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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)

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(Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq
(Armittuq)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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(Arviat)
Chair of Caucus

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
Minister of Finance and Administration; Minister of Human Resources; Government House Leader

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak
(Kugluktuk)
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)
Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Sustainable Development

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)
Minister of Justice; Minister of Community Government and Transportation

Hon. Manito Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Minister of Housing; Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunuiq)

David Iqaqrialu
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, October 26, 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. Glen McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): At this time I would like to ask Mr. Alakannuark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark, before we start with the Orders of the Day, yesterday Bill 5 – Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999/2000 had second reading and was referred to the appropriate committee. Under our rules the appropriate committee is the Committee of the Whole and this is reflected in today's Orders of the Day. Item number two on the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 16 - 1(3): Ministers Absence from the House

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the members of this House that the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Hon. Ed Picco will be absent today. He will be returning to the House for the sitting on October 28. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 17 - 1(3): Appointment of Deputy Premier

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to rise before the House today to make this announcement. When I was elected as Premier I stated that I would review the need to appoint a Deputy Premier and make a decision once I was able to evaluate this need.

Our government has now had seven months of experience and I feel that it is now time to make this decision. It is becoming more and more clear Mr. Speaker, that there has to be a strong, clearly identified Deputy Premier to maintain the confidence of the people of Nunavut and of this House if I am away.

A Deputy Premier that recognizes the wonderful diversity of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker it is with great pride that I announce to you that I have entrusted the Hon. Kelvin Ng, who is sitting beside me, with the position of Deputy Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Congratulations Mr. Ng. Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Minister's Statement 18 - 1(3): Inuktitut Training for Nunavut Government Employees

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to advise the Members of this House on the importance of Inuktitut language usage in our daily government business activities.

On October 19, 1999 the Government of Nunavut initiated the first session of Inuktitut Language training for the Government of Nunavut employees in Iqaluit.

This initiative is a joint undertaking between the Departments of Human Resources, Education and Culture, Language, Elders & Youth who instituted this language training program.

The purpose of the Inuktitut training program is to improve the way we serve the public. Our government is committed to providing Inuktitut training for all public servants and this is what we should be moving forward on in this area. This is only an initial pilot project, in the new year courses will be taught throughout Nunavut at various skill levels. The courses will be developed through the Nunavut Arctic College as they have community learning centres in most of the communities. Participants will learn the Inuktitut dialect of their home community or region.

Instruction will begin in basic Inuktitut and will reflect the language needs of the office environment. Mr. Speaker this language training is consistent with the governments mandate to use Inuktitut as a working language. We encourage all employees to participate and advance their language skills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 19 - 1(3): Income Support Policy Review

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education will be undertaking a policy review for the Income Support Program.

The Income Support Program, as inherited from the GNWT is a program that requires new thinking on the part of the Nunavut Government.

The Department of Education must work toward changing the image of a “welfare” department to one that is employment and education focused while still continuing to provide support to those who are unable to work.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, We must continue the development of partnerships with other stakeholders, including the federal government labour market programs and community agencies, to work towards the identification of training and employment opportunities and to enhance the ability of income support clients to take advantage of these opportunities.

We as a Government must encourage self-reliance instead of dependence.

We must continue to work toward the goal of community capacity building by having communities take ownership of and involvement in the identification of needs, and in the design, development and implementation of policies, programs and services.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this policy review will solicit the views of Nunavut citizens and provide direction to the Government on how to redesign the current program.

The report resulting from the review will be used as the foundation for the development of a more responsive and effective Income Support Program for residents of Nunavut. The community consultation process will be lead by a forum of Nunavut citizens appointed by myself.

(interpretation ends) I will keep this assembly advised of the progress we make on this very important issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. I would like to thank the minister for making his statement. As soon as we have a copy of the Minister’s Statement, copies will be given to the members. Minister’s Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister’s Statement 20 - 1(3): Nunavut Emergency Plan Approval

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I am very pleased to advise the members of this House that I have just completed my review of the Peacetime Emergency Plan prepared by my Director of Nunavut Emergency Services and his staff and have given it my approval as Minister Responsible for Civil Emergencies.

(interpretation ends) I wish to thank the various Deputy Ministers and their senior staff who have worked in consultation to produce this plan as required under the Civil Emergency Measures Act of Nunavut. This plan will ensure a co-ordinated immediate response by the Government of Nunavut to any form of peacetime emergency.

(interpretation) It strengthens our role in working together in co-operation with our local authorities in aiding them in dealing with emergencies within their individual communities. We need to work closely with our local communities who have considerable knowledge in dealing with situations within their home communities. My Nunavut Emergency Services staff will work to ensure other agencies with lead responsibilities are listening to and reacting positively to community concerns and directions.

(interpretation ends) The plan now approved will be translated into the official languages of Nunavut and put into clearly marked binders for distribution across Nunavut. Once this plan is released we will have complied with both our Act and the MOU on Emergency Preparedness entered into with the Federal Government. At the same time work is continuing on updating the Regional Plans. Support will also be provided to our local authorities in drafting their new peacetime plans.

The Department will also be responding to training requests from some communities and we will be very willing to assist and I have given direction to my staff to take a very proactive approach on the education side in an effort to reduce the number of incidents, particularly in the search and rescue area.

(interpretation) It is more important that we spend dollars on awareness programs in many of the areas that fall under Nunavut Emergency Services. We are just beginning to become excited about the prospect of reducing fatalities, serious injuries and fire losses to name only a few.

Finally, please join with me in thanking the many, many volunteers who assist in the area of Emergency Services. These are the people of Nunavut who, unfortunately, do not get the recognition that they deserve. Far too often they do not even hear a word of thank you following the long and sometimes stressful hours they have put in on an emergency.

It is my hope that we can recognize these individuals in a more positive way. To this end I will be seeking your input and would welcome any suggestions that you may have. Thank you.

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

Minister's Statement 21 - 1(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Hon. Donald Havioyak: Qoanna Uqaqti. I am pleased to speak to the House about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The Government of Nunavut recognizes that the Inuit of Nunavut have acquired a vast store of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit through their experience of living in close harmony with the land. As Minister for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, I feel that we must continue the use of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and support in its practical application.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is a valid and essential source of information about people's relationships with each other, the formation of health communities and as a guiding principle for governance.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is also a valid and essential source of information about the natural environment, the use of natural resources, and the relationship of people to the land.

There are several guiding principles that are helping us in our efforts. We believe that we must work in close co-operation with the Nunavut Social Development Council as described in Article 32 of the Land Claims Agreement; perceive oral tradition as a reliable source of information about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit; develop and deliver programs and services in the manner consistent with beliefs, customs, knowledge, values and language of the people being served.

This means that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit must be a primary consideration in the design and delivery of the government programs, services and policies. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has been working very hard to promote and support Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in our government. Our department has begun development of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit policy. Consultations about this draft policy have begun and we presented a version at the Nunavut Social Development Council's Board meeting at the end of September.

The policy proposes to establish Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit co-ordinators within each department in the government. Our first Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit workshop was held in Iqaluit to determine what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit means and to make recommendations for implementation. The Government of Nunavut employees attended the workshop and various elders from the communities were our resource people. A report of this first workshop will be available by the end of the month.

Our government has received the Nunavut Social Development Councils report on traditional knowledge and we are using it as one of our guiding principles. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is a part of an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit working group with representatives from the different departments. This group has worked hard to keep Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in the forefront of the government and supported its development as our Department gathers momentum.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has created a Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit co-ordinator position that will assist us to prioritize Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit throughout the government. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit makes us different from other governments. We have a unique identity and must be proactive in integrating it into our everyday governance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Ministers' Statement. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 22 - 1(3): Nunavut's Business Incentive Policy

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise the members of the Legislative Assembly regarding our progress in reviewing the Nunavut Business Incentive Policy.

As you recall, earlier this year I promised members that my department would undertake a complete review of this policy so as all people of Nunavut would have an opportunity to provide their comments and ensure that our department met specific requirements of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Article 24.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the members and the public that I have established a working group that will focus its efforts on reviewing this policy. It is my intention that this working group will seek input from and consult with all members of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of the communities, the public, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., business leaders and interested groups.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker the Business Incentive Policy forms the backbone of this governments' commitment to level the playing field between the southern business competitors, Nunavut businesses, and Inuit owned businesses. As well the development of this policy demonstrates the commitment of this government to adhere to our obligations under the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. Mr. Speaker, as we grow and expand in this new jurisdiction it only makes sense that the economic spin-offs of this development be focused on Nunavut businesses and Inuit owned firms who want to maintain a presence in the Nunavut business community.

Our willingness to support Nunavut businesses and Inuit firms in coming first will have a positive influence on Inuit employment and training.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, over the coming weeks the Business Incentive Policy working group will be actively soliciting your input and direction. It is planned that the working group will be touring the communities and hosting public meetings in November. I urge all to participate and if any of the Legislative standing committees would like the working group to appear before them, either for questioning or to relay information, I urge that you contact me so that arrangements can be made.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker out timelines to review this policy are short as the Nunavut Business Incentive Policy needs to be in place for the next contracting season. It is my hope that a final draft will be ready for public review early in the new year. With your support and the support of the business community and all the people of Nunavut, it is my intention to have the working group move as fast as possible so that the new policy can be introduced in the Legislative Assembly sometime in February or March, 2000. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. McLean.

Point of Order

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 34(5) I move, seconded by the member for Arviat that the minister's statement on the business incentive policy be moved into committee of the whole.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. All those in favour of the motion please raise your arm. Opposed. The motion is carried. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Back to the Orders of the Day, item number 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 30 - 1(3):Coral Harbour EATEP Graduates

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am very proud that in my constituency of Coral Harbour that Sakku School has made an important difference since the school opened this year. There are 10 students who had graduated in Coral Harbour from the EATEP program.

There are six new teachers and four of them had worked in class rooms. All of these people completed their EATEP program (interpretation ends) and supported by their new principle Kolookto Nugak, the graduate teachers with the diploma from McGill University and Nunavut Arctic College are Mary Nakoolak in kindergarten; Sanaaq Pee in grade one; Helen Ell grade two; Nellie Ell, grade three; Emma Netser grade four; Doreen Sitinuar, Grade five; Rhoda Paliak, grade six; Kitty Nakoolak, junior high; Amouya Eetuk, senior high.

Also Patricia Netser completed her Bachelor of Education degree from McGill University and she is now the vice-principal and Inuktitut program co-ordinator. I would like to congratulate these school teachers and acknowledge their hard work and sacrifices they made over the years to reach this goal.

(interpretation) I know that being a teacher is very challenging Mr. Speaker, so I urge the parents, the communities and the residents to support the new teachers and students who are taking EATEP programs. If the parents give support, the education system can go a lot further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Sivuliuqtiit.

Member's Statement 31 - 1(3): Time Change and Iqaluit Town Council

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to announce today that in Iqaluit, the Town Council has agreed to the time change and are now in support.

(interpretation ends) Last night the Town of Iqaluit met to discuss the single time zone for Nunavut and have decided that in the best interests of the community and in the best interests of Nunavut they would go along with the central time zone.

Some Members: Hear, Hear.

>>Applause

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Speaker since Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut, and all eyes are on Nunavut, especially by tourists and dignitaries that visit Iqaluit, we have many staff that are in Nunavut that support the residents of Nunavut and they are very important to the communities and these employment opportunities are beneficial.

(interpretation ends) This decision, Mr. Speaker, sends a strong decision to the people of Nunavut that Iqaluit is serious about contributing to the well-being and development of our beautiful territory. AS MLA for Iqaluit West, I would like to thank the Town Council for their actions and I think that I speak for all members of this House when I say that it is very important to work closely with our Municipal Councils. Merci, monsieur President.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 32 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Change

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To represent my constituency I also would like to make a member's statement in regards to the Premier's comment. It is quite on the contrary to what he has just stated. Having one time zone in Nunavut was initiated by the Mayors of Nunavut and they discussed that it would be ideal to have one time zone for Nunavut.

This was initiated now that at that time that happened and later on during the Nunavut Tunngavik AGM in Cambridge Bay, this was also discussed and I was at that meeting myself when they discussed the single time zone.

Mr. Speaker, we were so glad to have one time zone for Nunavut. But then there was always a "but" that kept coming up in the single time zone debate when the change was initiated, the minds of the Baffin Region had been changed when they realized what was happening. We should have discussed the time change with our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, we were in support of the single time zone because we did not know how many hours were going to go back and at least today we now know in the Baffin Region that our time change is going to change drastically, by two hours. At this time, if that's implemented it will be noon hour right now. Perhaps in the month of December, we'd be out of this House by the time it gets really dark outside. On single time zone issue, I will be working very hard against it and I will ask oral questions tomorrow on it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Members statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 33 - 1(3): Constituents Graduation

Mr. Iqaqrialu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I visited one of the communities in my constituency to attend a graduation. I was very appreciative for being invited. We were so proud to see the graduates. I encourage the young people to complete their education because they can obtain jobs that we obviously couldn't. I was so proud of the fact that I was invited to the ceremony as a member for the Legislative Assembly for their community for the first time. It worked out even though the weather wasn't co-operating very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 34 - 1(3): Relocation of Sanikiluaq Residents

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to talk about my community of Sanikiluaq. At the end of '60s, Sanikiluaq residents were relocated from two settlements, a north camp and a south camp.

The Federal Government and our previous GNWT, had relocated us to live in one settlement. They said it would be better if we had moved to one settlement. So they had relocated some of the people who were in their own camps, the relatives, brothers and sisters. They had a conflicts with each other because of the relocation. I remember back then I was a student in the school at the time when I was almost at the verge of getting out of school when they relocated us.

I remember and I have seen and experienced being moved from the south camp. However, I'm very proud that the old camp was cleaned up last year, sponsored by the Federal Government through Qikiqtani Inuit Association.

When the old camp was cleaned up it was quite difficult for some people. We felt the emotions of the people because the old homes were burned down. In spite of that, I know it did not have an impact on all the community residents of Sanikiluaq but it had an impact on the people who lived in that camp. So they established a committee to deal with this issue and Mr. Speaker, the committee will be looking for funds through the aboriginal programs. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 35 - 1(3): 40th Anniversary of Kimmik Co-op

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to apologise to the people who invited me to Kimmirut. They had extended an invitation to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their co-op, the Kimmik Co-operative. Because of other commitments I unfortunately could not attend. I do want to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the people of Kimmirut for this important occasion.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Members statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 36 - 1(3): Decentralization of Sport North to Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Decentralization. Today I would like to make a short statement on decentralization. Today I'm happy. Contrary to Kivalliq News that I'm still alive. I didn't have to die to see Sport Nunavut come to Baker Lake and I'm happy to say 80% of the positions are now in place.

All staff are Inuit. Mr. Speaker, decentralization is important to a community like Baker Lake and I'm really looking forward for the next year to work with cabinet on bringing the much needed positions to Baker Lake. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Members Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 37 - 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my appreciation to the people of Rankin Inlet. Jack Anawak and I had gone to Rankin Inlet on Friday and on Saturday we met with people all day long and Saturday morning we met with other people.

I'm very happy to have met with our constituents. They gave us great advice and I'm very pleased to say the meetings went very well. The turn out was quite high too so I would like to thank them for coming out. The students in Rankin Inlet have also been writing out their concerns and I'd like to thank them for giving us their input in my constituency. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Members statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 38 - 1(3): Youth and Elders on the Land Project

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say that in one of my communities in the month of August, young people working with the elders, over two weekends, had workshops together in a secluded area.

They went out camping to work together to discuss the issues and to teach each other. We worked on traditional fishing weirs and taught them how to go fishing in a traditional way. So I just want to say that I'm very proud of the fact that our young people and our Elders had worked together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members statements. Members statements. Members statements.

Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation end). Oral Questions. Item 5 Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation end) Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral questions. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 35 - 1(3): Housing Corporation's Competition

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister Responsible for Housing. I would the minister to update the House as to the status of the position that was advertised in the local paper regarding the President of the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the competition for President for the Housing Corporation, we now have the applications and resumes but we have yet to start the interview process. We'll be initiating that shortly. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the fact Mr. Speaker, that the headquarters for Housing Corporation is to be located in my home community of Arviat, I would like to seek a commitment from the minister if she would give consideration through placing this new position, the president's position in the headquarters community being Arviat. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to this position, it will be here in Iqaluit as is the case now. Mr. Mike Ferris, the Deputy Minister was in that position presently in Iqaluit. For now this individual will be based here in Iqaluit' in the capital.

Speaker: Oral question. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we're to have true decentralization, I believe that you have to take all the steps necessary to make that happen.

Mr. Arvaluk, the Minister of Education, indicated that in relationship to Arctic College for example, that these jobs along with the president would be located in Arviat. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister what rationale she would use, given the fact that she's agreed to make Arviat the headquarters for housing, what rationale she would use not to put the head of that department in that community. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The original plan was to have the president based here. When I say here, it's Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut. The ministers are based here in the capital. That was the original plan and the ADMs could be based elsewhere in the outlying communities of Nunavut.

With Ms. Sarah Flynn, the ADM, I had discussion with her and we decided it would be a lot better if the president was based here in the capital because it would reduce the travel time for the staff in Arviat and also for the president. I am the only minister without a Deputy Minister in the capital and as you know, housing is a very important issue for Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that this may be a short term solution. When would the minister be prepared to review this situation again?

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a misinterpretation I did not say this was a short term solution. The position was always in Iqaluit. I've already talked to the ADM of Housing and she indicated that they've been travelling quite a bit back and forth to Iqaluit and she doesn't see a problem where the Deputy Minister is placed here in Iqaluit. It's not going to be short term, this is where the position is going to be. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. O'Brien would you like to rephrase your question? Mr. O'Brien I will allow your final supplementary.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the words that the minister used was for the time being and I assume that to mean for this time or short time as I think anybody else would. I guess to rephrase and maybe to add to my question,

there's still going to be travel whether the president is going to Arviat or in Iqaluit so I don't really see where that makes much of a difference.

That would mean that the staff in Arviat would have to operate pretty much on their own without... they would have the headquarters but their boss would be here and I find that somewhat confusing and I don't see it making a lot of sense. So, I guess, back to my question, I asked the minister if she would consider after a year, this position being located to the headquarters community.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the DMs of all the departments are here in Iqaluit. I'm the only minister that doesn't have a DM for housing which is very important to everybody in Nunavut and to make the job easier, we need the DM to be here in Iqaluit and that's how it's going to be. I think for the term of this government anyway. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 36 - 1(3): Equal Treatment of Communities

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a question for the Premier. When you were campaigning for the position of Premier and looking at the correspondence here, you said that you would treat each of the Nunavut communities equally.

We believed that when you were making your speech, if you were requested to have a meeting with any community in the Nunavut area, how committed are you to attending those meetings.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it's convenient and when I'm invited, I will make every attempt to attend when I don't have too much work to do. At this time I have visited over ten communities since I became the Premier, when I don't have too much to do and when it's convenient, I'll make every effort to go visit the communities on invitation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier, Mr. Irqittuq .

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): If you were invited to come to a meeting to Igloolik or to Hall Beach, would you come. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes I'm very open to any Nunavut community. I'll be going up to Hall Beach in December and if it's possible I could also go to Igloolik. I take every opportunity go to any community anywhere in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 37 - 1(3): Drug Dealers and Bootleggers in Public Housing

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My question today, Mr. Speaker, to the minister responsible for Housing. I was asking questions in the spring regarding the minister drafting up new legislation for convicted drug peddlers and bootleggers in public housing. Will the minister responsible today look at drafting up legislation if people are living in public housing and convicted of drug peddling and bootlegging to have them evicted. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Saturday, when I was in Rankin, that was one of the issues that was raised, that there's a real problem with people gambling and bootlegging in social housing. I was asked to look into it. I will consider the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 38 - 1(3): Summer Student Employment

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education. I believe that's the appropriate minister. I would like know if there's anything in the *Education Act* that we inherited from the GNWT for students who are employed in the summer.

There were summer student employment programs held in the summer in my community and they also had programs for drop outs. Is there such legislation. I would like to know if there's a clause in the legislation that says that they have to have first priority.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak, thank you. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was no money available last year but at this time we are planning to set up a program for older students so they can be employed in the summer. We're planning to set up such a program so that the students can be employed during the summer.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that. Well, we know that during the summer break the students fill out forms in order to be employed for the summer. There's also the other students who have dropped out of school. They're no longer in the school system and usually these drop outs don't even know how to fill out forms and some of them have children and they're very young parents.

I could use my community as an example. It's a very small community and there's very high unemployment in the smaller communities. There's seasonal employment in the summer and the drop outs are not given as much opportunity as the ones who are off for the summer. It seems like first priority is given to the kids who are in school. It seems like it's a bonus for those students and nothing for the drop outs and I would like to suggest that these summer student programs be open to all teenagers and to all young people.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I don't hear a question. I would like to remind the House that if you're going to be asking a question you could use an example and then ask a question at the end of your statement. You go to the preamble and then ask your question afterwards following the House rules.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 39 - 1(3):Pond Inlet School

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's three schools in Pond Inlet at this time and the third one was closed for safety reasons. This was a school that would have been utilized by the students and there is a shortage of classroom space to accommodate the students.

The Pond Inlet Education Authority has been asking the Minister of Education to add additional classrooms to Ulaayuk School and of course there's no gym in it either. There was a school built this fall and the gym is too small to accommodate the students, so they're kind of in an uncomfortable situation. I believe the education authority has been asking the Minister of Education to make additions to the Ulaayuk School to expand the size of the gym. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker yes I have reviewed this.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Since you said you've reviewed it I believe the education authority in Pond Inlet has written a letter. I would like to get a copy of your response to the education authority. I would like to see a copy of your response and my question to the Minister of Education is, since he said he's reviewing it how long is the planning

stage going to be. Are you going to be making additions this summer, or is it going to be in next year's budget.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. The school was closed by the safety officer, that's the old school, the third school in Pond Inlet and we had also made plans to use 105 thousand dollars to build the corridor connecting the two schools, so they could utilize the gym. But there's too much difference between the two schools, the years that they were built, so we couldn't come to an agreement on that one, and the older school was closed for safety reasons.

After we got a letter from the education authority's Chair, we took this into consideration. Then we started reviewing the schools in Pond Inlet. We're going to be getting architectural drawings and look at how much expansion there's going to be, how many additional classrooms are going to be needed for the gym and so on, for the elementary school students.

These are able to be drawn...the blueprints...for the higher classes, the gym is too small and we're also getting architectural drawings for a larger gym. We are planning and for next year's budget, they're not approved yet by the Nunavut Government and the House, they're in draft form, but we will be soliciting and talking to the communities in November to see whether it's supported by the people of Pond Inlet.

We're looking at 400 thousand dollars for architects, so they could develop blueprints for these two schools, possible additional classrooms and gym and the high school gym to be expanded. So we're going to be trying to find out from the community whether it's supported by the people of Pond Inlet. Thank you.

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

Question 40 - 1(3): Budget Consultations

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, we've had some discussions regarding the teams that have been set up with MLAs and Ministers to tour the various communities or all the communities of Nunavut in reference to the budget process and related issues. I'm wondering if the minister would give some more rationale to the people of Nunavut regarding the intent and what we hope will be outcome of these consultations. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, the intent would be twofold: first, so the residents of Nunavut would know exactly what the Government of Nunavut spends its resources on, where it gets its resources, so, in a broader sense, outlining the government's budgets and secondarily, just as important, is receiving input from members of the public throughout

Nunavut, from a Nunavut legislative political perspective, having the teams of ministers and MLAs receive feedback first hand from community groups, organizations, hamlets, individuals, on exactly what are the priorities they see the Nunavut government trying to focus on.

To identify, not just from the perspective of capital needs, but also from the perspective of program needs, so it's a free flow. I would suggest to the members that what we would want to happen would be a free flow of information between our assembly members that provide the services through the appropriations of this House to the people that we're trying to represent throughout Nunavut on what their priorities are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng . Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this information that we'll gather, is it fair to say that it will be used or can be used in this year's budget process, because whether it's capital or programs, there's dollars related to it, so one will take away from the other. I guess my concern is that I don't want to create false hopes and go to the communities and we get a list of projects and program changes which may cost dollars, and then not be able to do it because we already have a set agenda, we have projects in the mix for this year and for the next four or five years. So I guess my question is: the input and the information that we gather, will it really have an impact on, for example, this year's capital budget and program? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, it would have some impact on this year's budget development both from a program and capital perspective but I think the honourable member raises a good point on the issue of expectations.

We have to be really cognisant of the fact that there is a limited amount of dollars that we have out there. There's programs and services that we provide now and I think what all people will have to recognize is that if we're going to make any kind of dramatic change in any of our programs that we have now, to target some of the priorities that might be identified as first, second or third priorities for our constituencies, that it would mean a shift of resources from some programs that we have now, so there would be an impact on the present Government of Nunavut budget.

And in respect to the member's comments about capital needs, we know the needs...the demands and the needs far exceed what resources we have to deliver on a yearly basis as it stands now. I think there would be a concern that we don't want to create false expectations that we can deliver everything that communities or individuals may want out there.

But I think what's important, Mr. Speaker, from this exercise, the public at large understands the dilemma, the circumstances that we are confined by in development of

our budgets and that by the same token, we realize, from the comments and input we receive from throughout Nunavut that we have to, at some point, make decisions about what priorities are, based on what the constituency at large are saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien. I would like to caution members that we do have interpreters and we do have unilingual members here. Please take your time to answer or ask questions and respect the members here. (interpretation) Thank you. Mr. O'Brien. Oral Questions, Mr. Akasuk.

Question 41 - 1(3): Effects of Decentralization

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to community constituencies, and education, I would like to ask the Minister of Education about decentralization. In the communities which are receiving decentralization the schools are quite small and the population is growing and if the positions are filled in our community I know that the student population growth is very rapid. We have two schools, but they are filled to capacity and our student teacher ratio is quite high in one of the schools in our community. In the past, when it was GNWT, the blueprint had been completed for the adult education school in Cape Dorset.

I was wondering if the minister can review this again as a priority for the adult education school. If that school is built it could alleviate a lot of space needs. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister for Education, Mr. Arvaluk

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that was planned in the past, and the letters are so small, I can't even see the numbers. I'm not trying to say I don't know, but in the month of November we will be touring all the communities of Nunavut. During that tour, I want to hear more from the Cape Dorset residents. When I go to the community, we want to hear more from the residents about the five year plan for the school, if they still want us to go ahead with their five year plan, or since we have a new Nunavut Government, if they'd like to see a new blueprint.

So I'd like to get their input. But at this point I can say we do have a five year plan. However, I don't want to say what the residents of Cape Dorset want until I go visit the community. Thank you.

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

Question 42 – 1(3): Time Zone (Out of Order)Time Zone Change

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to ask the Premier of Nunavut about the single time zone. I know that I'm very impatient to discuss the single time zone and I'm afraid that October 31st, is going to be here even before we have a chance to discuss the matter and Baffin residents are now opposing it. The Keewatin and Kitikmeot time

change will not impact on their daylight. The reason I would like to ask this is when are we going to discuss this topic of single time zones. I would like to ask the Premier when we are going to discuss this in the House?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. In regards to your question, I will rule you out of order. It has to be dealt with by the Committee of the Whole. This has been referred to the appropriate committee and it must be deliberated upon in the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I hope we're not going to have to wait until the day we change the clocks, on the 31st, thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu, we'll deal with that before October 31st. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 43 - 1(3): Contractors use of Government Equipment

Mr. Irqittuq: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question last spring and the question I asked at that time had an impact on two different ministers. I don't know if I'll be asking the Minister for Transportation or for Human Resources.

My question was never replied to. I don't know if it was replied to by written response. I have not seen a written response as of yet. My question was, because anybody in the Nunavut area can put in a bid for a contract, can the contractor utilize government equipment in order to benefit themselves to win a contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq, thank you. Minister of Public Works and Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker This question was brought up by that same member. I did direct one member of my staff to work on this issue, but since this person got another job, I am assuming that the appropriate response wasn't given.

The original question was whether employees could use airport staff. The Deputy Minister, Ross Mrazek, was not aware of the issue that was happening in that particular community and I apologize that I didn't know about it either. There was a change in staff and the Deputy Ministers so this issue wasn't dealt with. Mr. Ross Mrazek is presently working on it. I'll take that as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you. It's taken as notice by the minister. Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 44 - 1(3): Priority over Dropouts

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question on the same issue I raised earlier. I want to get further clarification on it first. The question is for the Minister of Education regarding students who are given first priority over dropouts, is there a regulation or law?

Speaker: Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Its part of the program criteria. This program was set up so that the students could be employed over the summer with preference over dropouts, just during the summer. As for dropouts, as long as they're in Canada, they can look for jobs anywhere, anytime. But this program is specifically geared towards students who are on summer break.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Yes, I understand that. I do understand it, but who has more authority, are the DEAs given authority to put first priority on the students for this program.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker These program dollars from the government are funnelled possibly through the hamlet council or the DEA. These particular monies are funnelled through an agency and there's an agreement between the two parties.

Through a contribution agreement, probably for his community, these program dollars would specifically say that it would be used for students for the summer break. We would make a contribution agreement saying that these monies would be specifically geared for the summer students.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 45 - 1(3): Invitation to Education Minister

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I don't recall putting up my hand, but since you called my name I might as well ask a question. I had already written down my question and I think you found out that I wanted to make a comment even before I said anything. My question is to the Minister of Education.

On November 30, the minister has been invited to go to Pond Inlet. The same invitation is extended to myself and to the Minister of Education. I would like to get a copy of your response to that correspondence from the DEA. So my question is are you going to be coming up to Pond Inlet on November 30 as you were invited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Since it's not just to open a school, I will be going up. There's also going to be a QIA Youth Conference, so I'll be there on November 30.

Speaker: Thank you Hon. James Arvaluk. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien

Question 46 - 1(3): Proper Spelling of Names

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Culture. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Gjoa Haven brought up an issue the other day that also affects my constituency, in reference to the proper spelling of names. In some cases, where people have had their names changed in spelling it just doesn't mean the same any more. My question to the minister, and I don't think we got an answer the other day, is what is his department doing to try to create a register to ensure that names are spelt properly and that the concerns some of the elders have in reference to this issue are addressed. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Minister Responsible for Culture, Youth, Elders and Language, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question, this has been on my mind, correction of the spelling of last names, and even the names of the communities as well. My staff are aware of this issue. We also need better planning for the future to address this matter. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the response from the minister. My concern would be how does the minister's department plan to go about this because there are probably many individuals out there that your department are not aware of that have problems with the spelling of their last name. So what is your intention as to a consultation process to make sure that everybody who has a problem with this, with their last name being spelled improperly, how they'll be notified of the procedures to correct this. Thank you.

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

Hon. Donald Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff is looking into this, in the meantime, I'll take this as notice.

Speaker: The question is taken as notice. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 47 - 1(3): Clyde River School Renovations

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. We were doing our main estimates in June, in our June sitting and there have to be renovations done to the school in my community. I have yet to see workers who would be going up there to renovate the school. My question is if the blueprints are going to be ready, and the 400 thousand that was approved for my community to go ahead with the blueprints was there, so I am wondering if that's going to go ahead.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The estimates that were approved by this House will go ahead.

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

Question 48 - 1(3): DEA's Terms of Reference

Mr. Kattuk: (interpretation): My question is directed to the Minister of Education. We were told by the Department of Health that there's going to be a dissolution of the three health and education boards before July, 2000. My question is do the DEAs know what their terms of reference are going to be.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they will know what their terms of reference are. Mr. Ken Lovely has been directed to look into these issues and we have met with the divisional board and, as the member from Sanikiluaq knows, Walter Audla, the Chair of the DEA.

We will want to continue discussions with the divisional boards as we've been doing to date. On July 1, 2000, we'll be amalgamating the boards and then we'll decide if they'll be taking on additional responsibilities because the DEAs will take on the responsibility of reporting to the Minister of Education without having to go through the divisional boards.

The divisional board staff will keep working and will report directly to my portfolio. So there will be an ongoing process and Mr. Speaker, we're looking forward to it. We would like the communities to decide what responsibilities they will take and give an estimate on how much it would cost to take on those additional responsibilities at the community level. Thank you.

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

Question 49 - 1(3): Airline Routes

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut is on its way. We're into our seventh month and I know the centres of the universe are in strategic locations, and airlines have got to recognize that the traffic patterns are changing in Nunavut.

I was just reading an ad in a magazine "More flights, more choices" by one of the largest airlines in Nunavut. I was just commenting to my colleagues from Sanikiluaq, Gjoa Haven and Pelly Bay, that when they have to come to the capital, they have to travel the equivalent of Yellowknife to Tokyo, Japan to get here, which, if they're air mile collectors, they're doing fine.

But I'm leading to my question, here which is, with the creation of Nunavut, the regional air carriers, the large carriers, have totally forgotten about maybe running some flights from Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay, Cambridge Bay, directly into Iqaluit. My question to the Minister of Transportation is, does he have any plans to sit down with these airline companies and ask them if they're going to accommodate the Kitikmeot and maybe rearrange some traffic patterns, because the Government of Nunavut is the largest purchaser of airline tickets, usually at full fare. Is there any kind of plan for the minister to sit down and say, "Can we bring the Kitikmeot into the equation, or into the traffic patterns coming to the capital, and maybe bypass Yellowknife now and then". Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Responsible for ... Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes, we have done some preliminary studies. What we've done, for instance in Cambridge Bay, is we did a survey of all our employees that travel between Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit as one example, and there was a lot of traffic during the course of a single month. So what we have done is we made those studies available to the airlines, to show the amount of traffic that's taking place between Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay and I undertook as well to help out the member for Igloodik, through their Mayor, to do a similar study. So if there are further requests made we are open, through my office, through the Bureau of Statistics, to collect further data that can be made available to the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. That's very good that we are doing these things, that's beneficial to all of us. But getting back to decentralization, my favourite topic. Gjoa Haven is a decentralized community, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Arviat, Baker, Rankin, and communities like that. So there's going to be more traffic between certain areas and I wonder if the minister responsible has taken that and given it to the statistician to see if there could be an increased traffic flow in those areas.

The benefits of more traffic between Cambridge, Gjoa, Pelly and Spence, it would probably be a cost savings to the government, rather than them having to go to

Yellowknife, sit there in hotel rooms for a couple of days, and this is not only MLAs but the government employees. So has that been considered also with decentralization coming on too, the increased traffic patterns. Ma'na.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was the sole purpose for Cambridge Bay for example, next to Kugluktuk it is one of the most active areas where we have traffic to Iqaluit, and it is very cumbersome for our employees and MLAs to come here to Iqaluit. So that was one of the main focuses for Cambridge Bay, we thought we would try it out and see how much traffic there is. But we are open to other communities that may want some surveys done with our employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 50 - 1(3): List of Consultants

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and I realize that he probably doesn't have this information at his fingertips, although he may. My question is, would the Premier be prepared to put together a list of consultants that have been hired since the start of Nunavut, with information like where they're from, the terms of their hire, and also whether they were hired on a sole source or an advertised contract. And would the Premier be prepared to have that information to the House prior to the close of this session.

There shouldn't be that many people, but if he would do that I would appreciate it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Could the member clarify if it is for every single contract this government has issued since April 1.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Please clarify your question Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker I am not talking contracts in general, I'm talking consultants that were hired, I guess this is a form of a contract, but I am talking consultants that were hired to carry out a task, whether it is for a week, a month, two months. Yes, since we started on April 1. If that information could be made available to the House. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some contracts that we assumed as well before April 1, so how far back do we go. There are some contracts that we inherited and we extended as required for the services. So how far should I go in trying to meet the members concerns.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was aware that there were some commitments that had already been agreed to that's why I indicated since April 1, since we started the government. New contracts from that point on.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Well I am not exactly sure, I could take it as notice, as we have maybe three more days left of sitting, so I may not be able to commit to getting that in the hands of the members. So I will take it as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier, taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 51 - 1(3): Pay Equity

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Concerning the recent announcement by the Public Service Alliance in regard to the pay equity victory. We know that it is going to cost the Federal Government five billion dollars to deal with their employees and it is being appealed. Could the minister responsible advise me as to how this is going to affect us. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I answered a question about potential excess funds that may be available to this government and I cited some of the potential areas where we might have to expend some of those funds. I implied at the time that there was a Supreme Court ruling on the federal pay equity issue. I was wrong. I would like to correct that for the record, it was not a Supreme Court ruling, it was a Federal Court ruling. But the Federal Government hasn't decided whether or not they are going to proceed with a possible Supreme Court appeal on that ruling.

The impact on us Mr. Speaker, in respect of the award that was allowed for that federal case, there are some precedents that will be set that will impact on the GNWT of which we are a party in respect to the pay equity dispute, because of some of our employees that are on the Nunavut side or that were residents of Nunavut at the time, over the years while the pay was accumulated. So right now the GNWT, who has the lead on this, has tried to analyze exactly what are the impacts of this and of course, the impact on the Government of Nunavut is a part of that analyses.

So I don't have that information as of today but we are certainly aware of it Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I realize the minister doesn't have that information today but the figure that I remember when the old government of the NWT was around, surrounding the pay equity issue, was around 80 million dollars, if the public servants won. Does the minister have an estimate if it comes to that, here in Nunavut, the costs of this and is there any kind of contingency plan going to be brought forward if there is a large settlement and where the money is going to come from. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Three questions, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member is correct, when the GNWT first analyzed this there was a potential impact to the Government of the NWT at the time, it was potentially in the range of 80 million dollars from what I understand. Since then of course the GNWT undertook individual offers to past and current employees for sign off on the pay equity amounts that might have been coming to individual employees, and it was my understanding that anywhere in the area of 80 to 85% of those employees have signed off. So there is a question on the release of those past employees signing off whether or not there will be any further liabilities if there were to be a subsequent tribunal or court ruling in respect to the pay equity issue.

We have, it's my understanding that the Government of Nunavut in the division of assets and liabilities, has approximately 12 million dollars set aside as potential ongoing pay outs for the pay equity disputes, but that is a figure that I will make sure that I confirm to the honourable member. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 52 - 1(3): Awarding of Contracts

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Human Resources, this document states that in February or March the private business policy would be amended. But to date, last June we stated and passed a motion that the various contracts would be awarded to Nunavut companies.

There was a motion passed in June, which I have seen and this has not been adhered to. If the Nunavut companies are not going to be awarded contracts in Nunavut, then we are not going to develop Nunavut. Perhaps in the month of February and March 2000, does that mean that we won't be awarded any contracts in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy is going to be reviewed because we have inherited the business incentive policy from the GNWT. We are still using it at this point in time, we had made a small change and under a minister's statement I announced that the change was from NWT to Nunavut.

We still have to amend that incentive policy. We are looking at how we can incorporate Article 24 into the business policy, but the policy is in place. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Just a reminder this is going to be dealt with in the committee of the whole and you will have an opportunity to ask your questions, but the oral question period is over unless there is a motion to extend it. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the...

Speaker: Sorry Mr. O'Brien. I don't know if the interpretation was accurate. Question period is over until there's a motion to extend the question period. Question period is over. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I move to extend the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There is motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Our policy is to extend it for 60 minutes, and according to our policy unless it is changed we have another 60 minutes. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 53 - 1(3): Partners in Development

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and to my colleague for extending question period and to the rest of my colleagues for agreeing to it. My question Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Speaker I wonder if the minister could tell us whether this government is still an active participant with Partners in Development, located in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we are but I will advise the members that our participation in the agreement is under review at this time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could tell the House when we would expect to get an answer as to whether we will continue to be a partner in this agreement or not. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister for Department of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will advise the members once the review has been completed and once our decision is available. I am not in a position to indicate the time it will take us to get from here to the recommendation. I do not have enough information on the time frame available. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. I believe this question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 54 - 1(3): Airline Travel Routes

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ma'na. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. Earlier in the day I was expounding on the virtues of air traffic in Nunavut. Has the minister initiated any discussions with the airlines about travel routes in the last six months and making Nunavut more accessible for everyone in Nunavut, the smaller communities, the larger communities also. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even before the election while I was in the position of Interim Commissioner of Nunavut, I initiated talks with the airlines about the possibility of the air routes changing. Since April 1, I have had a couple of one on one meetings with the airlines with that suggestion but at this point in time all I can say is that we will be pursuing that with joint meetings with the airlines to discuss it further. However, again, as Interim Commissioner, and later as minister I was encouraged by the willingness of the airlines to look at the possibility of changing the air routes. Thank you.

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

Question 55 - 1(3): Gun Legislation

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question last spring so I will be asking it over again in regards to gun legislation. We know that the gun legislation is not compatible with the Inuit life style and we have been lobbying the government and we were going to be lobbying against the federal government in Ottawa. So I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what kind of developments there have been. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I was going to update the members of the House on the developments but our staff member is now touring the communities to announce the people who will be working on this locally in the communities. Last summer I had spoken to him, I am not sure which communities he

has visited so far, but in the communities he has visited he has had a great turnout every time he went to a community.

I will inform you when I receive a further update and then I will also consult with you about any developments. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question. The Inuit people in the communities have to adhere to the gun legislation. I want one of the staff members to consult with the hunters and the Inuit people locally to make sure that they know what they are doing.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, the federal government would have to pay for this type of consultation process. We are now working on the gun legislation but the federal government will have to work on this other part, and we would just be supporting them. Thank you.

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

Question 56 - 1(3): Lobbying for Funding

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that I am going to be asking my question I am sure that we will be running out of time.

>>*Laughter*

To the Minister of Finance. My question is, the funding that we received last year for the O&M of Nunavut is inadequate to date and we now realize that this funding is inadequate and there are great needs out there. I am sure that all our needs and our priorities are not going to go ahead due to limited funds. I would like to ask you if you are going to be lobbying the federal government for more money so that we could have adequate funding for programs and services, such as health, education, these are the two areas that there is a huge shortfall.

Have you approached the federal government to see if we can get more funding for those departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not directly. I know that different ministers at different meetings with their federal counterparts have brought up issues on specific needs, or plan on undertaking that initiative if they haven't already. So, not from the perspective of formula funding. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to a shortage of funds do you have any plans to review the situation again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. He has responded to you, but I will allow him to give you another response. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is really difficult to approach them specifically on generalities of adequacy of funding at this stage, given that we are just over half a year into operations right now. We know that because we are not fully staffed there are going to be some excess funds available, but by the same token we also know there are some extraordinary needs out there and specifically in the area of housing that a lot of us have spoken of and are aware of.

So I think it would be prudent on our part just to first of all, get a year or two of operations, know exactly what our program needs are outside of specific areas that we can easily substantiate and rationalise so that we can approach our federal counterparts for extraordinary circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): In regards to funding, the Department of Health & Social Services are already in a deficit of 1.8 million dollars, how are we going to pay for this deficit and how are we going to find new dollars because of this deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we know the Minister of Health, along with the Department of Finance and the Department of the Executive, right now are analyzing some of the needs of the health boards in respect to the delivery of programs and services. I think also a fact that has been brought up, is that those boards carried over some deficits as of April 1. We are trying to deal with that and rectify that situation to make sure there's sufficient funding for the delivery of Health and Social Services programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Your last supplementary Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to ask again, up to April or rather March of the year 2000, we expect to be in a deficit of 20 million dollars. I was wondering if this was a fact or an estimate. Could you elaborate for me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is speaking about the Government of Nunavut, we don't expect to be in a deficit for this current operating year. I think he might be referring to some of the information that has been provided in respect to the three Nunavut-based health boards and that is a different situation, because there is a matter of current year financial needs and spending to ensure that there are sufficient funds for the delivery of programs and services carried out by the boards. And there's also, by the same token, the matter I indicated earlier of their deficits carried forward as of April 1, 1999. It's a matter of how the Financial Management Board is going to deal with the issue of funding for current year operations and how they are going to deal with the deficits of the three boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 57 - 1(3): Pelly Bay Gymnasium

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education. I asked this question previously, in regards to the gymnasium in the school. I know the year 2000 is coming this winter, only a couple of months from now. I was wondering if your department has plans to build a gymnasium for our school in the up-coming year? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had written a letter to Mr. Iyaqsaa, the mayor, in regards to this issue. I received a letter on October 8 from him. I was only able to respond by saying that we would be doing a community tour and this was in your capital plan. I approached him by saying look at the capital plans and if indeed we inherited it from the GNWT. But I cannot respond to you whether or not we will or will not fund it this winter. The government's priorities are on the priorities of communities, so I'll have to speak to him and then I can get back to you and discuss this matter again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alakannuark: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I asked that question is because the previous government I believe set aside some money for the gymnasium and I saw the blue prints that were drawn by the previous government. The people of Pelly Bay have been waiting a long time for this gymnasium that was going to be connected to the school. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes it's in the original five year plan that we got from the GNWT but if you can recall, I think it was in the June

session, that if it's a safety issue or if it's a health issue or if it has a risk or if it's a contract that has already been awarded, only these projects would go through. If it's not within those categories then it would be deferred to another year. Your gymnasium is not in those categories but it is within the five year plan. If there's still enough support by the people of Pelly Bay then it will stay within the capital plan. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 58 - 1(3): Health Board Deficit

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker just to make a supplementary comment to Mr. Iqaqrialu's question. The Minister of Health and Social Services isn't here to answer the question but the Minister of Finance stated that the Government of Nunavut will not be in a deficit situation this year, except for the Department of Health and Social Services. We know that there is going to be an amalgamation of the three regional health boards, who's going to pay for the deficit after their dissolution. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the health boards are amalgamated with the government department on April 1 of 2000, we would as a government assume those liabilities and the assets that the boards hold within their current structures. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 1, 2000 if, like you said, the deficit would become ours and we're estimating a 20 million dollar deficit, isn't it going to create hardship at that time? Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I don't believe that we are dealing with a 20 million dollar deficit. As you know that is one of the figures that has kind of been tossed out there as a potential worst case scenario by my colleague who is not here today. I think I indicated that we are as a government doing some extensive analyses right now to know exactly what makes up the deficit and what makes up some of the pressures that are facing the health boards in respect to their expenditures. We are hoping to have that work wrapped up in a couple of weeks and that will give us a better idea of some of the options we might put forward as a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. At this time I'd like to have a recess for 15 minutes.

>>*Break*

Speaker (interpretation): Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Petitions. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 02 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition regarding the one time zone Mr. Speaker. This petition has 163 signatures from the community of Sanikiluaq and Mr. Speaker, the people of Sanikiluaq are opposed to the proposed one time zone. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Petitions. Mr. Akasuk.

Petition 03 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from the community of Kimmirut regarding the proposal for one time zone. This petition has 135 signatures. Mr. Speaker I will be giving these petitions to you about opposition from the community of Kimmirut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Petition 04 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a petition regarding the following; proposal for going into one time zone. We have 280 signatures from the community of Pond Inlet and Mr. Speaker, the people of Pond Inlet would like to keep to Eastern Standard Time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Bill 2 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

Mr. Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services and that the bill is ready for consideration by the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68 (5) and have Bill 2 move into Committee of the Whole today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Qujannamiik, Mr. Akasuk. The member would like to receive consent from the House to waive 68 (5) and he would like to move bill 2 to Committee of the Whole today. Any nays. Mr. Akasuk you have consent. Reports of Committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Ms. Thompson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 8 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Oil and Gas Study

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table this document from the Uqsuqtuq, Gjoa Haven, study on the oil and gas from September 1999. There were concerns from the community of Uqsuqtuq.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Tabling of documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. McLean.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 1 - 1(3): Report of Chief Electoral Officer Referred to Ajauqtiit

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Report of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Whereas the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut has been tabled; and

Whereas the report contains recommendations for improving the election process for future Nunavut elections;

Now, therefore, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Cambridge Bay, that tabled document 1-1 (3), "Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, 1999 – A New Beginning", be referred to the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit for detailed consideration; and

Further, that the standing committee report its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly during the spring sitting of next year. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Mr. McLean your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is passed. Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters - Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 1999/2000; Minister's Statement 22 – 1 (3), with Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair.

Sergeant at Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you. At this time we'll go into Committee of the Whole to discuss bill 2 and 5. I would like to ask what the committee's wish is. Would you like to take a brief break before we go ahead. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Chairman, it is my understanding that we would get into Bill 2 - Amendment of the Workers' Compensation Act, but whenever the committee is ready. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, everybody agrees? What is the committee's wish. Did you want to take a brief break before we go ahead.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I would just like to go ahead without a break. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. All agreed? Nays? Thank you. I apologize, if you would like to move right into Bill 2 then we'll go ahead. We'll open up the floor for debate afterwards. You want to go ahead to the witness table.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Minister. Bill 2 is in regards to the WCB. They're in your white binders, second page.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you have any opening remarks? We'll proceed.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The purpose of the amendment of the *Workers' Compensation Act* is to address the problem identified with the section dealing with third party actions in motor vehicle accidents. The difficulty with the section as currently written is that it allows injured workers to sue their own employers and co-workers in motor vehicle related accidents. This goes against the first principle of workers' compensation legislation that an injured worker cannot sue his or her own employer. Mr. Chairman the proposed amendment does not affect the ability of workers to be treated fairly. Workers will continue to be covered by workers' compensation and have access to a series of reviews and appeals if they are not satisfied with the compensation they receive. Mr. Chairman, Bill 2 is intended to address an unforeseen issue arising from Section 12 of the *Workers' Compensation Act*. This amendment will ensure that our act is consistent with the principles of Workers' compensation across Canada. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Did you want one of your staff members to go up there with you at the witness table.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes Mr. Chairman there are two individuals here from Workers' Compensation to appear as witnesses.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, if you would go up please. Okay, before they go up I would like to ask the members if our lawyer could also sit up at the witness table if it's okay with the members. Okay, come up and Mr. Minister you sit with the WCB people and our legal advisor. Mr. Minister, I would like to ask you if you could introduce the Workers' Compensation Board representatives.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Jerry Mire, President of the Workers' Compensation Board. To my left, Mr. Michael Triggs, legal counsel with the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. We will now open up the floor for discussion on Bill 2. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize my back is to you. My question is in regards to the issue that you touched upon regarding an automobile accident. Some of the workers have problems. Sometimes they might be able to make more money but they have a lot of barriers created by these bills especially in the smaller communities. Have you considered this problem that's created in the communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister if you would like to respond or if one of the people at the witness table would like to respond to that question.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: If I understand the question correctly, I'll try to answer it. This amendment would not impact on an individuals right to workers' compensation benefits as a result of any work related accident that might take place. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Would it be more clear if I say that in the smaller communities, only people with licenses can drive taxis and you need a special class if you want to become a taxi driver. Is this going to affect that in the smaller communities, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I don't believe so because that regulation for livery licenses, taxi licenses is under the jurisdiction of transportation and some municipal bylaws that effect it as well, but it wouldn't in respect to any aspect of the *Workers' Compensation Act* unless there was an accident in which a taxi driver were injured during work from his occupation and that's when any claim that he or she might put forward would be dealt with by the workers' compensation board. But again that wouldn't, it's my understanding that this amendment wouldn't affect that circumstance. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu. While we're considering Bill 2, we're looking at amendments to Bill 2 in regards to the Workers' Compensation Act. In respect

to transportation accidents arising out of and during workers' employment. Any further questions.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for that clarification. I have another question in regards to the smaller communities. There are barely any employment opportunities in the smaller communities and it creates a problem when you're trying to buy insurance. Especially for the small businesses. They pay monthly dues on an annual basis or on a monthly basis and they pay out a lot over the year. That is a problem especially for the smaller communities. People who are trying to establish small businesses tend to pay all their revenue to the workers' compensation board and nothing comes back to their own business. Is there something we can do to alleviate this problem. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: He's referring to more general matters in regards to workers' compensation premiums, assessments and that, which are geared towards the exposure. Based on the volume of a business that is smaller, they'd have less employees and by the same token they'd have smaller premiums than one that did more business. But it's not really, respectfully, part of the amendment that we're proposing right now Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Minister.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Are we making an amendment to the *Workers' Compensation Act* because the smaller communities are not included.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I give it to Mr. Mire to answer this one. Thank you.

Chairperson: I would like to remind the House and to remind the members that we are following these white binders. I believe you have a copy in front of you. We're following the binders that we have in front of you.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'm not making myself clear. This act will effect a lot of people out there if we agree to this amendment. Like I was saying, the smaller communities have employees even in the smaller communities, everybody out there works, whether it's a smaller community or not.

What I'm trying to say here is we're taking out a lot of money for the worker's compensation board and I don't know how to make it any clearer but is that going to be covered under this act.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Minister are you going to be responding to that.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Minister, the Honourable Member brings up valid points but I guess the points he's bringing up are more in respect to the whole issue of Workers' Compensation Board coverage and the *Workers' Compensation Act*. This specific amendment that we're proposing, as I indicated in my opening comments, deals with the difficulty in the current legislation in allowing individuals to sue their employers or co-workers if they were to be injured. Where the basic *Workers' Compensation Act* is that the coverage is provided to protect employees and protect employers from that possibility but by the same token, individuals that have been injured while at work would get adequate compensation as a result of the premiums that are paid to the Workers' Compensation Board. So this is more of a specific amendment versus the whole WCB Act I guess and I don't know if that answers the members question, it's getting a bit confusing Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Please wait while I go with the names I have. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to try to add some focus and clarity to the issue, maybe the minister or his staff could give us an example so that the member could better understand what we're doing in reference to this amendment. I think there will be other times where we can discuss in general the concerns that we have about premiums and payments and issues in general about Workers' Compensation.

My first question would be relating to other jurisdictions, we're looking at changing this. What happens in other jurisdictions in reference to this clause or this amendment and if you could give an example to the members of how this would apply if somebody were to get hurt on the job that would want to sue their employer but at the same time they're also getting compensated through workers' compensation so it would almost be like double dipping. Is that fair to say.

Mr. Mire: Perhaps, as an example...

Chairperson (interpretation): One moment please, as the Chair, I would like you to recognize the Chair before you make your comments. Only after you recognize the chair, I'll give you the go-ahead. I apologize, I cannot say your name. If you would go ahead please.

Mr. Mire: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Mire. If I may provide an example for the member. If I own a truck here in Iqaluit, and I ask Mr. O'Brien to drive that truck and Mr. McLean to be the co-driver, and they're making a delivery down the main street and they run into a truck which is owned by you, Mr. Chairman, and being driven by one of your workers.

The way the legislation used to read in the NWT was quite distinct in Canada and that legislation would have allowed us as the Workers' Compensation Board, on behalf of Mr. McLean who has been injured in a collision between these two vehicles, to sue the owner and the driver of the other vehicle but not the owner and the other worker of the vehicle in which Mr. McLean was riding.

The GNWT Board passed an amendment by way of a private member's bill in November 1998, which allowed Mr. McLean as the injured worker and us acting on his behalf to sue not only the driver and the owner of the other vehicle involved in the accident but also the owner and the other driver in the vehicle in which Mr. McLean was riding.

As the minister indicated, this would be contrary to the principles on which workers' compensation operates and that principle is that the employer pays assessments to the board so he can avoid being sued by his workers. In paying those assessments, he also protects any other workers who work for him from liability as a result of that accident involving his worker.

So the change went much further than is desirable and what we're asking this assembly to do now is to amend the act so that in my example, Mr. McLean who's the injured worker and the Workers' Compensation Board acting on his behalf could sue the driver and the operator of the other vehicle but not the owner of the vehicle in which he was involved in the accident and the driver of the vehicle sitting along side him. If that's acceptable Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mire. I think that's how you pronounce your name. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That was probably a little more detail than what I was looking for but going back to my original question, the issue here is that if somebody were injured in a vehicle, would they not be covered by compensation.

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

Mr. Mire: If there are injured workers, they will always be covered no matter who may be ultimately liable for any harm that was caused to them.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: And the purpose, just to simplify matters, the reason why employers buy into and pay fees for workers' compensation is to protect themselves and if we were to allow injured workers to also sue the driver or employer, that would defeat the whole intent of workers' compensation.

This is just to make sure that the various companies that pay into it are getting a fair deal and they're not getting sued because the workers' compensation package is going to pay for the injuries and whatever is necessary to assist that person that got injured to get them

back to health and also whatever monies are necessary to pay out for the accident. It's really a duplication by having this in there, you're paying twice.

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

Mr. Mire: Mr. Chairman, yes there is that potential and you're correct in assuming that this legislation would avoid that possibility. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. O'Brien: One last question, if I'm not mistaken, we changed this, made this amendment to the act when we were the GNWT. I think I recall being involved in that for that very reason but now that we're Nunavut, we have to change it again for this government. How does it relate to other jurisdictions. Are we the only ones or one of the few that have this double standard in the act.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. O'Brien., Mr. Mire, if you can respond.

Mr. Mire: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The way the legislation reads now would make it different from any other jurisdiction in Canada. The way we are proposing to amend it would make it similar to a majority of other jurisdictions in Canada. Not all jurisdictions will have legislation which reads exactly the same as this. But it is safe to say that the smaller jurisdictions in Canada will all have legislation similar to what we're asking you to make yours into. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman this is my last question. I agree with this amendment and I'll be supporting it, I'm just curious. I know we inherited the various acts and regulations from the GNWT when we became Nunavut. If we did, that amendment would be included, so why are we doing it again. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Mire.

Mr. Mire: The act which you inherited actually, the amendment to which the member is referring was passed by the GNWT in November of 1998 and it was that amendment which created the problem. That problem has since been corrected by the GNWT when it passed an amendment the same as this one in September, just a month ago. The problem has been corrected in the NWT and it remains for this government to deal with.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was going to make a point of order, we aren't going to be dealing with the *Workers' Compensation Act*, it's huge. This is just an amendment. If you look at the summary, I wanted to make a point of order to Mr. Iqaqrialu, he was asking questions that are contained in the whole Act. If he would like

to get into the *Workers' Compensation Act* in full he could look into that and he could also use a private member's bill.

This is an amendment to the *Workers' Compensation Act* and Mr. Ng read the summary, the purpose. Perhaps if we keep on that line we can complete this in no time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): That was just a comment and a point of order. Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk said what I was going to say. Perhaps if Mr. Ng spoke in Inuktitut he would say that this bill amends the *Workers' Compensation Act* to protect the co-workers of a worker and an employer of a worker from lawsuits in respect to transportation accidents arising out of and during the course of the worker's employment so that we can be equal to the provinces. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for the clarification. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the comments I had made earlier to the bill, this bill is not going to have an impact on what I had stated, but if it's not going to have an impact on the concern I had in regards to the general matter of premiums will I have an opportunity to make amendments on the general matter of premiums later on?

So now I understand what we're dealing with at this point. I myself don't like the contents of the whole *Workers' Compensation Act* because some of the clauses are a barrier to some of the smaller communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that your question. Can one of the people down here respond, because he asked the question that in the smaller communities there are many barriers that we face in this act. I think that Mr. Iqaqrialu is asking whether it's going to have an impact on his concerns. Can you respond to his concern please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I don't think that it will have that big of an impact on the smaller communities, this particular amendment that is being proposed. I would like to state to the member in respect to premiums, premiums are not legislated in the WCB Act. The independent board of directors sets those premiums based on advice they get on expectations of accident rates and that type of thing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Whose Board. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The Worker's Compensation Board, the board of directors. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list at this time. We are now on general comments for bill 2, general comments for bill 2. Would you like to work on the bill clause by clause? Bill 2 is An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act.

Clause One, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation) Clause two, Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill as a whole. Bill 2 as whole, I would like to ask if we can conclude with bill 2. Agreed. Are we ready to give the bill third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill is concluded. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to adjourn for the day.

Chairperson (interpretation): Please be seated, I had forgotten to mention. I would like to thank you for coming to the witness table and making your presentation to the committee of the whole on bill 2, thank you for coming to the witness table and for your responses, thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng; I would like to thank everybody and thank the witnesses and Mr. Iqaqrialu for all his questions.

Chairperson (interpretation): A member of the legislative assembly, Mr. Iqaqrialu, wanted to adjourn for the day, what's the wish of the committee. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Bill 5 Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1 - 99/2000. I would like the government operations committee to deliberate on this as a committee before we put it in front of the committee of the whole.

Chairperson (interpretation): According to our rules I would like to mention that the first person who raised his arm was Mr. Iqaqrialu and I think he wanted to adjourn for the day. What is the wish of the committee. Ok. according to the House rules, I'm going to have a show of hands, if you want to adjourn for the day or not.

For all those in favour of adjourning for the day. Those who want to continue the meeting. The majority of the members are in favour of adjourning for the day. We do

have a report to make for the Speaker. Thank you for coming over here today and attending the meeting. Yes, I keep forgetting I'm sorry, I would like to thank the legal counsel for Nunavut Government, thank you for being here.

Speaker (interpretation): I call the meeting back to order. We're on item 20, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering bill 2 and would like to report that bill 2 is ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. Item 22, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services in the Nanuq Board room at 5:15 today. Tomorrow, October 27, meeting of regular caucus at 9:00 a.m. in the Nanuq Board room. At 10 a.m. the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, also at the Nanuq Board room.

Orders of the day, Wednesday, October 27, 1999.

Item 1, Prayer.

Item 2, Ministers' Statements.

Item 3, Members' Statements.

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions.

Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 6, Oral Questions.

Item 7, Written Questions.

Item 8, Returns to Written Questions.

Item 9, Replies to Opening Address.

Item 10, Petitions.

Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees.

Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13, Tabling of Documents.

Item 14, Notices of Motions.

Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

Item 16, Motions.

Item 17, First Reading of Bills.

Item 18, Second Reading of Bills.

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

Bill 5 Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 1999/2000

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Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22, Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the pages, I do apologize right now if I mispronounce their names. These pages have been assisting us for the last six days and this is their last day with us. They are all students from the Inukshuk High School here in Iqaluit. They are Bernel Kusugak, Stephanie Rose, Elaine Lloyd, Andrew Morrison, Jennie Susie, Fauna Kingdon.

>>*Applause*

I wish you all the best in your studies and hope to see you in this House again. On behalf of all the members, thank you very much. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October 27th 1999 at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant at Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 5.02 p.m.*

