injuries or loss of life.

Fires such as this are always tragic events. I want to extend my sympathy to those who lost their homes so suddenly over the weekend. I want to assure them that I will be working with the Iqaluit Housing Authority and my colleagues to find alternate accommodations as quickly as possible.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' Statements, Mr. Okalik.

**Ministers' Statement 16 - 1 (2): Decentralization**

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make something very clear to the members of this house, and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Government is firmly committed to decentralization.

Our government was founded on the basis of bringing government closer to the people and make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, we will do just that.

We are proceeding with decentralization as we speak.

- In Arviat, the four employees of the Department of Education will soon be joined by twenty-three others. Currently, the department is in the process of advertising for these positions, which will come on stream once the office space is available over the coming months. Three staff from the Department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation are in place and two more will be out for competition shortly. The Department of Sustainable Development has moved the four regional positions that were scheduled to be transferred into this community.
- Mr. Speaker, the residents of Baker Lake can rest assured that decentralization is moving ahead in their community. The Department of Education will soon be hiring four additional staff to complement those already on the ground. The department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation currently has three of its Baker Lake positions out for competition and three more will be out before our next sitting.
- In Igloolik, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has six employees, and they will soon be joined by approximately twenty more in the coming months. In addition, one position from Community Government, Housing & Transportation is out for competition.
- Further west, Mr. Speaker, Cambridge Bay has already begun to see the benefits of decentralization. Positions in the departments of Human Resources, and Culture, Language, Elders & Youth have been staffed.
- Rankin Inlet, Mr. Speaker, also has begun the staffing process. Employees in three departments are based there, including two of our Assistant Deputy Ministers. The Department of Health and Social Services is currently increasing its staffing level from nine to thirteen.
- One person has been hired from Community Government, Housing & Transportation to work in Gjoa Haven and five more positions are currently out to competition.
- For Kugluktuk, two positions from the Department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation are staffed and three more are out to competition and will be filled during the next few months. All of the Regional positions with the Department of Sustainable Development except two have been moved into Kugluktuk.
- One position from Cape Dorset is out for competition right now and six more will be advertised within the coming two months.

- Mr. Speaker, the communities of Pond Inlet and Pangnirtung will soon be receiving jobs as they are transferred out of Iqaluit. This process will take place over a varied time frame, depending on Departmental planning, and infrastructure.

These positions I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, are just the beginning.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Implementation Commission and the Office of the Interim Commissioner developed our basis for decentralization. As decentralization is an important issue that affects all departments, the Department of the Executive has been assigned the difficult task of co-ordinating our decentralization efforts and ensuring that decentralization is implemented.

And, Mr. Speaker, this will be a difficult task. We are setting out to decentralize in a manner that no government in Canada has ever done. We will decentralize, but we must ensure that our programs and services to people in Nunavut are not adversely affected. We must do this in a thoughtful, well planned manner that allows communities to prepare for the inevitable social impacts.

This, Mr. Speaker, takes time. Decentralization was never intended to take place overnight.

We as cabinet understand the importance of decentralization to our communities. But, it is important to realize that not all pieces of the puzzle are in place. Our people are not fully trained to take many of the positions that will flow from decentralization.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks and months, we will present to the Regular MLA's and the people of Nunavut, detailed implementation plans which will outline exactly how decentralization will be accomplished. In this house I mentioned that the Department of the Executive would be studying the options for implementing the decentralization plan. Regular MLA's will be involved in this process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank those Members who brought this issue to the forefront. We as cabinet look forward to working with them to ensure that community concerns are properly addressed. I am confident that if we all work together, we will do what is right for Nunavut.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

### **Ministers' Statement 17 - 1 (2): Western Premiers Conference**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to update the Assembly on my attendance at the Western Premiers' Conference (WPC) in Drumheller, Alberta.



First, I would like to thank the Honourable Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta, and his officials for their kind hospitality and in welcoming my officials and I to the WPC.

During my private sessions with my colleagues and at the official sessions of the WPC, I raised the issue of highway and road connections from the rest of Canada to Nunavut.

In conjunction with the issue of a National Transportation Strategy, there was acknowledgement and support by the Western Premiers for Nunavut's aspiration to physically join the nation through the development of a highway system.

I am also pleased to say that the WPC made a commitment on the following;

"to work together to facilitate cross-border trading relationships and the commitment to encourage closer working relationships when dealing with trade-related matters, such as trade policy, agriculture, marine products, transportation, economic development, energy, and the environment, and to establish direct working relationships with their border-states, regional counterparts and circumpolar neighbours."

Mr. Speaker, I will have the WPC communiqués translated and, once completed, I will have them available to the Regular Members.

I also met with the Premier of the Northwest Territories, and the Premier of the Yukon. We discussed the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our three territories. We have instructed our officials to develop discussion documents that will be used to formulate a draft MOU. Topics which may become part of the MOU include economic development strategies, plans to retain royalties which currently flow to the federal government from mineral exploration and development in the North, federal-territorial funding formulas, and relations between the federal government and the territories.

The plan is to meet in Iqaluit on August 6 and 7 to finalize the MOU, prior to our departure to the 40th Annual Premiers Conference in Quebec City.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Following the Orders of the Day, Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. O'Brien.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Members' Statement 58 - 1 (2): Appreciation of Premier's Statement on Decentralization**

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wish to thank the Premier for his strong commitment and assurance that decentralization will take place in the smaller, less

fortunate communities in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, decentralization is the corner stone for a better quality of life, for all the people in Nunavut. These Statements today by our Premier take a heavy burden off our youth, who are now seeing a ray of light and hope for future employment with the new of the government of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the Statement today, re-affirms to me that the Premier is a man of his word. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Members Statement Mr. Tootoo

### **Members' Statement 59 - 1 (2): Weekend Fire in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise this afternoon to express my most sincere sympathies for the families who were so tragically rendered homeless on Sunday in this community by a fire. I am gratified for the Ministers' response to this tragedy, however, this unhappy incident clearly demonstrates that contingency plans need to be in place to deal with incidents such as these. No one can predict when something like this will happen, and while we should all be grateful nobody was killed or seriously injured, the burden on these people is still tremendous. Those Iqalummiutait who have opened their hearts and their homes to the victims deserve our greatest respect. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Item 6, Oral questions, Mr. McLean.

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

#### **Question 71 - 1 (2): Secondary School Design for Baker Lake**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education regarding the Jonah Amitnak secondary school in Baker Lake that was built 1957 and added to in the 60's. According to the current building codes, it is not worth renovating and it's not up to standards. There was 300 hundred thousand put in the budget this year for designing a new school and I was advised by the Baker Lake District Education Authority, that the project was scrapped this year. Can the Minister answer me as to why this project was scrapped this year. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think you heard, in the different Departments and also the Minister of Finances' statements, that from the recommendations, and because of the reduction in the capital budget, that the programs or capital projects that were put in the 5 year forecast have been deferred for this year only, except in areas where there is a safety issue, the contractual arrangements have already been signed and commitments were made to order material for construction.

I will be addressing this issue later this week in my budget presentation, then I will go into more detail, because Baker Lake is not the only issue in this area, Mr. Speaker, there are other issues in capital projects in other communities that are also in that category. Nakurmiik.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I've seen the letter that came from, I think it was the Minister of Finance regarding capital projects. My community feels strongly that there are safety and health concerns regarding the Baker Lake Jonah Amitnak School and I'm wondering if the Minister would consider looking at this right away. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister of Education Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes I will look at that right away and report back to the Member. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

#### **Question 72 - 1 (2): Western Premiers' Conference**

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in the Premier's Statement regarding the conference of Western Premiers, the Premier indicated that there was some discussion regarding a Memorandum between the Premiers, which alluded to a road connection between Nunavut and Manitoba. I'm wondering if the Minister could elaborate a little more to, I guess the discussions as related to the road and also the power grid that we spoke about a number of weeks ago between the Keewatin and Manitoba.

**Speaker:** Qujannamiik Mr. O'Brien. Premier Okalik

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The only agreement that was discussed was with the Premier of the Northwest Territories and the Government Leader for the Yukon Government. The only issue that we discussed regarding a road was with the rest of the Premiers, we just wanted to make sure that we had support from all the Premiers in the Western part of the country for a highway system to Nunavut and that's what we got in the communiqué.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. O'Brien

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I thought we heard the Premier of Manitoba just last night on the radio indicating that he strongly supported the road linkage between Manitoba and the Keewatin, or Nunavut. Can the Premier tell me whether or not these discussions took place and in what degree. Thank you.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Our Premier Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** I discussed it briefly with the Premier of Manitoba, he is a very strong supporter of a road to Nunavut, but we did not get into detailed discussions. I was more focused on getting support from all the Premiers in Western Canada and that's what we received as a Government from all the Western Premiers, for a highway to Nunavut from Southern Canada.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Third question Mr. O'Brien.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it's my understanding that there's been a committee active, I guess for the last two years, that was comprised of the GNWT and, I believe, the Interim Commissioner's Office at that time and the Manitoba Government. They were basically put together to study a road linkage and power grid and the result is a study apparently finished sometime in March. I wonder if the Premier is aware of any of the conclusions or the decisions that were made upon the completion of the report. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. O'Brien. The question was directed to the Premier, would you like to answer.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** The Minister of Transportation will be able to reply in more detail on that report. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Premier. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Speaker, I don't have the documents in front of me. Possibly what I can do is get the documents and hand them over to the Member who asked that question.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Anawak. Final supplementary, Mr. O'Brien.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I wonder if the Minister will be so kind as to get a copy of the conclusions of the report, so that we could have some active discussions on it in the House. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Yes, I will do that Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Qujannamiik. Oral questions Mr. Tootoo

### **Question 73 - 1 (2): Government Response to Fire in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker this weekend, the public housing inventory in Iqaluit took a six unit hit as a result of a fire. The current waiting list is around 70 right now for public housing and as we just heard from the Minister

responsible for housing earlier, there are now 20 more people that are homeless. I would like to ask the Minister if there are any preliminary plans as a result of this prior to looking into replacing those units. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Anawak

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Superintendent of Community Government, Housing and Transportation for the Baffin Region is presently meeting with the local Housing Authority to discuss what plans can be implemented as a result of the fire over the weekend and I will be able to provide more details very shortly. But I can assure you that the department is doing everything it can to at least respond to the people who are left homeless, but also in the long run to respond to the severe housing shortage. Qujannamiik.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions, Mr. Puqiqnak.

#### **Question 74 - 1 (2): Repatriation of Artifacts**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Speaker our Nunavut fathers have had their pictures taken since the 1800's by people from around the world who travelled here by whalers and other ships and somewhere in the 1900's by dogteam. A lot of pictures have been taken since that time in the Nunavut area and these artifacts are outside of Canada and I believe that they should by rights be here in Nunavut. I believe that there are many photographs that have been taken by the Southerners, I feel we should get all our artifacts and photographs and this should be a priority for the Nunavut Government. I believe that we must bring our artifacts and photographs, which have been taken many, many years ago, back.

These are part of our homeland and I am seeking an answer from the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth about bringing all of these artifacts and photographs back to our homeland. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Two questions. Mr. Havioyak, Minister of Culture.

**Hon. Donald Havioyak** (interpretation): Yes I do understand your questions quite clearly and I do appreciate you very much for asking that question. All of my employees and staff members are working on all these issues to get all our artifacts back and also the photographs that you are talking about that are in museums. We all know that they are elsewhere and I know that we have to have a building in place first before we can start collecting these. We are beginning to have talks right now and also we do have communications with the Inuit Heritage Trust on how we can get together and work on these artifacts and all the artifacts that have been taken out of Nunavut. These are our major concern as well and all the people that I have spoken to are concerned about this matter. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Third question Mr. Puqiqnak. Second question?

**Mr. Puqiqnak** : Mr. Speaker today our new generation and our younger people want to know what is their culture, with their own eyes. Today older people talk about their culture by telling them a story. Just by talking. Our younger children, today's generation want to understand and they want to see their fathers. Without a museum in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker it is going to be difficult for us and for the new generation. Will the Minister tell us what his plans are to ensure that the young people in each community can see with their own eyes their history and culture. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Havioyak.

**Hon. Donald Havioyak** (interpretation): Yes this is part of our work as well and right now I would like to let you know that we are not just working here in the House, we are also working with other organizations as well. We are working on this museum that you are talking about. As I stated before, this is our main goal is to get our elders and youth and also our history, right now we do not have enough funding just from our own, we are seeking help from NTI and other Inuit organizations. As I stated before we are working together so that our younger generation will understand our history. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Supplementary question Mr. Puqiqnak?

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do know that there is a shortage of dollars and as a Nunavut Government, I would like to see a museum in Nunavut because a lot of people want to see more about our culture, our history and our clothing. There is a demand out there and it won't be very much if we have to go to Copenhagen to see our history, our culture and our clothing. Usually the people who are not from Nunavut are the ones that are telling our history about the people of Nunavut. I think it would be best if we had a museum here so that we could be the ones to tell the history and our people pay a lot of money to go to the museums in Copenhagen to see Inuit history and they are making money. All the money is going to Copenhagen instead of going up to the Nunavut Territory. With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to tell us what he is doing to ensure that while people are spending money to see or learn about Inuit culture, are they spending that money to see it in Nunavut? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I believe he answered that question but if he would like to make a supplementary response, he is free to do so. Mr. Havioyak?

**Hon. Donald Havioyak**: Many of these artifacts are all over the place and we know that they are not in Nunavut. They are somewhere else and we need to repatriate those back from the NWT, the rest of Canada and even in Copenhagen. Those are artifacts that we own and we, I think we are preparing to repatriate those back to Nunavut. So we are

making preparations at this time and I also mentioned earlier that we need to have a place for storing them so we can set up a museum so that these artifacts can be placed in Nunavut. Today we are working at it at this time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Iqittuq. I am sorry we have a technical problem, so we will have a five minute recess.

>> *Audio unavailable*

**Hon. Ed Picco:** . . . as of March 31, so actually that person is in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions? Mr. Alakannuark.

### **Question 75 - 1 (2): Status of Nurse Recruitment**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is to the Minister of Health and Social Services about the nurses in the communities. When are you going to be recruiting more nurses in the smaller communities. Many of the communities have only one nurse and sometimes there are two but when are you going to be up to par in the smaller communities for the recruitment of nurses? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker the responsibility for the hiring and staffing of nurses right now is with the Regional Health Boards. Indeed, Mr. Speaker the Health Boards are very active in trying to secure nurses for our communities. From the Departments point of view, we are working on the recruitment and retention program for our nursing staff. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Alakannuark did you have a second question?

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking this question, and I think I understand your response, but in the communities we have more chronic illness present and especially with babies that are getting sick. So the nurses have to work around the clock in the health centres in the communities and once a young baby becomes ill, people become very concerned and they take their babies to the nursing station right away. So we need to have adequate nurses in the health centres to deal with the viruses that are happening in the communities.

**Speaker:** Just a comment. Oral questions, oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Question 76 - 1 (2): Capital Plan for Qikiqtarjuaq**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker this is directed to the Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation. One of the Communities that I represent which is Qikiqtarjuaq, according to the capital plan for 1999/2000 there are no projects slated for that community. I wonder if that community has any projects planned for up to the year 2000?

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We also noticed that there was nothing in his community and I would like to inform the member for Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq that we would like to meet with him to see what we have to change in the Capital Plan projects for those years. We'll be looking at the plans regarding these two communities. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

**Question 77 - 1 (2): Leave and Replacement Policy for Nurses**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The nurses in the small communities sometimes take a long holiday or take long absences, do you have anything in place for replacing them?

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity just to say that the earlier comment from the member from Pelly Bay is correct. We realize that the nurses are under a lot of stress in our communities. The department right now is working on a recruitment and retention plan to help those nurses.

In regards to the staffing situation in communities, that the Honourable Member from Pond Inlet just asked, indeed the Health Boards have a plan in place for when nurses are gone taking leaves of absence to replace them with other staff. There are contingency plans in place. If there was a specific problem in the community where there was absenteeism of a nurse or a requirement for work and there was no one there, then maybe we could specifically deal with that. But, in general, the Board does have a plan in place for when someone is leaving to have other people fill in for them so that we always have a certain level of nurses in the community as per the requirements. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Second question, Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Some of the nurses are in the community for a long time. They don't change and do you have a program for how often



a nurse should be taking leave from a community or before replacing them? Is it just up to the nurse how long she wants to stay in a community or do you have some kind of policy in place for this?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that if a nurse chose to be in a community then it is up to her or him as the case may be. If the nurse chose to move to another community, then the Health Board would try to make that accommodation. But, again, it depends on the operational requirements and the need in the community. The Health Board has in place a policy to allow for operational requirements and to make sure the standard of care is there on the absenteeism or when a nurse leaves to go somewhere else, or indeed, if the nurse is going to be replaced. If the nurse chose to stay in the community that would be up to her. That is my understanding Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

#### **Question 78 - 1 (2): Contract for Transitional Plans on Health and Education Boards**

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is to the Premier, and I'll understand if the Premier doesn't have all the details to provide to the House, but today if he could possibly give some background. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago I posed a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding a contract that we thought was awarded to study, to review I guess, some models that would be used with, I believe, the Health Board and the Department of Education.

You were absent at the time, Mr. Premier and the response was that they were not aware that the contract may have been awarded. Mr. Picco responded later in a written response that indeed it was awarded to a Mr. David Ramsden the former Minister, or Deputy Minister rather, of Health and Social Services of the NWT. I wonder, Mr. Premier whether or not you could provide us with some details as to how the contract was awarded, whether it was sole source, and the value of the contract? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien when you are asking a question please refer to the Speaker. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** It relates to the Minister of Health Portfolio, I believe that my colleague could answer that question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Minister of Health, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that it is not an actual contract that is in place. It is actually an employment contract. The person has been hired by the Department of the Executive to do projects on behalf of the

Government. One of those projects indeed would be looking at the amalgamation of the Health Boards into one, what type of an organizational plan would we have in place after March 31/2000. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. O'Brien.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker whether it is a contract, a sole source contract, an employment contract, whatever, it is still a form of a contract, an agreement. If it wasn't a sole source contract, were there any invitations I guess, for other parties to have an opportunity to take on this study or review. For example, just to get to the point here, I am just curious as to whether there was nobody in Nunavut who could have done this study as opposed to going out to the GNWT or to somebody else outside of this new Territory? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Health Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is not a study. Indeed what Mr. Ramsden is trying to do, and the guy has been a former Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, and a former Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, right now is doing a Doctoral Thesis on organizational systems. It is an employment contract. Working for the Department. It is not a contract, so it wouldn't have been issued on an RFP. He has been hired. He is an employee. I don't know if that clarifies how the man has been put in place.

He has not been hired by my Department, he was hired by the Department of the Executive and is doing work on behalf of the Executive and one of the projects that this man is working on is the organizational chart for the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board, the Keewatin Health and Social Services Board, and the Kitikmeot Regional Health and Social Services Board on how the Department will be, how the Department of Health will be after the dissolution of the Boards after March 31, 2000. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Third supplementary, Mr. O'Brien. Excuse me Mr. O'Brien, your mike.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if the Minister is intentionally trying to avoid answering my question but it would seem to me that there would have to have been some kind of process in place for the selection of such an individual to do this study, or this work. And it is my understanding, I believe that Mr. Ramsden was the Deputy of Health and Social Services in the GNWT when we had such very, very serious problems with our health care in the Keewatin. And I will get back to my question. Was there not anybody else in Nunavut who could have done this work? Call it a study, call it work, call it employment, whatever. I am sure it is a short-term project that will end in a few months so that is the question. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Health Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I don't think anyone here wants to look at, or try to begrudge or impugn any type of handling of a job done by someone previously. I don't think that is what we are here for. I think the point is that Mr. Ramsden had the expertise, he had specialized knowledge, he did work with the Boards when they were under the GNWT. He has actually worked on a doctoral thesis. He has the expertise needed. Specialized expertise, familiarity with our Boards, the operating structures of the Department of Health as it is right now and indeed, looking at the reorganization of same.

If there is someone in Nunavut that could do it, I don't know. The point was, Mr. Speaker, that indeed the announcement was only made three short weeks ago. I met with the Health Board people, we wanted to get someone in place right away, the members here have asked for the organizational chart, we cannot have it both ways. So the person has the expertise, he is on the ground, he is working right now, he is on a contract with the Executive there is no hiding of any facts. There is no mystery, no controversy indeed Mr. Speaker there is nothing being hidden here. It is all open.

So I would like to say again, I guess that the guy has the expertise and specialized knowledge and everything. And I wouldn't want to impugn any motive as to what he was doing previously when he was the Deputy Minister. I think the point has been made that the guy was hired. He is on a short-term contract. He is doing the work, as requested by the Members of this House, to look at the organizational chart and have it ready by the Fall, in September so we can go to the Standing Committee on Health of this House and show them the organizational chart and have it in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Final supplementary question. Mr. O'Brien.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is not my intention to impute a motive here. I am just stating a fact. I know that this individual was involved with the study of the Keewatin Health Board and we had such serious, serious complications in matters over there and now we have hired the same individual. To revisit this and to review some of the type or promote some of the type of model that we may put into place. My question simply is, did we look at anybody else that could have done this type of a job or study, review or what you want to call it? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I mean the member is referring to a previous Government, it is not relevant to this Government, what happened with that guy, with Mr. Ramsden in the past. I don't know Mr. Ramsden very well personally or anything. I think the guy has good professional qualifications. I did see him briefly in Ottawa when I was down there to meet with the Minister, the Honourable Allan Rock and spoke to him on it.

Has the Department of Executive gone out and done an ad for the position, I don't think they have. They tried to find the person to do the job, who has the expertise, the knowledge and familiarity with Nunavut with the Health Boards, that is a pretty unique position. So I would say to the member, I don't know if the Department of the Executive has placed an ad. I did not hire him. He was not hired through my department, he was hired through the Department of Executive, but I am fully confident that Mr. Ramsden has the ability to do the job. And again, the point here Mr Speaker, is that we wanted to fast track this organizational plan. We just made the announcement about four weeks ago now with the Health Boards requesting the organizational chart as well as the chairs of the Health Boards and the CEO's. That is what we are trying to expedite here. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. I would like to advise the members to be careful about asking questions about things that happened in the past. This is a new government, this is a different government, not accountable for the previous government. Thank you, Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Question 79 - 1 (2): Status of Negotiations on James Bay Islands**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I asked this question previously to the Premier, but I will redirect my question. Regarding the offshore islands, I wonder what is the status of the negotiations on the James Bay islands?

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Next week and today the James Bay Cree will be meeting with my officials. This week, just to identify the problem areas or concerns from both parties. We are presently just trying to identify the issues at hand. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Oral questions, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The reason I am asking this question is that the people of Sanikiluaq are living in proximity to those islands and they are concerned about future use of those islands that are currently being used by the Sanikiluaq people. Sanikiluaq people are concerned about not taking part in the discussions and also in the agreement. They are worried that they will be restricted in the use of those islands which they have used traditionally for harvesting. That is why the residents of Sanikiluaq are concerned. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier if there are going to be actual negotiations and an agreement the people of Sanikiluaq will be involved. The Inuit are also able to hunt outside of the traditional

harvesting areas and I would just like to further add that, the Inuit are not restricted to harvesting in the traditional areas. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions, Mr. Irqittuq.

**Question 80 - 1 (2): Use of Government Facilities by Contractors**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not sure which Minister I should be directing my question to. Perhaps it is to the Premier, or it may be going to Ms. Thompson. The contracts with the Government of the Northwest Territories. We have adopted many of the contracts that were initiated by the GNWT and we have inherited them as Nunavut. Those contractors, Mr. Speaker, who will be maintaining the present infrastructure?

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Perhaps the member can clarify what exactly what he is talking about. I think what he said was that the people who are building the garages and the other Government infrastructure, is he saying that the contractors should be fixing their vehicles and what not. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq could you clarify your question please.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Yes, thank you Mr. Speaker that is the question. For example, in the Arctic Airports garage would they be able to use the Arctic Airports facilities even though they are just working on contracts?

**Speaker**: Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Whatever needs to be fixed, on the government contracts no matter what contract it is, they're able use the facilities that are available in a community. Perhaps if could get some more detail about what the members specific concern is about, if there was a problem about what was being fixed in the government facilities, but whenever a contract becomes available it anybody can get on it. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation) Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say for example if I had a contract for a project, would I be able to use government facilities, whether it be GNWT or Nunavut Government, even though I may hold a contract with the government can I take my equipment or if it was broken can I use their building or their garage to fix my equipment? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): I don't think that we are understanding each other but the way I understand it is, if a person has a contract with the government and

their equipment or car breaks down would they be able to use the government garage, for example, to use to fix his car?

If there was nothing much available in a community and if certain equipment that is needed breaks down they can be fixed in the community. Usually there is an agreement with private contractors when and how they can use the government facilities, but we treat these on a case by case basis, so if he has a specific concern I can look into it and respond further to his specific question. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Nutarak.

### **Question 81 - 1 (2): Recruitment of Social Workers**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In the smaller communities the Social Workers are getting fewer and fewer and when people have quit they have not been replaced. What is this department doing to recruit for those positions that have become vacant? This is in the area of Social Work. Thank you Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. This is for Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. One of the most important positions or jobs in our smaller communities, indeed in all of our communities is the social worker. What we've tried to do as a department through the health boards, again the social workers are employees of the health boards, when a position is vacant the health board works towards filling those positions.

The training of social workers is a different aspect. There have been some training programs going on at Nunavut Arctic College. We've had programs for social workers, we just had seven recently graduate. In Igloolik, as an example, we have seven social workers that are involved in a training program. They have finished their certificates and now would like to go on to the diploma program and as a department we are helping to facilitate that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker**: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions? Thank you Mr. McLean.

### **Question 82 - 1 (2): Staff Housing Buy-Back Policy**

**Mr. McLean**: My question is to the Minister of Public Works. Does the Nunavut Government have a staff housing buy back policy?

**Speaker**: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister of Housing Mr. Anawak. Oh, sorry Minister of Public Works Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of that issue right now, I can take it as notice. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions? Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 83 - 1 (2): School Buses in Iqaluit**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker last week on the 19<sup>th</sup> I made a members statement regarding the concerns in Iqaluit here about bussing. My question to the Minister responsible for Education is has any of the staff discussed the need for more bussing here in Iqaluit due to the forced growth that we are facing? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker the bussing programs are done by standard criteria for each community. And if that happens then bussing will also be looked at.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker could I please ask the Minister to repeat that, due to technical problem I did not hear the answer. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Can you rephrase your answer Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. The bussing program is status quo from the Northwest Territories Government. The criteria for bussing services to all communities are the same throughout Nunavut. If there is an increased requirement for Iqaluit bussing, if that comes about that will be looked at. I cannot answer that right now because we haven't been told about actual enrolments and requirements. As soon as that arrives into our department through the Divisional Board then we will look at that immediately.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Second question Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the Minister is saying that his department has not to date received any correspondence or any concern from either the Iqaluit Education Authority or the District Education Council regarding bussing. Is that what he is saying? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Mr. Speaker not that I know of right now. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Oral questions. Oral questions. Oral questions. Okay we'll go to item seven. Written questions. Written questions Mr. Nutarak.

### Item 7: Written Questions

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Member for High Arctic has asked me to table this petition because he's the Speaker of the House.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I apologize, I'm sorry we are on item seven under written question. You can table your petition on item eleven. Written questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### Question 3 - 1 (2): Runway Extension for Clyde River

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to Minister Jack Anawak. I would like to thank him for taking the plane to Clyde River but I would like to ask why they have no longer have the air strip extension. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Written questions. Item number eight. Written questions. Item number nine replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Replies to opening address. Item ten. Replies to budget address. Mr. McLean.

### Item 10: Replies to Budget Address

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. A little over a week ago my honourable colleague from Cambridge Bay presented Nunavut's first budget in this house. In making my reply today I am mindful of the fact that Ministers of Finance across this country do not have the easiest of jobs. When times are difficult they are the ones who have to go back and say no. When times are good they are still the ones who have to sometimes say no to a request for new or expanded funding. As members though we have an obligation to stand up for our community. It is not easy for any of us to return our communities and be faced with questions as to what we could and could not achieve for them. The minister's budget as we recognize it is essentially a status quo budget. Neither Ministers nor regular members had the level of input into its development that I hope to see for the next year.

The fact that the minister did not announce any new programs reinforces that we have the opportunity now to think clearly and deeply about our collective goals in the future. In his opening remarks the minister referred to changes that are in the planning stages and to substantial reforms that will require study and consultation. I am pleased to have the opportunity today to speak to some of the priorities and aspirations of the people of Baker Lake.

Standing on our own two feet achieving real self-sufficiency is a theme that I applaud. We all know the fiscal realities facing Nunavut - our dependence on Federal transfers, the unfair way in which Nunavut is denied its fair share of resource revenues, I could go on but the tale has been told before. The Minister's budget address is admirable in the way in which he pledges to fight for Nunavut's fair share. What we need to do as a territory and a people is to move from dialogue and then to action on how we can provide more for ourselves. Real decentralization is a step, a job and a spin off in Nunavut's smaller



communities will help to kick-start local economies. I again urge the government to move forward quickly on this issue.

The budget address touched on the vital issue of economic development and increasing employment opportunities. It referred to efforts to develop a northern economic strategy and an economic development agreement in partnership with the Federal Government. I am pleased to see the Minister of Sustainable Development promoting Nunavut during his recent trip to Montreal. It is vital that the message be heard elsewhere in Canada and abroad that we are open to investment, that we are open to partnerships, that we are open for business. The creation of a Nunavut Appropriate Investment Fund would be an initiative that I would support.

The Premier's participation in last week's premier's conference shows that we are finding our voice and finding forums in which our voice can be amplified. The support of the western provinces and our northern neighbours for a highway linked to Nunavut is gratifying. I applaud the Premier for his efforts. The conference also called for strong efforts to be made in the field of trade development and tourism. We need a team Nunavut approach to these issues. We are all stakeholders that are involved. An economic strategy for Nunavut must be holistic, being content with make work programs or indiscriminate subsidies is not a sustainable path to pursue. Incentive programs must be carefully thought out and avoid the traps made in the past by other governments. Our future depends to no small extent on the people of this land creating their own wealth through the traditional economy. Our current situation where the government takes in more than twice as much money from tobacco taxes as it does from corporate income taxes is simply unacceptable. We are a large territory with few people. Our economy has to grow based on our core strengths, both natural and human.

Education is absolutely central to this. As a strategic investment in our future, education must in a word include resources and get first call on additional funds, as it is through education that we gain strength. A person with education and skill has a choice to work for him or herself, to join the public service, to start a business that will in turn provide a job for others. Education and health go hand in hand.

I was pleased for my colleague, the member for Arviat, that his community will see the benefits of a P3 Project, a new health centre. I support the principle of P3 when projects focus on the education and health needs of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's budget stressed the governments' commitment to consultation and to integrating the values of our people into how we make decisions. The months ahead will put us all to the test Mr. Speaker. I look forward to joining the challenge. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. McLean. Replies to budget address Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many of my concerns were addressed by the Honourable Kelvin Ng, Minister of Finance. However, in my

constituency where I serve the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset there continues to be many areas of concerns to all of us. Housing, education and decentralization are among a few.

Understandably housing is an issue to all the members and to the people of Nunavut. Even in Ottawa a standing committee report of the House of Commons concluded that the shortage of housing and high cost of air transportation are crippling and restrict economic development efforts. Since our first and second session it is obvious that this issue continues to be an important subject. Mr. Speaker the promotion of home ownership seems to be a catch 22 situation. People that are renting from the local housing authority cannot seem to save enough money for a down payment because of the high cost of rent. Even with the 15 thousand dollar down payment assistance program, it is barely enough. However, this program has been less successful here because of the higher cost of houses in Nunavut. In my constituency there are an average of 4 people living in each household, while 40% have five or more people per household. I am certain that this is a similar situation in every community. I will quote from the budget address, "the availability of adequate and affordable housing to meet the needs of our growing population is one of our highest infrastructure priorities".

Mr. Speaker, 117.4 million dollars is going towards education. This must be used wisely. We need to educate our youth and prepare them for future employment. We must provide quality education. Education that is geared towards specialized areas such as schoolteachers, nurses and much more. Another area of education that we have talked a lot of as well as is the need of preserve our culture, our language, taking care of our land, hunting and harvesting. The need for Inuit Qaujimatunqangit to be integrated with our government.

We must consider the needs of our youth. They are our future leaders and must be given every opportunity to succeed. Mr. Speaker, recently the Mayor of Cape Dorset expressed concerned on the radio about decentralization. The decentralization model that was approved on October 2, 1998 indicated that 56 full time positions were slated for Cape Dorset. Forty-one of these positions were to be transferred from Iqaluit. No positions were slated for Kimmirut.

Mr. Speaker, before being elected, I worked as an employment assistance officer in our community. We used to partner with the government, Inuit organizations, and lending agencies when funds were not sufficient for a particular project. With this budget these are the types of things that we will have to do. Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that this year's budget covers these issues. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Replies to budget address. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to reply to the budget address. I would like to touch on several themes that are very important to me, and Mr. Speaker not all the themes that are important to me. This is quite lengthy but it is scaled back so please bear with me.

The first theme is housing. Mr. Speaker I am pleased to see 20 million dollars allocated for social housing. I think it is important that we make a distinction between social housing and other types of housing. Mr. Speaker there has been a growing private market for housing especially in the regional centres, as more and more people build or purchase their own housing. However, we have had to make hard decisions about where to put limited public dollars. Do we help those people who already have money for housing? Or do we help those who do not have money for housing? It that simple. Social housing programs help people who do not have money for housing. So that all people can have access to affordable, safe, adequate, uncrowded quality housing. Mr. Speaker, I think the government of Nunavut should put its priority for housing in public housing. Mr. Speaker, sometimes when we use expressions like social housing we don't have a good image of who we're talking about in this housing. Let me try to express this.

Mr. Speaker, there is a need for appropriate social housing for elders in all of our communities. It should be appropriately located in the community to be close for walking to stores, the nursing station, the community hall, the elders centre, and appropriately designed for elders who have difficulty with steps. There is also a need for social housing for young families, for students at high school or college, for single mothers and their children who are often living in crowded situations with others. We sometimes hear of people who have no choice but to live in homes with people who are not healthy, with people who may abuse or may be abusing them, because there is no alternative available as there is no where else for them to go and they do not have any money. While I know that our history often involves several generations of people living together and we celebrate this and sometimes we long for this closeness, in some ways times have changed in many of our communities. Where there is conflict in families related to alcohol abuse or violence everyone should have the right, the right Mr. Speaker to live in their own housing whether you are an elder, a mother, or a young adult. There are many people in Nunavut who do not have that right now because we don't have the housing to make that right possible.

Mr. Speaker, there is also a need for social housing for many hard working families who have low incomes and don't enjoy the extra benefits of housing allowances. Mr. Speaker, we all know that market rents in the north are often around 2,000 dollars a month for a family sized dwelling. A person who drives a water truck, or works as a secretary for a Hamlet, or a store clerk cannot afford to pay 2,000 dollars a month for rent when their take home pay may not even be this high. Social housing allows for people to pay up to 30% of their salary on housing whether the salary is very low and only part time or whether their salary is modest. They can use the rest for food and for other essentials for their families. Mr. Speaker, we need social housing for these people too.

Lastly Mr. Speaker, we need social housing for people who have none at all. There are homeless people in Nunavut and Iqaluit, something that should shame us all. We have a homeless shelter in Iqaluit that struggles to stay open when we have people literally freezing to death. As examples of the difficulties they face, only in the last few weeks the staff received their layoff notices, the consequence of sporadic project funding.

Mr. Speaker sadly, we do need to have places for people to put their heads at night and the budget needs to reflect all of these housing priorities. Mr. Speaker this is what social housing is all about and we need to have more in every community. Unfortunately 20 million dollars won't fulfil enough building of social housing units. Mr. Speaker CMHC used to have a social housing program, which built new social housing units. About seven years ago they stopped building new units and so the local housing associations are simply maintaining units they have and rebuilding the ones that are burnt down. We need to re-negotiate the contract with CMHC, so that we can once again have new capital and a program for social housing. We need to look at how to creatively build more social housing out of our own limited capital and O&M dollars.

Mr. Speaker the budget address states that the government is extending the program to help people with the down payments towards homeownership. Mr. Speaker this will help people move out of social housing and free up that unit for another family. I think it is a great program, but in order to meet the need, to meet the test for public accountability and good government, I think that all of the housing programs we are supporting in Nunavut, should be income tested. Low and Middle income earners should have our help, while high income earners have enough money for their own housing and there is no public interest served in giving public dollars to people who aren't in need of it, particularly, where there are so many other people who desperately need our help. Helping people with a down payment is a great boost for many people and I commend the government for doing it. People should only get help that they require to make their down payment and secure a mortgage, not more. Those who are earning more should pay more towards their down payment.

We also have to look at each housing market. Houses in Iqaluit are very expensive and in some other communities they are less expensive. A grant of 15 thousand dollars wouldn't be enough in some cases and more than enough in others. The programs should provide up to 10% down payment assistance for an average priced house in the community for that community market. Mr. Speaker, there are many aspects to being able to buy a home, the first of these is the desire to do so and the government can be commended for encouraging people to become home owners. The second is a down payment, which I just mentioned. The 3<sup>rd</sup> is a long term job with a regular salary from which to make mortgage payments and keep up the unit. I know this government is committed in many ways to create these jobs, but Mr. Speaker there may be other hurdles. There are some people, who might have all three now, but because they don't have a good credit rating, they can't get a mortgage. Perhaps they have a good job now, but at another time they let their credit cards go too high or they had too many long distance calls or some one in their family was reckless about these things and credit rating is not up to par in the bank. But if they were to pay off this debt by a repayment schedule they could fix this.

Mr. Speaker if we are going to have programs to help people access something as important as housing, we need a companion program to help people deal with some of these other hurdles. To get credit counselling, to help them consolidate their debts, to get

a repayment plan, so that they could move forward with their lives. This affects many Inuit and we need to put extra effort, so that more Inuit can benefit from these types of program. Mr. Speaker I want to see at the end of day who did get help by this down payment program and if there are not 85% Inuit getting access, then we will know that there are other hurdles that this government did not address in their program.

Mr. Speaker we need general financial services in our communities to ensure that people receive information and support on how to run their financial affairs. From help with income tax forms to obtaining mortgages and loans to setting up their own businesses, to obtaining credit counselling. People need help holding on to their homes and assets during difficult periods. Mr. Speaker I believe community based credit unions may be our hope for this, credit unions owned and operated locally with the profits in the community and in Nunavut. I look forward to seeing the government initiatives in regards to this in the future.

Mr. Speaker in terms of housing, I also note that the Housing Corporation has now been brought within the government departments. A stand alone Housing Corporation was set up after a thorough study in 1972. I suggest that it would help resolve a number of problems, it would consolidate all services relating to housing in one place under leadership with a dedicated focus to housing, in order to become more effective and efficient. Over the years it has evolved through experience to a corporation which did pretty well with what it had to work with. It was also flexible, for example, it had a two year capital delivery cycle which worked well in Nunavut with the sea lift schedule. Mr. Speaker I am concerned that we are going to have fragmented service delivery through the policy with Community Government, Housing & Transportation responsible for parts of it, public works and telecommunications and technical services responsible for another part of it, Human Resources for another part of it and Finance yet another.

Mr. Speaker the direction of this government is to take more and more service delivery in house, into the government, in health, in education and in housing, but I would like to see more of the studies to show that we will really benefit from this direction. I do not want to see us five or ten years down the road re-inventing the wheel and saying, "oops maybe we should've left some of these more independent mechanisms for service delivery outside the departments and have the departments focus more on good policy, ensuring good evaluation, and ensuring that we have dollars in place to do a good job".

Mr. Speaker I have many more concerns about housing but I want to quickly raise a few other matters today. Mr. Speaker another area that I care very much about is education and I have two small children who will be entering the education system soon. I want the best for them and for all the other children of Nunavut. I want an education system that will instil a love of learning and curiosity about the world. That will invest children with the skills and knowledge that will allow them to contribute to their communities. That will put them on par with the students in southern Canada. That will allow them to celebrate skilfully the use of the language and culture and give them a solid foundation for their future lives based on respect and excellence.

Mr. Speaker I am pleased to see seventeen new teaching positions will be added this year. We all know the ratio of teachers to students in the classrooms is a very important component of quality education, however, I am concerned that this increase is not even one new teacher per community. For a community like Iqaluit we are seeing many new families moving with their children. This increase in teachers won't even begin to deal with the new numbers of children. It is expected that class sizes will increase here, we must look at the need for teachers again before the year is out. Perhaps this is an area where some of the savings from phasing out the Regional Education Council can be emphasized.

Mr. Speaker another theme that I would like to speak on is caring. Mr. Speaker I am concerned that this budget focuses on creating a solid future for Nunavut, which I applaud, but didn't pay enough attention to the past. The fact is there are many people in Nunavut who have suffered in the past from violence, from abuse, from sadness due to loss of loved ones, to suicide or losses on the land or who hurt for other reasons. There are people who are not dealing with these losses in healthy ways, there are also people who are caught, torn or lost between two generations, between two cultures, between two languages, it has been very hard for some people. They may have turned to drugs and alcohol or to violence and they have a negative impact on themselves and on many people all around them. They are the people who are in the courts and in the prisons and they are in the hospitals from suicide attempts. They can't keep their jobs or their children may be in foster care.

Mr. Speaker we have a drug and alcohol centre in Iqaluit that is closed. It is the only one in Nunavut and they don't even know when it's going to be re-opened. There are many people in Nunavut who need this help, I don't see anything in this budget that says how we are going to help people deal with a troubled past. I don't think it is enough to build a better future for them, we also have to help them move forward with their lives into the better future. More employment opportunities will not be the full answer, not the total solution. Mr. Speaker the budget address says the priority for government is creating healthy communities, families and individuals, but where are the initiatives in the budget address that help parents who have children in care, help victims of sexual abuse, help people who were wronged in residential school, that took them many miles away from their families and their culture. Where are the initiatives to help men and women in the jails deal with their anger and violence and to learn new skills. Mr. Speaker we see the statistics, the southern news papers are always printing them for us, but here in Nunavut we see the people behind those statistics, we care about them and we want more effective programs to help them. We know a lot of what has been delivered in the past, hasn't always helped people, how is Nunavut is going to be different?

Mr. Speaker the budget talks about shuffling government structures around, phasing out health boards and education boards, phasing in the Departments. Mr. Speaker I don't think a lot of my Constituents really care that much about who is going to be doing what or what part of government democracy is responsible for what type of program. My constituents and Nunavummiut want programs that will work, that are culturally sensitive and that make a difference in their life, in the lives of the people they love and are

concerned about. Mr. Speaker I would have liked to see more on our caring programs in the budget address, more than one paragraph and I hope we will hear more about this in the future.

Mr. Speaker the last theme I want to touch on is a need to work together as regular MLA's. I want to work effectively with the other MLA's in the House and on the Standing Committees. I want to work effectively with the Cabinet and the government departments to ensure that we can deliver the best programs and services possible in Nunavut in a way that is affordable, sustainable, cultural and builds our future. I want to work effectively with NTI, Land Claim Organizations and with the general public. In order to do this, we must have full and open sharing of information between the government and the regular MLA's, in the budget process, in the review of programs, in the drafting of policy, in legislation. I also welcome the government commitment to public consultations and look forward to involving Nunavummiut in the important debates affecting our futures.

Mr. Speaker I hope the government will very carefully consider the recommendations of all four standing committees in this regard. Mr. Speaker these are my comments on the budget address. Mr. Speaker I would like to thank all the members for listening. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I'd like to take a short recess for 15 minutes. Members can go upstairs for coffee and also I'd like to invite the pages to join us at the members' coffee room. 15 minute break.

>>House recessed from 3.28 to 3.49 pm.

**Speaker:** Item 10 replies to budget address. Item 11 petitions Mr. Nutarak.

### **Item 11: Petitions**

#### **Petition 5 - 1 (2): Release of Juda Taqtu from Baffin Correctional Centre**

**Mr. Nutarak:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I apologize Mr. Speaker, I made a mistake earlier. The member for the high arctic has asked me to table this petition. He is the Speaker and this is for the Minister of Justice. We have 69 signatures from the people of Arctic Bay to get Juda Taqtu out of the Baffin Correctional Centre as soon as possible. This was signed by the people of Arctic Bay, because he supports a family, he provides meat to the community and he also helps the people who are in poor situations. Mr. Uyukuluk, who is the father of Juda Taqtu, is the oldest member in the community and he is concerned that he might be gone for a long time and he doesn't believe that there's going to be enough food provided for his family. They are requesting that his sentence be reduced to five months. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Qujannamiik Mr. Nutarak. Item 11 petitions, item 12 reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, Reports of Committees on the Review Bills. Tabling of Documents. Item 15 Notices of Motions. Mr. Ng

### **Item 15: Notices of Motions**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I give notice that on Thursday, May the 27<sup>th</sup>, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tunnuniq, to authorize the Speaker of the House to set the sitting hours as the Speaker deems fit in respect to the business before the House. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker I'll ask for unanimous consent on the motion today. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17 motions. Mr. Ng

### **Item 17: Motions**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion. Are there any nays? Mr. Iqaqrialu

**Mr. Iqaqrialu:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I say nay.

**Speaker:** There is a nay. Motions out of order. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark:** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite get the Motion, would you read again please.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): The motion was defeated, if it's not approved today. As the member had stated, he said that he would like to deal with it on Thursday. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Mr. Speaker, I believe that if anybody was going to say nay to this motion, we should've been informed this morning during our full Caucus, so that we would be fully informed. I don't know why there was a nay possibly these speakers can give us a briefing. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion just asked for consensus, there is no debate allowed. He wanted unanimous consent and stated here that he would like to deal with it today and there was one nay. Mr. Picco

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I think, the Minister if I'm correct on the proceedings, I think I am, the Minister was asking for consent, not unanimous consent, so it doesn't matter if one Member says no, we were asking for consent, I think it's a full vote of caucus, not unanimous consent. Thank you Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Unanimous consent was in order to deal with this motion. We have no unanimous consent. Item 17 motions. Item 18 first Reading of Bills. Item 19 Second Reading of Bills. Item 20, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other matters. Bill 1 Appropriation Act 1999/2000. Bill 2 Boards of Management Dissolution Act. Bill 3 Divisional Education Council Dissolution Act. Committee Reports 1 – 1 (2), 2 – 1 (2), 3 -1 (2) and 4 – 1 (2), with Mr. Puqiqnak in the chair.

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. At this time we have a full agenda for this afternoon. What is the Committees wish? 1 – 1, 2 – 1, 3 – 1, 4 – 1. Bill 1, Bill 2, Bill 3. Appropriation Act for 1999/2000, and Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act and Bill 3 - Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act. We have three bills, I would like at this time to ask which bill you would like to deal with at this time? Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): We could skip Bill 1 and go on to Bill 2 and Bill 3, once we are done with bill 2 and 3 we can then go back to bill 1.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. As Mr. Nutarak stated he would like to deal with bill 2 and bill 3. That's the Member for Mitsimatalik, are we all agreed? We have Bill 2 Boards of Management Dissolution Act and Bill 3 Divisional Education Councils Dissolution act, we'll deal with these two Bills this afternoon at this time. Is it okay, since there's no reply we'll deal with Bills 2 and 3 and after we have completed those two bills, we'll go back to bill 1, afterwards. Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act, we'll start with that one. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Deputy Minister of Health and Social services is not here right now, but I'm willing to take questions, comments or anything from the floor. My opening comments for the Bill are not here either, because we were expecting to do that on Saturday, that was our consensus that we had reached. I've just asked my Executive Assistant to call the Deputy Minister for Health to come here right now to the Hall. Thank you Mr Chairman.

**Chairperson:** (interpretation): The Minister for Health and Social Services would like to ask the Deputy Minister to attend. Thank you, Mr. Nutarak, did you have another comment to make?

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just had a conversation with the Speaker, and Mr. Ng. I would like to revoke what I said and start with Bill One, as they are ready, I believe. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. We will then go to Bill One, Appropriation Act 1999/2000, and for your information, we also have a Standing

Committee Report, 1-1, Standing Committee Report 2-1, and Standing Committee Report 3-1. These will also have to be included. That is for your information. At this time, I believe it would be best if we deal with Community Government, Housing and Transportation. We will deal with that first. Are we agreed? I would like to ask the Minister of this Department – Community Government, Housing and Transportation, Mr. Jack Anawak to go up to the witness table for opening remarks.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman I am very pleased to present the 1999/2000 budget for Community Government, Housing & Transportation that we will be dealing with. I would like to ask Mr. Mike Ferris, Deputy Minister and Mr. Michael Rafter, to come and help me and we will try to deal with questions that will be arising from the House in regards to capital items or transportation.

As you are aware, Community Government, Housing and Transportation used to be three departments during the GNWT days; Transportation, Housing and MACA. They were combined into one Department and we were able to realign our department.

This amalgamation brought three very similar operations together. This has allowed us the opportunity to begin looking at new ways to deliver our programs and services more effectively. The departmental structure reflects four basic branch operations. These are: 1) the Directorate, 2) Community Government, 3) Housing and 4) Transportation. The chart on page 7-1 of the Main Estimates document reflects the divisions within these four branches.

I should note that the Housing Branch is also referred to as the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It operates under the Nunavut Housing Corporation Act very similar to the NWT Housing Corporation. The Nunavut Housing Corporation has its own budget which is made up of funding provided by the Canada Mortgage & Housing Corporation (CMHC), plus funding provided by the Nunavut Government. The Corporation's budget will be finalized once the Main Estimates are approved.

Mr. Chairman and Honourable members, we face a major challenge in the area of Social housing, especially since CMHC is no longer providing the capital dollars to build new units. Furthermore, as the Minister of Finance indicated in his budget, CMHC is also reducing annually the operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding it transfers to us.

We will need to work together as we attempt to deal with our social housing needs. We must look at new ways of doing things. We must seek out innovative ideas and solutions.

I would like to have a review of existing programs, to see if there are ways we could do things differently, to be more effective and more efficient.

I would like to look at some new ideas, some new initiatives, and some new partnerships. I invite the ideas and advice of the members of this assembly to assist me with this challenge.

The mission statement of the Department, along with our current goals, flow out of the business plan document. You can see in our goals that we want to develop open communication and consultation with our partners. We want to help communities enhance their capacities, making it easier for local management and delivery of programs and services.

We will also be enhancing community fire fighting training. This is an effort to reduce our high fire loss record and stabilize fire insurance rates as the insurance industry has been expressing concern.

We will also be much more proactive in prevention programs, especially in the "Learn not to Burn" program offered through the schools.

I have also asked my Deputy to ensure that we enhance our search and rescue training and become more supportive to local authorities during local community search operations.

In addition to communicating with our partners, we will be developing a communication/consultation plan, so we may keep the people of Nunavut advised of our programs and services and seek their input in helping to better meet their needs with our programs and services.

The Budget.

The Department's budget figures can be found in the main estimates document starting on page 7-3.

The various pages in the main estimates break down the \$97,287 million dollar O&M budget amount. As well, they provide information on the \$35,764 million dollar capital budget.

You will note some large amounts in the main estimate document. For example, on page 7-5, on the Grants and Contribution line, is an amount of \$26,465 million dollars. This includes Hamlet contribution funding known as the Municipal Operating Assistance Program.

It includes the water / sewer subsidy program funding, equalization grants for the town, grants in lieu of taxes and community development grants.

You will also notice on page 7-12 under transportation, on the other O&M line, an amount of \$12,323 million dollars.

This amount may seem rather large, but it includes all the funding which flows to communities under the airport operating contracts. These are necessary dollars to keep the airports in Nunavut operational.

On page 7-9 under housing, on the Capital Contributions line, is an amount of \$19,060 million dollars. This represents the capital money provided by the Government of Nunavut, to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to assist in the delivery of a number of housing programs. As well, the Nunavut Housing Corporation receives \$33, 243 million dollars in Operation and Maintenance dollars.

The Housing Corporation uses these dollars plus the \$58 million dollars it receives from CMHC to develop its annual operating budget. As mentioned earlier, once the departments' main estimates are approved, the Housing Corporation will finalize its budget.

There have been concerns expressed that there was no consultation with communities as the framework budget was being developed, and that was the case. The consultation was completed by the GNWT and the information was then filed with the former Office of the Interim Commissioner (OIC) as part of the transition planning process.

A review of this information showed that the projects proposed far exceeded the limited resources that would be available to the Nunavut Government April 1/99. It was agreed that the following criteria would be used by departments to allocate capital in the transition year.

- Contracts in place/funds already committed
- Statutory or regulatory requirements
- Health and safety requirements
- Third party funding in place/cost shared programs
- Social housing, which is one of our priorities.

Once these criteria were applied across all departments a capital budget was developed and that is what is now presented in the main estimate document.

As the Minister of Finance said in his Budget Speech, "In the coming months we will be starting a 5-year Capital Planning Program, which will involve extensive consultation with MLA's, along with communities". I look forward to that process so that we can seek input from our communities, so that we can develop the first Nunavut Five Year Capital Plan.

Building a new Government and starting a new fiscal year under new financial circumstances is not an easy task. I appreciate all the hard work of the MLA's as we work together to get Nunavut off to a strong start without deficit financing.

I had wanted to make those points and Mr. Chairman I would like to go up to the witness table at this time.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister for Community Government, Housing and Transportation. You can go up to the witness table and also Mr. Mike Ferris

and Mr. Rafter. I apologize for not saying your names properly. You can go up to the witness table.

We have Mr. Mike Ferris and Mr. Rafter, and we also have the Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation. Welcome to our meeting. Mr. O'Brien.

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman following are the comments after meetings that were held with the Minister of Community Government, Housing and Transportation. Mr. Anawak appeared before the Committee on the morning of April 28<sup>th</sup> 1999. The main estimate summary provided to the Committee indicated total 1999/2000 expenditures of 133 million dollars of which 35.764 million is for capital spending. The Committee was very impressed with the Ministers' presentation, especially with respect to the comprehensive and detailed nature of the information provided.

In reference to Social Housing, the issue of Social Housing was the subject of extensive discussion during the Ministers appearance. The Minister identified a number of critical issues facing the department and the Nunavut Housing Corporation with respect to Social Housing in Nunavut. The Minister advised that he would be shortly appointing a Ministers Committee to take a look at the issue of Social Housing. The Standing Committee was pleased to hear that the Minister was open to ways of including regular members to the review process. The Standing Committee urges the Department to undertake a broad review of housing issues in Nunavut including the issue of facilitating home ownership.

Members of the Committee raised a number of points related to the housing issue. Among these were the difficulties facing families who want to get into the private housing market; disincentives for seasonal workers to seek jobs because of rent increases in social housing units; the apparent unfairness of the MDAPP monies being available to high income earners; the poor quality of workmanship of many of the southern contractors; the need for more energy efficient, Nunavut appropriate, low cost housing units.

Another issue was the high cost/high mortgage rates for new homeowners and high heating and fuel costs. The Minister indicated his desire for the department to review options and alternatives across the board. The Minister also indicated that he was pressing his Federal counterparts on this issue. The Committee urges the Minister to make every effort to pursue solutions to the housing crisis in Nunavut and to maintain openness to innovative ideas and solutions. The Committee recommends that a review of the DAP program be undertaken, and that the Department consider raising the amounts of money available to 30 thousand dollars. The Committee looks forward to working with the Minister and other stakeholders in addressing this central issue to the wellbeing of Nunavummiut.

In reference to the Iqaluit Airport, the Committee was briefed on the serious impact that Federal regulatory changes have had on the Iqaluit Airport and others in Nunavut. These

regulatory changes will impact such items as gravel airstrips and emergency response times. The Committee is supportive of the Minister in seeking additional resources from relevant Federal bodies.

In reference to the Inuit Employment Plan. The Minister indicated that the Inuit Employment Plan for the department would be released shortly. The Committee looks forward to the opportunity to reviewing this plan in detail.

In reference to the Legislative Reform Review. The Minister indicated that the review of Departmental Legislation has recently begun. The Minister indicated that the Department will begin consultations with the newly formed Nunavut Association of Municipalities. The Committee welcomed the invitation to make suggestions for the legislation changes.

That is all the comments that I have Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. I move that this Committee recommend the Department undertake a broad review of housing issues in Nunavut including the social housing crisis and the need to facilitate home ownership.

Second, Mr. Chairman I move that this Committee recommend that the Department provide a mid-year progress report to the Standing Committee for a review in October of this year.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien, and members of the Legislative Assembly, I believe you made two recommendations. I would like you to read the first motion. First of all, Mr. O'Brien.

#### **Committee Motion 14 – 1 (2): Broad Review of Housing Issues in Nunavut**

**Mr. O'Brien.** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the first motion.

I move that this Committee recommend that the Department undertake a broad review of housing issues in Nunavut including the social housing crisis and the need to facilitate home ownership.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien, your motion is in order. Comments to the motion? Questions? I would like those in favour of the motion? Please indicate. Those opposed? The motion is carried.

Mr. O'Brien your second motion.

#### **Committee Motion 15 – 1 (2): Mid Year Progress Report**

**Mr. O'Brien:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move the Committee recommend the Department provide a mid year progress report to the Standing Committee for review in October of this year. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Your motion is in order. Questions or comments to the motion? All in favour of the motion? Those opposed? Motion is carried.

General comments regarding Community Government. General Comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Regarding Community Government. For many years I have been involved in Community Government and I have also been involved in community councils at that level. We have had difficulties with the Territorial Government that came about because there were cutbacks by the Government. I think one of the things I would like to see in this department, since community populations are increasing, we need to have equitable capabilities in the communities for community services.

For example, most of the communities in my constituency are facing the same problems because the municipal services equipment are not keeping up with the community growth. Since there has not been any increases in funding for those services, that has caused some hardships in the communities. So I have been thinking that the funding provided to the communities should be on par with community growth and that funding formula should be changed to reflect that. I am aware that Mr. Anawak wrote me a letter that we would see an increase to keep up with the cost of providing those programs through the Hamlet Councils, I may have other comments to make later after my colleagues have had a chance to make general comments. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu, if you wish to respond to that Mr. Minister or ...

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): The funding that is provided to the communities is divided according to the population and what Mr. Iqaqrialu has said is very true. Communities are experiencing rapid growth and I think the census of these communities is behind. We will make due adjustments. Sometimes funding is not enough even though you say you have this many people and they don't get per capita funding. For example, if you took a census in June, people should know that not many people will be in the communities during that month, so if we are going to conduct a census we need to take that into consideration so that we can have truer figures when the census is taken at certain times of the year.

We need to consider that in June we do not expect that all people will be there. When there is a Nunavut wide census that will be the basis of funding by the Federal Government and we need to make them aware of that because those census figures for the communities are used to determine how much the hamlets are going to get in terms of funding from this Government. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I have a comment as well as a question. In regards to housing in the communities, we are increasingly seeing problems in trying to get more social housing available in the communities. What is going to be happening in the future, say in the next five years? We can't truly predict that and we don't know how much funding is going to be available, but I think that your department needs to be consulting with the communities to predict what they are going to need in the next five years.

I think the Co-op can help you in this regard, I think that you should be looking at things like the Co-op to provide housing if there is going to be no forthcoming social housing. In my community the Co-op purchased the past governments staff housing. So, there are some tenants in Co-op houses now residing, even though there are not many, but I think that has eased the local housing authority somewhat.

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

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I am sorry to say that we haven't come to any agreement about doing a survey in the communities yet, but I will be asking for your assistance and we'll also be taking on other partners who and how to make more houses available in the private market to assist in assessing the needs and how funding can be provided by third parties because we are not seeing any increase in funding from the federal government

Yes, I agree with what Mr. Alakannuark is saying that many of the problems can be worked out at the local level and when that can be done in a community. For example, when all of the houses used to come from CMHC and the Housing Corporation, even though there were people available who were able to build houses, we always had to go by contracts. We didn't have anybody who could take on contracts at the local level, but there are now Co-ops and there are more people who are in the construction business who can look after these things. We are required by legislation to go by public tender and to contract whoever is more able to do the work.

I would like to be clear that if there is a local company available to build houses or any kind of building and they have the capabilities they will be given the first opportunity to bid on a contract. The other problem that may arise, because we haven't tried it yet, even if the Hamlet, Housing Authority or Co-op is able to do the construction they may be available but there may be conflicts arising out of that, in giving those contracts out to the local people because they may not be included under Article 24. We may be going against the land claims agreement which is administered by NTI. I agree that if building can be done at the community level and local people can do it, we support that. That money should be going to the community, but if the reviewing committee is looking at that I will fully support working towards that goal.

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



**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. There is 46 million that is divided between the Hamlets operations & maintenance. This 46 million dollars was arrived at by the GNWT from the 1980 census for O & M in community governments.

For example, in the year 2001, if there was a sudden change, would this amount be changed to reflect the change in growth?

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

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): You said 26 million? 46 million. Sorry I was looking for that figure of 46 million for operations. From that 46 million for operations, there will be 39 million 922 thousand this year and also capital acquisitions are 10 million, so therefore we have 46 million 50 thousand at this time but we cannot find more funding to be transferred to the Hamlets. I know we thought we would get more money from the Nunavut Government but since there is no further funding available from the federal government, if we were to find more funds we would pass it on to the Hamlets or community governments. I can't see right now where we would get more money, maybe if you clarify your question further I might be able to give you a better response. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. You said there was 35 million without the capital for community governments. The Hamlet Councils were trying to get more power for the communities, so in the year 2001, if some program responsibilities were given over to the Hamlet Councils, I think those funding levels would have to be increased. The figures that we are working on right now would have to be adjusted accordingly to what has been transferred to the communities. There still has to be operations and maintenance that have to be provided for each of the programs that have been given to the Hamlet Councils, for example, DPW or Social programs that will become the responsibility of the Hamlets. So if we are going to transfer responsibilities to the community governments then that figure that I was quoting would have to be increased. I think that was the commitment that the GNWT had made, as more responsibilities are turned over to the communities there have to be funding increases as well.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Nutarak, you have made yourself clear. Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Yes, as I said before, we want to look at housing needs in the communities. I know there is a Nunavut Association of Municipalities now and I think that many of the communities may want to see some changes, especially in terms of turning over responsibility for programs. If they are going to be administering programs, for example for DPW, the money that DPW would have used will be handed over to the Hamlet Council. Or, if a community wants to take over social programs which are normally under the responsibility of the government

to administer, then the funding will be provided for that to the Hamlet Council. If we are going to give them additional responsibility we have been thinking that maybe the community should be looking at what they are going to change so that they can operate things at the local level more efficiently.

We know the capabilities of our communities and some communities are better at it than others and government is not as sensitive to the needs of the communities as local people are. The Hamlets know what the needs are in the communities so we should, as a government, be looking for ways and means to accommodate the needs of the community and their priorities.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. I think your question has been answered. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I think I was the only one who wanted to talk about this issue. Thank you for getting back to me so promptly. The Hamlet Council in the community is a municipal government in our community. The GNWT had a policy, the Municipal Governments were non-profit organizations. If they are taking over more programs from the government it has to be made clear that the Hamlet needs to know exactly what kind of organization they are going to be. Are they for profit or not? I think that if they are going to be for profit they are going to take away from potential business growth in a community by taxing them. I think we have to keep the Hamlet Councils as non-profit organizations and this needs to be clarified before Hamlet Councils are given more responsibilities that government presently provides.

The private businesses are for profit per se, we need to clarify exactly what the Hamlet Councils can do so that they do not take away from the local residents what could be a for profit businesses. For that reason, to me that is very important. For the Municipal Government and how they are going to administer policies at the local level, that needs to be clear and GNWT was very sensitive to that and I think that was a good program on the way the GNWT was handling the community empowerment program and transfers.

I know that there is not going to be agreement right away and the business people, or business opportunities, will not be happy about the transfers taking place to the Hamlets and there will be some communities who will want that more. So, I think that we need to make very clear policies about transferring government programs to the Hamlets, before full community empowerment goes ahead.

I know that it may be a good thing, but I just wanted to clarify this before we got too far in the discussions about this department. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Anawak would you like to make a comment on that?

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Yes, his comments were very clear, I can even make an example that in some communities they have heavy

equipment, either to remove snow or to work on the roads. Sometimes private businesses don't have anything to do because the Hamlet Councils are responsible for clearing up the roads. In order to support the communities more, when there are other people outside of the Hamlet Council that can actually work, we would like to utilize them and help them out. Even if we go by way of the Hamlet Council, if there was a private business to do that kind of job in the community we would use that private business rather than the Hamlet Council so we could give more support to the communities.

In regards to the Hamlet Councils and Co-ops, I just used those as an example. If there were other capable companies, and not all of the communities have private businesses, some of them only have Hamlet Councils and Housing Associations and Co-ops, however if there were any other capable private businesses we would utilize those private businesses. For example, perhaps it would be cheaper if we could work for one year with the help of the Hamlet Council, because they do have heavy equipment to work on gravel. Once we get more people in private business we could utilize those private businesses, whether it be snow removal or gravel equipment, if private businesses have equipment such as these, we would utilize them.

Right now, we have not had a chance to review this or what the needs are in the communities or what there is in the communities. Perhaps we have not been asking questions of the communities, because we are quite new. I will be requiring the support of the regular members and the communities as well as the Association of Municipalities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am going to be talking about something totally different from previously. I just want you to know that the Housing Associations were used by GNWT to find out how many people were living in one unit. The funding that was allotted to the Housing Association never even considered the people. For example, in the smaller communities, like Clyde River, the budget was much larger than in the larger communities. I could ask this under written questions, but we have to review all of these issues when we are dealing with social housing, because social housing has caused many challenges and hardships for people in the communities.

For example, if there were 10 people in our home, they don't even take into consideration how much the house is using in water, because there are so many people living in one unit water delivery has to come more frequently. Some units only have two people living in the unit and the price, the rent, is the same whether you are overcrowded or not. We don't view these people in the communities so this tends to bring up some social problems in the community in my opinion. I have been a member of different agencies and boards and some of the communities do utilize the limited amount of funds they have and are functioning well, but others that don't even voice their concerns don't really have a problem financially and it gets expensive to deal with these communities. I just wanted to point this out further.

I have a letter which starts from the rent and goes on to other social problems and I have a documented letter stating how much money has been utilized for O & M for social housing, but I think I forgot to bring this letter to the house, so I am regretting that fact. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you. I am going to use myself as an example. I think we are going to have to be aware that for those people that cannot afford to buy their own home they cannot get housing for a long time. I haven't lived in a smaller community for a long time so at times I feel I know the communities, but I realize that the communities know their needs best. Therefore I feel that the communities would know what their needs are best, so we should be consulting with the communities, with the renters and with the people in the communities to find a better solution.

I have lived in Repulse Bay, a smaller community, and I know that sometimes when you have a problem, just because the community doesn't know how to resolve a problem, it is solved by the government. The government hasn't known the community needs in the past, so therefore they would resolve the problem for them when it could have been resolved locally. For that reason I will require support from the members and the public out there in order to utilize the funds. Although we would like to see more money allotted to this department for housing, at this time we must use our funds wisely without increasing the budget, although we will continue to try and increase the budget sometime in the future, but we could try and use the existing funds wisely.

I understand Mr. Iqaqrialu's comment too, and I also want to point out that I do feel that I know the communities but it has been quite a while since I have lived in a smaller community. These smaller communities are the best people to know what their requirements are, along with the public. With the support of the House and the members of the public I am sure we can develop this program in the upcoming years. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Iqaqrialu I think he responded to your question adequately. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Mr. Chairperson if there are other people who would like to speak I could stay quiet for a while so that I can give more opportunity to others. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Thank you David. I know how I felt when I was asking lots of questions. That's okay David that's what we're here for. Mr. Chairman I would like to just read over first a goal in the Main Estimates of the department, which is, " to establish the department through the successful integration of Community Government, Housing & Transportation functions."

In his opening remarks, the Minister talked about this amalgamation, which would allow them an opportunity to look at new ways to deliver programs and services more effectively. I am wondering Mr. Chairman if the Minister could provide us with some insight as to how this is being accomplished to date. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Anawak

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** I would just like to mention a couple of things first. In order to better deliver the programs to communities, as I mentioned earlier in response to Mr. Iqaqrialu and others, we would like to come up with a task force of some kind, however again the discussion at this time is between myself and the Minister of Finance trying to determine the Terms of Reference for that task force. We will be working on it as soon as possible in order to better have an idea of what kind of programs we need to deliver, what better ways there are out there. But in terms of the better delivery of services within the department, I wonder if I might ask the Deputy Minister to briefly outline the amalgamation of the department.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Ferris.

**Mr. Ferris** (Deputy Minister, Community Government, Housing & Transportation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The amalgamation is proceeding, we are still in the process of rolling together at the regional level the staff that we inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories. It's obviously a little bit easier to structure your headquarters when you are putting new positions in place. What we are attempting to do in the amalgamation and we'll be attempting to do further in consultation with the communities and our partners, is draw on the strengths of the three departments that we are amalgamating into one. There's very good things that Municipal & Community Affairs was doing, there are very good things that the Housing Corporation was doing and the same with Transportation.

What we are trying to do is build teams that can go into the communities and deal with the issues that a community Council faces. So, instead of having to wait for a person to come in, we are taking what were called community development officers in the Housing Corporation along with municipal officers out of what was known as MACA and we are going to cross train those individuals and draw on the strengths that they already have as community development officers. For example, Housing was looking at financial records of the local housing authority, there is no reason why that same person can't provide assistance to the Hamlet Council on the Hamlet side of the books.

So we are looking at, in the amalgamation to draw on those strengths, to build a department that we can take and come up with some efficiencies in the delivery. In other words instead of building a large bureaucracy where we have specialists that only deal with housing, only deal with transportation, only deal with local government issues, we are trying to pull together a team that will be able to deal with all of those issues.

Now, there is obviously a few special items and one of them is housing, where we are building the housing under the umbrella of the Nunavut Housing Corporation which is out of the Act that we inherited, that came over to Nunavut. So there will be one branch of our headquarters that will have some specialized people in it and they will be concentrating on the housing issues in the broader scale because they are at headquarters. At the regional level the headquarters, although some of the staff would have reporting links to the Housing Corporation, they will be delivering a united service. But there will be, the same in transportation, we have at least three or four positions that we have to maintain, to ensure that we keep certification on airports. So they are special, but where we can amalgamate and reduce the numbers and yet deliver more programs efficiently, that's what we are looking at.

We will be involving, as we did through the Nunavut consultation conferences, start more consultation with the communities and with our partners on those levels of service.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ferris. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, in light of the Deputy Ministers' responses drawing on the strengths of the different departments and amalgamating like services, I am just wondering if the current structure that they have set up and are operating under reflects that. I am just looking at 7.1 in the Mains and it shows three distinct, separate divisions of Community Government, Housing & Transportation. I am wondering if the organizational structure and the chart is going to be changing in light of looking at amalgamating these services in the future. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Either one of you can respond. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Yes, the department does have those three sections, Community Government, Housing & Transportation and as such has three Assistant Deputy Ministers, but as the Deputy Minister pointed out earlier there is going to be a lot more interaction amongst the sections and cross training and what not. I think that is how we can utilize a lot more of our personnel by ensuring that when our staff, say our regional headquarters staff, go into communities, they are going in to do more than just one thing at a time, whether it is housing or helping with the Hamlet finances or other things.

But, for the sake of having the ability to differentiate between Community Government, Housing & Transportation there has to be those three, but again, a lot more of working together between what was previously three departments, a lot more working together between the three, because they are under the same department now.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Ferris.

**Mr. Ferris:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Just to add one further comment, when we appeared before the Standing Committee we were given some advice about a report that did exist on the old Housing Corporation. We have secured a copy of that report and are

looking at it. As the Minister said then, and again now, there could be some change in the organizational structure. We are working with the original structure that grew out of Footprints II and as we put the team together we may, for example, consumer affairs, may fit somewhere better other than the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

So there may be some refining of the model, I wouldn't want to say that it is etched in concrete but we had to have a starting point that came out of the Footprints documents and what we were given as a department to start the process.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson, I take it the answer is yes there will be some changes to the structure and in light of that I guess I am wondering if the Standing Committee or the Regular Members will have any input, or will they see what these changes are prior to them being made. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, as I have stated earlier on, that housing is one of the critical departments and one of the most challenging departments and community government is one of the important issues for the communities. If we are going to be changing the contents in order to benefit the communities we will require the assistance and support of the regular members. If we plan to make changes we will notify you ahead of time and we will be asking you well in advance as to your feelings on any issue if we want to make changes.

If we are going to develop the Nunavut Government we are going to be requiring your assistance and we will ask you for your support. Not just on documents, if we are going to be making changes, or making amendments, if we want to make changes to what was inherited from the GNWT, yes we will require your assistance. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am just wondering then, if the Minister and his staff have any idea of a time frame of when they are going to be changing the structure prior to, I know they are not fully staffed right now, are they going to be looking at streamlining or amalgamating, or changing some of these services before they have a structure in place where at that time, it is always harder to change something after it has been set up. I am just wondering whether they have any plans or suggested models of delivery that they have been working on prior to this date or have they just been going along with the Footprints II model as they have been ordered to? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson:** Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Again, we will be starting the process. If there are any changes to be made, and we will be consulting with the regular members, we would want to have some kind of a report when we were asked, when the motion was made to have a mid-year review in October, probably by that time, after consulting with some people we will be able to report something by then.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I would like my name to be pronounced right, it is not Irqittuq, it is Irqittuq, Mr. Chairman Thank you. I would like to be represented and addressed properly. In the Ministers' department under 5.3, when you open the page to 5.6, the capital from 99/2000 what is in the capital? I think you have stated that you would like to work with the Hamlet Councils so that you can set up the capital plans. Did I understand you correctly? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq, we are not dealing with the department of Justice, we are dealing with Community Government, Housing & Transportation.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I never mentioned the Justice Department I was talking about the Main Estimates for Capital Plan. I am talking about the Capital Plan, I am not in the Justice Department.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): When you said 5.3 I open the page and it says Department of Justice.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): I didn't say 5.7 I said 7.3. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Well I heard 5.3 too...

>>Laughter

Like I said, we have always stated that the Nunavut Government will be close to the people and when we are talking about capital issues, yes it is true, it is very true, but we also have to realize that due to the lack of money we will not be able to meet all the needs of the people. I would like closer understanding between the people and the organizations be it the Hamlets or the Housing Associations and we also realize that health and safety are always going to be our priority if we are looking at capital projects. Of course, we have to keep within the limitations of the budget. We also want to come to an agreement with the communities when we are talking about capital projects in their communities.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Irqittuq.



**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I apologize, I did say 5.3 when I was trying to talk about 7.3. Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In 7.3 we have contributions and on this page are these contributions set for a specific purpose?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): That's in 7.15 and 7.16 where we have the detail of grants and contributions. Mr. Anawak looking at 7.3 and looking at the total expenditures we have the numbers here and the grants and contributions are already slated for specific purposes.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize that the details were here. I misunderstood the Inuktitut term that was used to explain the operations, maintenance, capital and so on. I asked the Minister of Education and the response I got was if a contract was signed already, or if it was a health and safety issue they would go ahead with that capital project. You probably won't be able to answer my question but if a plan for a house or if a plan was already drawn on a house or a facility, that would mean that the project is already under way. Does that mean that it has to go ahead this year.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I think I understand your question. If it is already using money then, of course, we have to pay for the blueprints and the plans and so on, specifications. I think you are talking about the grants & contributions here which is 59 million here. We have to specify what these grants & contributions are going to be used for before they are given to the community.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand exactly what you are saying, so I will be able to give more money to Mr. Arvaluk. My other comment is the Hamlets and the Housing Authorities. In my constituency you stated that you would like to support the communities that would like to build private homes. Of course, we all want to help those communities, but the Hamlets and the Housing Authorities never seem to be able to get these projects going. I am not going to say a specific name but this person owns a private business in Igloolik maintaining furnaces. There are about 1200 people in Igloolik and this person is the only oil burner mechanic in the whole town. He has a journeyman certificate and everything but he is not able to make money because the organizations be it the RCMP or other organizations have their own oil burner mechanics and the Housing Association has their own maintenance people.

We do want to see private businesses flourish in the communities and if there is a private oil burner mechanic in the community, I hope that by next year we use these private businesses, private tradespeople. They are going to Social Services because they are not being utilized because they can't make any money. They have journeyman certificates, tickets and everything but they can't get anywhere. I like where you are coming from and if there is a private business person or journeyman ticketed in the community, then use these people.

We keep saying that there's Article 24 that we have to use as a Nunavut Government. We have to use Article 24 because we were created because of the Agreement.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): I believe you are talking about Housing Associations who have their own staff, their own oil burner mechanics on staff. If the RCMP need an oil burner mechanic they use the one that is on the staff of the Housing Association. We can look into this further, it is not only oil burner mechanics it is also carpenters who could be contracted by the RCMP, the Co-ops and so on. I was just using this as an example, for example if there is no contractor in the community. For example Whale Cove, the Housing Association is very capable of building houses, but if there is no Inuk owned construction company, if they were going to build one house in Whale Cove, I would think we could give the money to the Housing Association so the money could stay in the community.

The only reason I bring this up is because there was a disagreement where the Hamlet wanted to build a house but NTI didn't like it because Hamlets are not recognized with Inuk status, so I was just thinking about those problems.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you for that explanation Mr. Minister. For those business people who are just starting out, if they have registration and a business license, they are business people no matter what trade or business they are in. Of course, there is always a but, there are very capable people out there in the communities, but if the contract is worth 100 thousand, 200 thousand, and since they don't have ready cash, they have to put down 10% of the contract in order to get it, or they need a big security or they need to get a license from the Worker's Compensation Board. With all these barriers a person who is very capable of starting a business, but does not have the cash flow is incapable of bidding on these contracts.

They might go to Economic Development because they don't have the requirements, they cannot get started. Even with Nunavut Government and the Agreement and so on, we are still setting up those barriers for people who want to start their own businesses. The people are still going to be coming up against those same barriers even with the Nunavut Government, we are going to be asking for registrations or licenses from the Worker's Compensation Board, there's still going to be a lot of requirements in order to start a business or bid on a contract and so on. So, we have to look at ways and means of how it could be easier for the people of Nunavut, if we are talking about keeping the money in Nunavut.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, I understand exactly where you are coming from. I think it was last year in the fall, where we ran into some problems. I believe it was a water reservoir in Coral Harbour that was going to be built. The community was very capable, they had all the heavy equipment, they had the personnel, they had the lowest bid I believe, but since they couldn't get a bid bond the contract was awarded to a company in Yellowknife.

So we have to look into this further and, yes, they did get the work but they should have been the one to have been awarded that contract so more money would have stayed in the community. I am well aware of these problems and I do see the need to review it so the communities can prosper. I know exactly where you are coming from.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Since our clock is ticking and we do have names on the list, there is Mr. McLean, Mr. Akasuk and Mr. Tootoo. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. These are just general comments from myself and I don't really require an answer. I know we inherited this budget from the OIC's office, and sitting on the Hamlet Council last year, we were asked by the various departments in the old government to give our input on the plan, so the Hamlet Council worked diligently giving their capital plan ideas to the last government hoping that some of it would be brought over into this government.

Going through Community Government I think we got 1% of the allocation in the Keewatin. Housing we got 0% allocation in the Keewatin, this is Baker Lake I'm talking about. In transportation, 0% of the allocation for the Keewatin. Like I say, I know it is not the honourable...*(inaudible comment)*...but being on the Hamlet Council in Baker Lake for the last number of years, there should be more movement.

I see from the Footprints II document, that there are no ADM's in the Footprints II document and I see three of them here. Two based in Rankin Inlet, no, one based in Rankin Inlet and one based in Arviat, and I think I have never seen, the only time I have ever seen the ADM of Transportation come in to meet with the Hamlet Council was when there was a big meeting going on in Baker Lake that I don't want to get into about, and then they show up. I am hoping that the Minister has a detailed work plan in place for his Assistant Deputy Ministers to travel around and take some workload off of the very capable Deputy Minister. I think we will agree that we should see the ADM's more in our communities all over Nunavut. But like I say, these are just general comments.

The Housing part of this, and I was phoned by a few people, and Public Works and Services are doing all of the technical work. To me that, I don't think that is a very good idea. I know that it has been set up that way, and I am sure Public Works and Housing had really no say in it before you got it, but I think it is something that should be looked at. You have Public Works doing the technical work, and Housing Corporation delivering the program and the work. I can see conflicts there. If the technical people were with the Housing Corporation, I think, in my opinion, dealing with the Housing Corporation as a Hamlet Councillor, and as a businessman, that the Housing Corporation

should have their own technical people. It worked in the past. I don't want to go back to the old Government thing.

Another item. A transportation strategy. Are we even looking at developing a transportation strategy in regards to Nunavut? I know we had a transportation strategy that reflected the old west and they were to build highways, build highways build highways. I didn't see us really over here developing a core transportation strategy that reflected all the communities from the middle to the larger ones.

NavCanada fees. I beat that one up pretty bad when I could with the business community. NavCanada is directly affecting all of us in Nunavut and I think there should be an escape clause for communities in Nunavut because most people down south don't have to deal with the price of bread, milk, eggs, and stuff like that. We do, and all of a sudden, we get hit with, we are penalized because of our isolation with NavCanada fees.

We know that it is a not for profit organization. So when their costs increase, costs increase to the consumers. As a Government, and like I say, we did look at NavCanada, we did appeal to them but I don't think those people down there realize that we don't have a road system or rail system in place to deal with what we have to deal with here. The food mail subsidy was good. It really helped by bring down the price of apples, and oranges and bread and eggs and stuff like that. I think NavCanada adds three to five to seven percent on to the cost of commercial items. I don't care, you know, about the price of a chocolate bar or a bag of chips or a bottle of pop but when it comes to perishable items, that, up here, we do not get a break on because of the high freight rates and the demographics we live in. I think NavCanada should be aware of the situation of what it costs to buy an apple or an orange or a litre of milk or a loaf of bread. It is just my general comments. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Before a response from the Minister, we made a motion that we have to adjourn at six o'clock. It is now getting on to six o'clock. I would like to ask the Committee what their wishes. Do you want to go ahead? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have quite a lot of questions and comments to make. I would like to adjourn now.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): That has to go by motion if you want to adjourn. If it is the Committees wish to adjourn. Mr. Iqaqrialu I believe you want to adjourn for the day. Did you want to move a motion?

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I move, before we get into that, I would like to move that we adjourn for the day. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): All in favour? Opposed? Opposed? The motion is carried. We will adjourn at six. There is a motion on the floor we will adjourn. Before we go ahead, I would like to thank the Community Government, Housing, and Transportation

Department for being at the witness table and for being able to answer our questions. I would like to thank you. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Please take your seats. Back to our Orders of the Day. Item 21 Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, Your Committee has been considering Bill 1- Appropriation Act, also Standing Committee Report 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2), and your Committee wish that the report be concurred with.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Secunder? Mr. Akesuk seconds the report. There is a motion on the floor. Those in favour of the motion please signify. Opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22. Mr. Ng?

**Hon. Kelvin Ng.** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 17: Motions and to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. There is unanimous consent being sought to return to Item 17 motions. There are no nays. Go ahead.

### **Item 17: Motions**

#### **Motion 1 - 1 (2): Sitting Hours**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng.** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Honourable Members. I move and Seconded by the Honourable Member for Tunnuniq that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business of the House. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): All those in favour? To the motion. All those opposed? Motion is carried.

#### **Item 18. First Reading of Bills**

Thank you, back to the Orders of the Day. Item 23. Mr. Quirke.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Quirke.** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Immediately following the adjournment of the House, Meeting of the Management Services Board in the upstairs classroom. Tomorrow morning, meeting of regular caucus at 8:30 a.m. at the Cadet Hall

Orders of the Day, Wednesday May 26, 1999 10:30 am.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers Statements
3. Members Statements
4. Return to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing Committees and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters
  - Bill One - Appropriation Act 1999/2000
  - Bill Two - Boards of Management Dissolution Act
  - Bill Three - Divisional Education Boards Dissolution Act
  - Standing Committee Reports 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2), 4-1(2)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. I would like to ask the Members to be kind enough to stay for a few minutes to allow for a brief presentation to be made to the Premier of our Coloured Booklet commemorating the ceremonies and celebrations that took place here in Iqaluit on April 1. At the same time copies of the booklet will be presented to all the members of the Assembly. This House stands adjourned to Wednesday May 26, 1999 at 10:30 a.m.

>> House Adjourned 6.00 pm.

