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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Enoki Irgittuq
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)
Chair of Caucus

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
Deputy Premier; 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; Minister Nunavut Power Corporation

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
(Natilik)
Deputy Speaker; Deputy Chair Committee of the Whole

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Sustainable Development

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

Hon. Manitok 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
(Uqqummiut)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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Editors of Hansard
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 979-6770 Fax (867) 979-6811 Toll-Free (877) 334-726

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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut Friday, February 18, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. O'Brien to open the meeting with a prayer.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Please be seated. (interpretation) Good morning. Orders of the Day, item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 45 - 1(3): Ikuma Working Group Report

Hon. Ed Picco: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today I will table a copy of the Ikuma Report which is a comprehensive document developed by the Ikuma Working Group. This document represents the first major step towards the creation of a functioning power corporation in Nunavut. It is anticipated that the Nunavut Power Corporation will be a made in Nunavut solution for the provision of electrical power to the residents of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as the members are aware the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, with its' headquarters over there in Hay River, currently provides power to Nunavut through a transition agreement. A transition agreement, Mr. Speaker, that expires March 31st, 2001. Between now and then it is critical that the Nunavut Power Corporation develops the capacity to provide these services to Nunavummiut.

With that in mind our first step was to establish the Ikuma Working Group last summer and assign them the task of studying different options, Mr. Speaker, for the provision of power in Nunavut. Uqaqti, the Ikuma Report shows clearly that we are in a good position

to establish an independent Nunavut Power Corporation and we have been very busy these past several months laying out the framework necessary to move forward.

I am pleased to inform you that a Director has been identified within our own public service to lead this government initiative. This individual will work very closely over the next fourteen months with the President of the Nunavut Power Corporation. We are now publicly advertising throughout Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, for the position of President of the Nunavut Power Corporation. It is also anticipated that this position will be filled by April 2000.

Also assisting in this implementation are some of the former Ikuma Working Group members who helped to outline the options in the Ikuma Report. A tremendous amount of work lies ahead over the next few months. Following the approval by the Legislative Assembly of the Main Estimates, I will be in a better position to provide you with further updates on this very important work.

In consultation with the Cabinet and you the MLAs, and the public, we will have to make many decisions. We will have to develop the corporate structure of the power corporation, we will have to determine how much capacity can reasonably be developed within Nunavut before March 31st, 2001. We will have to decide what levels of services will have to be imported, how rates might be regulated, and the level of decentralization that can be achieved over the short and the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to discussing the Ikuma Report with the members of this Assembly later this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Ministers Statement 46 - 1(3): Arctic Winter Games Representatives

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the Arctic Winter Games International committee members asked the Nunavut Government if there could be a representative from our group at their committee meetings. I discussed this with the members to update you on this. I would like to announce that Mr. Jim Macdonald and Ms. Marilyn Neily have been appointed to these positions with the International Committee.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, Mr. Jim Macdonald is a long time resident of Rankin Inlet and has been involved in minor hockey here. Ms. Neily is a long time resident of Iqaluit and has been involved with the Arctic Winter Games for many years. I am sure these Nunavummiut will serve the interests of Nunavut and the Arctic Winter Games International Committee well. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 91 - 1(3): Congratulations to Dana Bruce and Soccer Team

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to express my appreciation to Coach Dana Bruce and congratulate his junior men's soccer team from Coral Harbour. They will be going to the Arctic Winter Games and representing Nunavut in the Yukon. Once again I would like to congratulate Dana Bruce and his soccer team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 92 - 1(3): Square Dancing

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being Friday we are very happy to be here in Rankin. I really enjoy dancing so when you are invited to square dances please bring a towel because I tend to sweat a lot at the dances. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 93 - 1(3): Recognition of Gjoa Haven Athletes

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a person in my community. The old timers hockey team was in our community for a tournament and during the hockey tournament an elder that has been participating in the old timers hockey team, he is 69 years old and he works very hard to be healthy.

Also, Mr. Speaker, if I could add to my members' statement, when I was in Iqaluit the people that I represent went to Iqaluit to try out in the Arctic Winter Games and I am very proud to say that my daughter will be participating in the Arctic Winter Games with another girl that's been chosen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 94 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq High School Graduates

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize people from my constituency in Sanikiluaq. In December there was a graduation from Grade 12 and the individuals that graduated from Grade 12 are Blaire Iqaluk, Louisa Meeko, Lucy Meeko and Karlai Appaqaq are the four individuals that completed grade 12 and I am very proud of them Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. We will also write a letter of congratulations to the four individuals. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 95 - 1(3): Congratulations to New NTI Executive Members

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to congratulate the newly elected members of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. I would like to congratulate the new President who has worked very hard over the years and the second vice-president Raymond Ningeochiak for being re-elected.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 96 - 1(3): Congratulations to South Baffin Soccer and Hockey Teams

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate two winning teams from my constituency. I would like to congratulate the soccer team from Kimmirut that will be going to the Arctic Winter Games and the Cape Dorset players who will join the Nunavut Midget Hockey Team. So I would like to congratulate those two teams for succeeding and going to the Arctic Winter Games.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Ng, members' statements.

Member's Statement 97 - 1(3): Appreciation to MLAs for Cambridge Bay Visit

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker on January 14th to 18th the regular members' caucus met in Cambridge Bay to carry out some meetings and do some orientation work. I was there on behalf of the government discussing some of the matters surrounding our budget, scheduling the work of the House. I would like to at this time on behalf of my constituents, thank them for choosing Cambridge Bay for holding their meetings.

While they were there I also want to thank them for taking the time out of their busy schedules to visit with the youth, to meet with the elders, the Hamlet Council, to meet with the Nunavut Arctic College students and for undertaking the tours of the schools that they did and the tour of the community. I know when you get into this type of thing there is a lot of work involved and all this stuff was squeezed into their busy schedules. So thank you members.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 98 - 1(3): Visit to Whale Cove

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to notify the members that tomorrow the members and some of the staff will be travelling to Whale Cove, a community that I represent. Our Member of Parliament Nancy Lindell will also be attending the meeting with us. So tomorrow at 2 :00 we will be travelling to Whale Cove and we will return to Rankin Inlet about 7:00 in the evening.

This trip is to show the members what it is like to live in the smaller communities. So please be on time for the flight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 99 - 1(3): Logo Colours

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday morning we unveiled the logo and some of the members are using the ties that we received. I was very proud of those colours because they have Toronto Maple Leaf colours, so I would just like to express how proud I was of that logo.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 100 - 1(3): Passing of Inusiq Sarah Akavak

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Inusiq Sarah Akavak who died violently and tragically in Iqaluit recently. Inusiq was a well known and well loved resident of Iqaluit originally from Kimmirut. She worked very hard supporting her family by selling jewellery in public places in Iqaluit in the evenings, often with her beloved daughter at her side.

She also worked very hard during the day, housekeeping in houses and as a hotel chambermaid. It seemed Inusiq always had a smile and a kind word for everyone whether or not they made a purchase from her. It also seems that at the same time she was coping with violence in her personal life and that she carried this burden largely on her own.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Iqaluit, Kimmirut and many other places where Inusiq was known and loved were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of such a hard working and always cheerful person. They are especially saddened because it seemed that this tragedy occurred because of severe family distress.

Mr. Speaker, my community of Iqaluit is reeling from the pressures of growth and rapid change. It is my sincere hope that we strive to build Nunavut and make our own new government work. We will also pay attention to helping our citizens cope with the social pressures and costs of change and growth.

Sadly tragedies such as the death of Inusiq remind us of the need for a strengthened health and social service programs which can reach out and offer help to those that are suffering. Funeral services were held for Inusiq in Kimmirut yesterday, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. We will send a sympathy letter to the family that has lost a loved family member. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Returning to our Orders of the Day. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual that is in our gallery. Andrew Qappik is here, the designer of the logo. I grew up with Andrew and I know that he started his art work at a really early age of fourteen and he would always win our drawing contests. I have known him all my life and know him as an artist. I am very proud to see that he has been recognized for the wonderful work that he does. Thank you Andrew for being at our Assembly.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Welcome Mr. Qappik. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I am very proud to recognize a young man that grew up in Baker Lake and went from kindergarten to grade 12. I watched him grow up and I kept an eye on him because I am friends with his parents. Far too often up here we hear the nought's against the education system, that it is second rate and we are not really on par with anybody else.

Over the years I strived myself to encourage my kids to go to school and my friends kids, neighbours kids and all kids and I would like to recognize this young gentleman because his parents supported him, his teachers supported him and the community supported him. He just recently received the Governor General's Award for Academic Excellence and Achievement.

Mr. Speaker, it shows you that people in Nunavut can achieve academic excellence with the right kind of support behind them. So I would like everybody in this House to recognize Mr. Jeffrey Hart from Baker Lake as a winner of the Governor General's Award for Academic Achievement. Ma'na Uqaqi.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Welcome sir. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize this morning, we could recognize a lot of people in the gallery, but one time during elections I was not successful and during that time when I was not successful, I decided to move to another community for two weeks and it has been thirteen years now.

During the two weeks when I was there I was invited to go polar bear hunting with this individual and I would like to thank that individual, Jack Nakoolak, for making me feel at home in Coral Harbour. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome Mr. Nakoolak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people that have been involved in politics with the Hamlet and with the Inuit organizations, Kivalliq Inuit Association. This individual has been involved with KIA and the Hamlet. I would like to recognize Louis Pilakapsi. The other individual that I would like to recognize that has worked very hard to keep the Inuit Cultural Institute running and has worked hard to preserve our culture, Ollie Ittinuar. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the same individual. I had planned to recognize Ollie Ittinuar. I know he has a lot of knowledge in our culture and has worked very hard to keep our culture alive. I just wanted to express that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Welcome again, Mr. Ollie Ittinuar. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the members know, I am originally from Rankin Inlet and I have a great number of relatives here. I was hoping to recognize a bunch of them yesterday but they have the same amount of patience as I do I guess, they all left early, but today I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a couple of them. One is currently living in Iqaluit. He is the assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, my brother Victor Tootoo. And also in the gallery is a cousin of mine, he is with the HTO here, Mr. Larry Ussak. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize a visitor. When we visit communities, we always have friends and relatives in the community. This person is a relative of mine, Louis Pilakapsi. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Welcome again Mr. Pilakapsi. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I think everybody has been recognized, Manito Thompson and I are representing people in this community. We will probably be recognizing the same people. I would also like to recognize Susan Makpah, who is in the gallery and Larry Ussak, who is also here. Also, Jack Kabvitok who is in the back. Jack works very hard with Search and Rescue. I would also like to recognize Ollie Ittinuar for the hard work he does with the Inuit Cultural Institute and Louis Pilakapsi who is heavily involved with NTI and I'd also like to recognize my sister Madeline Manito who is sitting at the back. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Welcome to the assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think everybody has been recognized here but I would like to recognize some staff that are here and I'd like to recognize Leona Aglukkak who is the Assistant Deputy Minister for Human Resources and I know she is very capable of doing her job. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. Picco, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Hon. Ed Picco: I would like to welcome somebody that I worked with in Clyde River about 16 years ago. An old friend of Mr. Iqaqrialu also. A hard working guy, an entrepreneur and a heck of a dart player, Mr. Ron Roche. Thank you Mr. Speaker .

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I had a sister who passed away and she was a really close friend of an individual who is in the gallery today. I know that when they were little girls, we used to have a 110 Honda and it was very easy to start. They would always want to go and fetch water for our family. I would like to recognize Leona Aglukkak .

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Assembly. Mr. O'Brien. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Mr. O'Brien: I didn't think there was anybody else in the Assembly left to recognize, but I do notice somebody sitting over there, a resident of Iqaluit, a friend of mine and the former premier of the NWT, Dennis Patterson.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Welcome to the gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6, oral questions. Mr. Akasuk

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 162 - 1(3): Social Worker for Kimmirut

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. Ever since I was elected, I have been questioning the Minister of Health and Social Services on this issue. Kimmirut has been waiting over a year now for a social worker. They require this staff member. My question is for the minister, whether anything is happening with that issue.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco : The member is correct. The position was vacant for about 14 months. The Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board has worked very hard in staffing the position and it is my understanding that a qualified applicant has been identified. There is housing available, the interview is booked and the person should be in place over the next two weeks or so. That is my understanding. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 163 - 1(3): Decentralization for Smaller Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Premier. Will the small communities benefit from the issue of decentralization. That is my question for the Premier, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, we haven't forgotten our smaller communities and I always bring up that issue when I visit these small communities who will not benefit from decentralization and I have spoken with our Minister of Sustainable Development and we will develop a strategy for the smaller communities.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think if you don't have a full commitment for the smaller communities, I wonder if you have plans or strategies for small communities for decentralization.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes we like to support the small communities and we would like to support the Hamlet in the very near future and we would like to see them pursue this issue with us. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 164 - 1(3): Air Link Between Keewatin and Kitikmeot Region

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Transportation. Is the Minister considering taking a look at a route between Keewatin and Kitikmeot Region. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation, Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been looking at this issue whether there could be alternate routes between the two regions. Whether it's by air or sea, we are looking at this Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you sir. Mr. Speaker, the reason that I raised this question is to find out how soon you will be looking at the aircraft routes between the Keewatin and Kitikmeot region

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We can't order the airlines what to do but perhaps the airlines themselves are looking at alternate routes.

There have been discussions but I'm not sure when we will actually see those new routes between the Keewatin and Kitikmeot Region.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Tootoo

Question 165 - 1(3): Fuel Subsidies

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services and Petroleum Products. Yesterday Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that there were four areas in which the Government Department subsidizes the fuels across Nunavut which were diesel fuel, heating fuel, aviation fuel, gasoline and jet A1.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the minister indicated that the total subsidy by the Government, by her Department, was 9.6 million dollars. Mr. Speaker the numbers that she provided in the House yesterday on the breakdown of those subsidies only come up to about 7 million dollars unless I got a number wrong. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if there is another area of subsidy that was missed and where the other 2 million dollars in subsidies go. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The Minister responsible for Public Works, Manitok Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just mentioned heating, aviation, gasoline and jet A1 fuel but there are other subsidies. They are heating fuel, motor, aviation fuel, naphtha and av-gas. The total figure is still nine million six hundred fifty one thousand two hundred sixty six dollars. If the member wants me to tell him the rest of the subsidies, I can do so or I can table this document. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am just going to ask the minister, it might be a lot simpler if we just simply ask her if she would be able to table that document that outlines all the subsidies later today. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr Tootoo. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I guess another thing I have to remind you guys is I sent out a little thing for you guys to sign. Please pass it along. I will do that – I will table the document. Thank you.

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

Question 166 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Water Quality

Mr. Puqiqnak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for Minister responsible for Community Governments and my question is regarding Gjoa Haven's water reservoir. We all are aware that I raised this issue yesterday about some worms in the water supply and Mr. Speaker, I have a question.

The water reservoir at risk is in Gjoa Haven. We have problems with the water system. We had problems with the lines for the reservoir as well as the pump house and every morning one of our local staff members have to de-ice the line because the line tends to freeze every morning. So, Mr. Speaker it was previously fixed and we had a line about four miles going to our community and the water reservoir is very small now, Mr. Speaker.

But right now, the water reservoir in Gjoa Haven is causing problems and the Minister of Justice has been working on decentralization to our community. There is also the fact that our population is growing and decentralization is impacting on our community. Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is whether he will address this issue regarding the problems with the water reservoir in Gjoa Haven, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister address this issue for Gjoa Haven. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are waiting for some consultants that will be looking at some parts that we have ordered for this water reservoir and they are in communication with the Hamlet Council about the situation in Gjoa Haven. So we are waiting for some parts, but I'm very sorry that we are taking much longer than we expected Mr. Speaker. Perhaps today or tomorrow we will give you an update on what is happening with this issue in Gjoa Haven.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, I remember the issue of the water system that's been in place and hasn't been used in a long time because the container is so small. Is the minister saying they will be using that existing water filter system that's in place or are they ordering parts for another water system.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Sorry, to clarify the issue, Mr. Speaker, when I mentioned that we have ordered some parts perhaps tomorrow I will give you a more detailed update Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Perhaps, I don't think that item has been budgeted. But, perhaps they will have to look for some funding elsewhere from their department. Is there a way they will address this issue in Gjoa Haven, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that we have some concerns on health issues, especially with the water supply. In conjunction with the Minister of Health and Social Services we will be working very hard to address this issue Mr. Speaker, and in terms of the water supply and the organisms in the water supply. So I will be sitting down with the Minister of Health and Social Services and look at this issue very closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. (interpretation) I want to remind you the budget has not been tabled, perhaps at the committee of the whole you can discuss possible funding that could be allocated for this issue.

Question 167 - 1(3): Hall Beach School

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of petitions from Hall Beach for the school system. Perhaps the Minister of Education has written a letter, but I don't recall seeing any of those letters. Can we get an update on what is happening with the school in Hall Beach. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Arvaluk

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This addition was previously from the GNWT and there have been a number of times it has been delayed in the capital plans and now it has been delayed to the 2000/2001 plans, Mr. Speaker.

We're short Mr. Speaker, in terms of capital dollars for Nunavut, so we're only dealing with emergency or priority issues. Perhaps at the committee of the whole we can look at this item a little more closely. Where you would like to put it in a twenty year plan and look at a twenty year plan for capital in education.

We would like to prepare plans that will look at long term plans instead of short term. If you only look at short term plans it doesn't really help. So I want to work very closely with the members to prepare a long term plan for education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that you will just be reviewing 2000/2001 plans for Hall Beach. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be looking at all the schools in Nunavut. We have included Hall Beach in the 2000/2001 plans and we will be doing some inspections on that basis. So Hall Beach has been included in our plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister mentioned that you are looking at the architectural plans in terms where the location will be for these schools. You gave some examples, so can you give us some clarification Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just giving you an example of the location because we have seen a lot of schools built. Some are improperly structured and there are some other problems. Pond Inlet is one example and the other one is Baker Lake.

I was just giving you an example of the foundations of these facilities because spring and winter effect the ground and the base, for example in Clyde River. The reason we want to see a long term plan is because it would be more beneficial for these communities. If we put in a twenty year plan I think it will be more beneficial for these communities, using our funds for the greater good of the communities, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker back in December we were in Hall Beach. The minister was asked at the public meeting when we would see a new school. The minister responded to that question and I would ask him to explain how you responded at that time. Would you clarify that here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I could clarify what I said in Hall Beach Mr. Speaker. I think what I stated in Hall Beach and how that reflects in terms of our budget for education, I think that if I were to respond to that question fully, I would take up all your time.

I think it would be more appropriate if I could respond to that question later because if I respond to it now I would take up too much time Mr. Speaker. You would have to look at architectural plans and other plans and the long term plans we have for the school facilities. You would have to look at long term plans for population forecasted from kindergarten up to grade twelve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 168 - 1(3): Manitoba / Keewatin Power Grid

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, some time ago a committee was struck to review and study the possibility of a power grid between Manitoba and the Keewatin.

Mr Speaker we spoke about, at great length, the increase in fuel costs and the effect it's having on the people of Nunavut. My question to the minister is, can he give the members an update as to the status of this study and proposal that has been ongoing for the past year and a half. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker just a point of clarification, is the member asking about the Ikuma working group report, or is he asking about the pre-feasibility study by Manitoba Hydro. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr Picco. Could you rephrase your question Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to the pre-feasibility study of which we spoke about in this House before, and the fact that this report or study has been ongoing for the past two years. So I think it's fairly clear where my question is coming from. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister for the Power Corporation - Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the pre-feasibility study was delivered officially to the government in mid-September. I guess we are fortunate that on Sunday and Monday a delegation from Manitoba, including some representatives from Manitoba Hydro will be here in Rankin Inlet and will be giving a presentation.

My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that presentation is on the pre-feasibility study of Manitoba Hydro. At that time I will be meeting with the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation for Manitoba Hydro to discuss issues surrounding the pre-feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the fact that we've had this report for some time now, can the minister tell the members with the information he has before

him whether or not he sees this particular proposal as a clear possibility to move forward on it.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's very important to point out this is a pre-feasibility. It's broad in its implication and its assumptions. There are major impacts on environmental assessments, on parks, on protected areas and indeed, Mr. Speaker, there are huge capital dollar implications.

We are just now as a government trying to get a feel for what some of the implications are in the pre-feasibility study and hopefully in the next couple of days with the Manitoba delegation arriving we will be able to have some frank and serious discussions surrounding the pre-feasibility study, and then as a government with consultation with the ordinary members we will be able to look at what the next direction this government will take in regards to the pre-feasibility study on the possibility of a electrical link with the province of Manitoba. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker. Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that presently we're paying seventy cents per kilowatt hour for power in the Keewatin. Can the minister confirm a comment or statement that was made in the pre-feasibility study that indicated that if this line, this linkage were to go ahead that costs would actually be reduced to twenty-five cents per kilowatt hour. Would he consider that significant. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the power corporation.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it's hard for me to comment on a report that is not before this House, that has not been tabled, and what the implications of recommendations or options pointed out in a study that is a pre-feasibility study are. What I am saying Mr. Speaker, is that this government will be meeting with the Manitoba officials.

There will be an in-depth presentation by Manitoba Hydro on this pre-feasibility study. We will have to look at it over the next couple of weeks to see where we go from there. There are major cost implications, infrastructure implications into the millions and hundreds of millions of dollars. So given all those facts and the basis of the report itself, I would be prepared to meet with the member or the members after the presentation of Manitoba Hydro and after discussion with my cabinet colleagues and indeed with this House on which direction to go on the pre-feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, prior to Christmas a number of the members, ministers and the Premier in Winnipeg attended a presentation regarding a road

linkage and power grid. There was a fair bit of detail given and the information provided to the members.

Can the minister tell me what has changed if anything from that presentation to what he's expecting in this new presentation that is coming up this week. If there have been any significant changes from what we heard at that point and what he expects to hear this week. Mr Speaker, I sense there doesn't seem to be as much support for this project as there should be, and that's just the sense I'm getting, and this is why I bring this issue forward. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's very difficult for me to commit this government to spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a pre-feasibility study, of a report that is not even of this government. It is being done by another government. There has to be a comprehensive analysis. There needs to be a cost/benefit analysis on the dollars involved. My understanding, Mr. Speaker, is that the pre-feasibility study will lead to, of course, a feasibility study, which may take three to five . .

>>*audio unavailable*

(Hon. Ed Picco continues)...rivers between here and Churchill Manitoba. So the report is broad in its implications. As the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation, I have not had an opportunity to sit down with my colleagues in Manitoba Hydro to discuss the issue. I will have that opportunity over the next couple of days. I will commit to coming back to this House after consultation with the Department of the Executive, with Intergovernmental Affairs, who we will be working with in partnership to see where we go as our next step.

But I cannot commit to this House the spending of hundreds of millions of dollars until a comprehensive analysis, Mr. Speaker, a cost/benefit analysis is done on the report. Again this is a pre-feasibility study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 169 - 1(3): Permanent Solution to Gjoa Haven Water Problem

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation. The member from Gjoa Haven has been talking about an issue with their water reservoir problems that they're having with the blood worms. Mr. Speaker, in an editorial in the paper on Monday, the Mayor indicated that it has been a priority for the community for the last 20 years.

Although I know that we can't take responsibility for something that did or didn't happen in the previous Government, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if the

department is a looking at a permanent solution to this problem as opposed to just fixing a few minor things. Are you looking at a solutions to fix this problem once and for all. Thank you. Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Before I recognise the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Tootoo you were referring to an article in the newspaper, can you rephrase your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister of Community Government & Transportation if there are currently any plans in his department to permanently remedy the problems that they're having in Gjoa Haven with the water or not. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I'd like to remind the members that articles in the papers are not supposed to be questioned in this House unless they are tabled. So when you are questioning please don't use articles from the newspapers. Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, on issues of priority, in terms of these kind of problems if it is indeed an emergency we deal with it as an emergency, Mr Speaker. I think we all like to provide quality service for all our communities in Nunavut in terms of their water reservoirs. So it's being looked at as an emergency issue Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister was asking if there is a permanent solution being looked at in this case, I know that a lot of times when we look at dealing with something that's an emergency there is a quick Band-Aid solution or something done quickly just to get the emergency over with. I understand there's things going on to that effect and I was asking if there is a permanent long term solution that will be looked at by his department right now. Thank you Mr Speaker.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes Mr. Speaker, yes I made some commitments that were looking at some solutions for the Gjoa Haven situation and we want to look at long term plans of how that will be beneficial for the community. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean

Question 170 - 1(3): Diavik Mine Overlap Agreement

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We're all aware of the recent signing of the agreement on the Diavik mine in the Western Territory and quite a few of us are aware of the overlapping agreements on our new boundary, Mr. Speaker. I'm pretty dismayed that

the Nunavut government wasn't invited to sign on the environmental side of this agreement and quoting media reports, I know I'm not supposed to quote media reports, but they said the western territory didn't want Nunavut in on this agreement and they didn't want them involved in it.

But, Mr. Speaker, it's an issue of great importance because it impacts the water sheds of Nunavut, especially the Coppermine River and long term impacts of a mine in that area could really cause harm. Could the minister responsible update me on where Nunavut stands in this agreement to date. Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker : Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: We have been very active on this file just the last little while. To give the member and the House an indication of where we are with the file, the Inuit organizations and our department have been very vocal and active in asking to be included in the final agreement. However, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has the final say as to if we can be included in this agreement.

So we have looked at the other options to ensure that the concerns of the Nunavut communities and the Inuit Organizations can be closely monitored for the environmental impact which may be caused. So right now we are looking at a new development of a trans-boundary agreement which will address the concerns of the people of Nunavut and also the organizations and the governments. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. That's really reassuring to hear. Could the minister enlighten me as to when we're going to see this trans-boundary agreement and will the minister assure me that all the Nunavummiut stakeholders and risks and environment concerns are taken care of in this trans-border agreement to the best of his ability. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Two questions. Mr. Kilabuk, Minister of Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes the time frames that we're working with right now in developing this trans-boundary agreement in the eyes of our officials is a little short for us to consult properly with the Inuit organizations and the people involved. So we are right now as we speak working hard to extend the deadline that has been brought forward to us so we can properly consult with the organizations and give our officials adequate time to ensure that the concerns or matters that we are facing can be properly addressed. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk. I would like to remind the members that we'll be giving those members who haven't asked questions a first chance.

Question 171 - 1(3): Five Year Plans

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. It's in regards to the Government of the Northwest Territories and the five year plan that used to be created. I'm assuming that the Nunavut Government will be looking at setting five year plans. When the Nunavut government was created did you keep using the five year plan that was put together by the Government of the Northwest Territories or not.

Speaker: Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr Speaker. As you know with the budget consultation process that took place in November/December of '99 we wanted to get input throughout Nunavut on priorities and goals and not just on programs but on the capital side of things as well. We made a commitment to the House and to municipalities who had raised the issues as well that we would be developing a five year capital plan.

As the work continues on that with the departments we expect within a couple of months to have that. The first priority of course was trying to deal with the needs for the upcoming 2000-2001 budget that will be presented next month in respect to the capital, and following that to formalise a five year capital planning document for all members. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk

Mr Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. So do I understand then that the five year plans that were created by the Government of the Northwest Territories will no longer be used by this government

Speaker: Minister of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I wouldn't say that it wouldn't be used, a lot of planning work has taken place in the Government of the Northwest Territories capital planning initiatives. As you know, that information has been retained by the Government of Nunavut. So the new Government of Nunavut five year capital plan would be a reflection of some of those priorities. Also of course there may be others as a result of the consultation process that took place, so some of it obviously, a large majority of it I would think, would flow through to our Government of Nunavut five year capital plan.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I would like to ask the minister in regards to the Hamlet Councils, are you going to be asking them what they would like to see and put into the five year capital plan. Because of course the Hamlet

Councils identified their priorities with the previous government. Are you going to be asking the Hamlet Councils then what they would like to see in the five year capital plan. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to all members that during the budget consultation processes, all municipalities whether it is directly through their Mayors, Deputy Mayors, Hamlet Councillors and the community as a whole, identified what their municipal priorities were. So that will be taken into consideration.

Also, as part of the ongoing development of the five year capital plan, once the original draft five year capital plan is completed it will be distributed to members and to municipalities for further consultation as we move forward in trying to firm up the planning for 2001 and following years, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral questions. Before I recognize a member I would like to recognize the school children from grades 7 and 8 from this school. Carlee Smith is the teacher, welcome to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Back to the Orders of the Day. Oral questions, Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 172 - 1(3): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Plans

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. When we were touring the communities one thing that kept coming up at just about every community, was Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We were told by the people out there that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is fading. For example, igloo building, hunting techniques, sewing and so on.

I would like to ask you how far along is the planning for the preservation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth.

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): I thank the member for his important question. Mr. Speaker our planning for our future training of the northern people in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is progressing as we speak. The people that are going to be involved in this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit process, are our own employees, NTI, NSDC and others. Our plan for the future is that right now we are working on this program and I will be tabling details on this soon in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that you will be working with NTI, but I see this as an emergency, as a priority as there are fewer and fewer elders who have this knowledge. I would like to see something implemented before our elders are gone. So I would like to ask you Mr. Minister, how you are going to work with Nunavut Tunngavik, are you going to be hiring people in the communities, are they going to be recording oral history and so on, or are you going to be doing it by illustrations so that the people today will know about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irgittuq. I heard three questions. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know our elders are getting fewer. We are trying to make it move faster and work together faster, but also right now we are trying to do it right. I hear what you are saying but we need to find out for the future, what kind of future we will be having and work together with NTI and NSDC.

When we get all the information together I will let you know. The language and stories before they are all gone, we want all that information from the elders. I recognize that but right now we don't really know the future. I want to answer your question, and I would like to be meeting them right now, but I don't really know the answer but if I find out I will let you know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 173 - 1(3): Clyde River Power Rates

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of the Power Corporation. In my community of Clyde River, they built a power plant but with it came greatly increased power costs. This is kind of scary today when there's very high unemployment at the community level. So I would like to ask you Mr. Minister, on the proposed bills, how that would effect the rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the question. I tried to explain in the House over the past several months when this question has come up what is happening with the community based rates. In Clyde River, as in all of our communities we have what is called the community based rates. When new infrastructure is being built in those communities the power rate in those communities has to increase for the equalization costs of the new infrastructure.

In Clyde River's case the NWT Power Corporations' best estimate is an increase of anywhere from between 35 – 40% but that won't be for another year, if it actually happens, because by that time, Mr. Speaker, we'll have our own Nunavut Power Corporation and us as a government will have a look at how we can negate the type of increase that Clyde River is expected to handle.

As I have said before in this House, Mr. Speaker, we realize that a 35 – 40% increase in Clyde River would be very difficult for anyone, any customer and indeed, the largest customer in Clyde River being the government, the Nunavut Government, to handle.

We are trying to work within the time frame and the parameters of that, to negate that type of increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's going to have a very big effect at the community level. It doesn't matter whether it is 35% or 40% it's going to have a huge effect at the community level, there is high unemployment at the community level and any hike is going to effect the people out there. Even if it is only 35% it doesn't matter.

The Nunavut Government are trying to set up a system that would suit Nunavut. We are the ones that want to make things a little bit easier for the people of Nunavut. If it effects Nunavut then everyone is going to be effected. This is just the first rates hike we are going to see in the coming years and with that in mind I would like to know if you are going to introduce a bill so that there is a ceiling set on the increases that are going to be put on for power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is an excellent question and it goes back to the harmonisation of the rate balances that we have in Nunavut, and we realize there is some concern there. In the Ikuma Report which will be tabled later this afternoon, and indeed next week we will have an opportunity to debate some of those issues, it talks about the rate harmonisation that the member has brought up.

We realize as a government and it is pointed out in the Ikuma Report, that the rate balancing at the present time may be unfair in certain instances. The cost per kilowatt hour for power in Nunavut goes from about 41 cents to a high of a little over 61 cents in Nunavut. The subsidy program is still in place.

So what I can say to the member is that we realize, and that was a good question, we realize that there is a problem with the rates but before any rate increases were brought forward in Clyde River the Hamlet would have an opportunity to be an intervenor in a Public Utilities Board hearing as I tried to explain before in this House.

They would be paid for that and indeed at that time the Government of Nunavut would also be an intervenor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again this question is for the Minister of the Power Corporation. Have you looked for any funding that could be used to subsidize the power rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the advent of power in Nunavut and indeed since the NWT Power Corporation was set up we do have in place the Territorial Power Subsidy Program. Everyone of us here that pays our power bill receives a subsidy. So that subsidy is in place.

One of the concerns that we have Mr. Speaker, looking at the power corporation and indeed the split east and west, is to see if that power subsidy that is in place right now was viable and sustainable. That's one of the things that comes out in the Ikuma Report. So that power subsidy is in place, we are subsidized.

If there are actually any new monies to be put forward into that it could be considered a budget item and I am not in a position to talk about that Mr. Speaker, because that will be debated next month in this House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 174 - 1(3): Budget Consultation Results

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier the Minister of Finance indicated that during the community consultations, pre-budget consultations, and community tours that happened this last summer, they received briefings from all of the municipalities on their tour, from the Hamlets on their capital plans.

I am just wondering if, I am just trying to make sure I understood, did he indeed say that they received input from every Municipal Hamlet or Council in regards to their five year capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding and as I said we did hit every community in Nunavut, the 25 incorporated communities. I can't say that every single Mayor or every single municipality put forward a presentation. I

know in the case of Iqaluit, that the Town Council met separately with their MLAs and I don't have the outcomes of those discussions.

But certainly there was input throughout Nunavut and from all municipalities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask if it has been past practice for Municipalities to submit five year capital plans to the Department for their consideration in the development of the capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well, Mr. Speaker, the five year capital plan is a Government of Nunavut document and in the past it has been a Government of the NWT document. It has never been developed by municipalities.

But what has happened is that municipalities have been asked for input into their priorities, based on the government's planning document for capital and that's what we would continue to look at. And of course, the elected MLAs as well provide input into that same document and try to formalize some of the needs and then make recommendations to put forward to address those needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I realize that the five year capital plan is a government document but in the past the Hamlets and municipalities as far as I am aware were given an opportunity to submit what their priorities were for the five year plan for consideration of the department.

Mr. Speaker, I guess what I was looking for, was that opportunity given to all the municipalities for this budget and the capital plan that is being developed right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I think I indicated earlier that there is no formal Government of Nunavut five year planning document as it stands right now. We are working now to complete that within the next couple of months. Once we get through the budget process for the 2000/2001 year, after that is completed then the MLAs, communities, will have an opportunity to make input into the draft five year capital planning document that will be prepared. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister stating then that the municipalities will have their input after this fiscal year and have they then not been given the opportunity to submit their priorities, I know they weren't last year, and it sounds like they haven't this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they have had various opportunities to provide input. The primary contacts for all the municipalities are the Community Government & Transportation officials that are set up and established throughout the regions to provide that liaison with the Municipal Councils.

The second opportunity of course is through their MLAs and finally through the budget consultation process that took place this past fall, as far as for the current year budget. As far as for the future planning as I had indicated, the budget consultation process again would take into consideration the needs of the communities and there would be ongoing input solicited from members, from MLAs, and from the municipalities for the ongoing needs and trying to firm up future years' budgets. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to recognize some visitors in the Gallery. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. McLean is seeking unanimous consent to go back to item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays. There are no nays, Mr. McLean you have unanimous consent.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti and my fellow colleagues. I would like to recognize four young gentlemen that are about to go off to the Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse to represent Nunavut in volleyball. They are all from my home town of Qamanittuaq and I am proud to recognize these young gentlemen because I am an old timer and have watched them grow up and get where they are today.

So I would like to recognize, and I wish they would stand up, Edwin Putumiraqtuq from Baker Lake, Devin Killulark, Trevor Attungala and Jeffrey Hart who are representing Nunavut and making us all proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Going back to the Orders of the Day, Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 3 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Water Contamination

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question to the Minister of Health & Social Services about the blood worms that are found in the water tanks in my other constituency. We would like to know what blood worms are, the size of these blood worms, and we would also like to know where they live and what they eat. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to know what the growth of this population is, how fast a rate they reproduce and what can kill these blood worms. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Written Questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 1 – 1(3) RFP's, Tenders, Contract Procedures

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to file a response to written question WQ 1 – 1 (3) asked by Mr. Hunter Tootoo to the Minister of Public Works & Housing. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 08 - 1(3): New Co-op Building

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a petition from the community of Qikiqtarjuaq and it is directed to the Department of Sustainable Development. It is about the local Co-op. The people are requesting a new building to be built this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 19 - 1(3): Inuit Employment Plans

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I serve notice that I am tabling the Inuit Employment Plans and will be making a motion to move this document in to Committee of the Whole next Tuesday.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 20 - 1(3): Ikuma Report

Hon. Ed Picco: I would like to take this opportunity to table the comprehensive Ikuma report on the delivery of power options in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 21 - 1(3): Gas Increase Hits Hunters

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document that is an article from Monday, February 14th, News North, entitled "Gas Increase Hits Hunters". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Tabling of Documents, Mr. O'Brien.

Tabled Document 22 - 1(3): February 11 Nunatsiq News Article

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document that was featured in the Nunatsiq News, dated February 11, entitled, "Mr. Ng Will Cover 20 Million Dollars in Health Board Deficits." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 23 - 1(3): Responses to Petition 6 - 1(3) and Petition 7 - 1(3)

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to file responses to petitions 6 – 1 (3) and 7 – 1 (3) made by the Minister of Justice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motion. Notices of Motion. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 7 Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 - First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order, to the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 7 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 - First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 8 has had first reading. First reading of bills. First reading of bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 8 - Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 - Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriations Act, No. 2, 1999/2000 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this supplementary appropriation is to provide additional funding for the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2000. Authority is requested for a total of 2 million 862 thousand dollars in additional appropriations. This is made up of 2 million 580 thousand for operations & maintenance and 282 thousand for capital expenditures. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Ng I would like to ask you to clarify the bill. I think you said bill 10, would it be bill 8.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes it would, sorry Mr. Speaker. Yes it is bill 8.

Speaker: Second reading of bills. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19 Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Others Matters with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): What is the wish of the committee. I think lunch is ready but before we go, what item shall we deal with when we return. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): We wish to deal with Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2, 1999/2000 with the Minister of Finance.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will break for lunch for half an hour. I apologize. The previous agreement was for a one hour lunch break.

>>*Committee recessed at 12:00 noon and resumed at 1:00 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back, it's one o'clock and we will resume our meeting. We would like to thank you very much for giving us lunch this afternoon. We'll then move on to bill number eight. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999/2000.

Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 1999/2000 - Consideration in Committee

Chairperson (interpretation): The committee will come to order. We will deal with Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriation No. 2 1999/2000. Does the minister have any opening comments to make.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman I'm prepared to move to the witness table. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay then you can invite your support staff and move to the witness table. Thank you. Minister Ng, if you would introduce yourself and your support staff. Please go ahead.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman I have Mr. Victor Tootoo, Assistant Deputy Minister Department of Finance and Administration.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Bill 8 Supplementary Appropriation No.2 1999/2000 . Any comments. If there are no comments then we'll go clause by clause. We'll start then with page number six of the supplementary appropriation number two. Department Legislative Assembly - Operations and Maintenance. Office of the Clerk - not previously authorized 32 thousand negative. Any comments. Agreed. Total department 32 thousand negative.

On page number six . Any comments. If there are no comments, total department 32 thousand. Agreed. Thank you.

Finance and administration - operations and maintenance, 2 million 500 thousand any comments. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can give us some background and rationale for this additional expenditure that is required for finance and administration. Thank you .

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is for information technology and the primary reason for the funding shortfalls and the request of the dollars is for system development and maintenance costs greater than expected during the course of this year. Certain major projects that weren't completed prior to April 1, 1999 became an expense for this current year. Primarily in those areas of Human Resources and payroll systems and income support systems. Development work has started on more systems than originally anticipated and there were unanticipated items that allocated to IT budgets as well.

Things such as the network cabling, training related to the development of systems and the schedule Mr. Chairman, to implement some of the IT into some of those communities that didn't have them because of decentralization needs were accelerated and there are also demands on the system itself trying to beef up network capacity. This was because the exceeded expectations caused additional services and equipment to be required to support that Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Brien any further comments.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister do you expect any requirement for additional funding prior to the end of this fiscal year for this particular project.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Minister if you would respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we do expect that there will be some additional requirements but those requirements will be funded internally through unexpended funds and savings. Thank you.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr Chairman, this for the most part is a very lean money bill. Having said that does the minister expect coming before the house to further request additional dollars before this fiscal year is up. Whether it be for this project or any other.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Minister if would you respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would think that the likelihood would probably be positive in that respect, given that once we are out of session here a lot is going to depend on what other departments require.

If they require any internal re-allocation for whatever reasons, but our responsibility would be to report back on that if those decisions were made at the Financial Management Board level. So right now there is nothing that I'm aware of, but that is not to say that during the normal course of business with government that there would be submissions to the Financial Management Board, decisions made and reported back to the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman, just a final comment or question. Minister given the fact that we are probably within a month of closing off the fiscal year and given the fact that it's been a number of months since we've had any type of bill like this before us would it be fair to say, and I'm looking for some form of a confirmation, that it would be fairly unlikely that you would come before this committee again looking for another supplementary appropriation prior to the end of the year unless it were an emergency. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Again Mr. Chairperson, I couldn't say whether we would or we wouldn't, it would depend on specific issues within departments if there was a specific need that a department had, or they want to reallocate funds from O&M to capital, or capital to O&M, because of circumstances that might take place.

For example, Gjoa Haven with the water situation that we talked about earlier today, and if there was some immediate need there and CG&T had some specific request. Then we would look at that request and again if it were approved then it would come back to the House. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. O'Brien, any further comments. Your last one you said.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister given the fact that we are approaching the end of the year and capital budgets and so on have already been put together, for the most part in many cases preliminary briefings have taken place I would assume at this point in time that we would be in a situation or position where we would know where we are going for the next month and a half, through proper planning and consultation with other ministers and members of this side of the house. I would find it somewhat strange if another money bill would come forward, before the end of the fiscal year unless it were an absolute emergency. So my question to you is that with the exception of an emergency wouldn't it be highly unlikely that you would need to come before the house again for another supplementary appropriation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Minister if you would respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr Chairman, it probably would be. I would say that we probably wouldn't. But I wouldn't put any certainty to that given that you don't know things that might happen, and like you say if it's like a special circumstance that warrants it, yes more than likely we would have to deal with that situation and report back on it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the minister had indicated that a portion of the funding is going to a human resource and payroll system. I was just wondering if he could indicate as to what system the department is using right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister, if you would you clarify that point please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut currently has ADP in Ottawa as our contractor for our payroll services.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The minister had indicated that this was something that didn't get completed prior to April 1. Has ADP been the contractor that we've been using all along.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister if you would respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, originally through the Office of the Interim Commissioner there was a joint project with the GNWT to develop Peoplesoft, which was the human resource payroll system. We found that after April 1, it didn't seem like timelines were adequately being met as far as we were concerned and their were options being looked at that led us to move to a different contractor, the one we currently have -ADP. That's where we are now. They are the ones providing the service for us. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm asking there's been two different contractors being used. Is it the same system being used, or is it a different system being used. Thank you Mr. Chairman

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is two completely different systems. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In light of the minister's comments, I take it that whatever work was being done prior to April 1 on the Peoplesoft project was basically scrapped. I'm wondering if the minister could indicate the amount of money it cost this government to scrap that project. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, prior to March 31, 1999, 2.3 million dollars was spent on the Peoplesoft human resource payroll side of things. Since April 1, 1999, we have put we've put 1.2 million dollars into the payroll. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Is the minister saying that there was 2.3 million dollars paid for this program that we didn't use. And 1.2 million paid for the program that we are using right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, your response.

Hon. Kelvin Ng : Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no it was 2.3 million dollars prior to March 31 and 1.2 since April 1 for the Peoplesoft program. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance, any further comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So it was a total of 3.5 million dollars basically chucked out the window. Surprising, maybe just in light of that what have we spent on this new program that we are using right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, further response if you would like.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman, I'll ask Mr. Victor Tootoo to speak on the Peoplesoft because he has a bit more background on that and from what I understand on the current ADP contract, it's significantly less than the million dollars that we put out for the Peoplesoft for this current year. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, go ahead Mr. Tootoo if you would like to respond.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Peoplesoft project was developed at the time the OIC was in place prior to April 1 1999. It was a joint project with the GNWT and certain commitments were signed on to at the time through the OIC. Decisions were made to develop a joint program that both governments could use. Considerable work was done prior to April 1st and also the 1.2 million dollars for this current fiscal year, a large percentage of that was committed to prior to April 1st and prior to this government becoming a reality.

After reviewing the progress or more aptly, lack thereof on this system and the joint project with the GNWT, it was decided that we needed to look at other options through our department to do the payroll for the government. During that review we decided that the project just wasn't happening fast enough basically and that there were very many deadlines that weren't being met. A lot of the work was being done in Yellowknife and we didn't have a lot of input into the process. We decided that the project may not happen and that it wasn't an option for our government to not have a payroll system so we looked at other options.

The one that we finally decided on, the ADP system, I don't have the exact figures with me right now but I believe it's around 200 thousand for the complete system. As we mentioned earlier, in the Standing Committee review, there are a number of systems that we reviewed that were initially contracted in the days of the OIC that were perhaps a bit too much for our government. We were looking for a bit more simple, cost effective way of doing business and this was one of the decisions that we made in that regard. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. ADM Mr. Tootoo. Do you have any supplementary comments. Thank you. Informatics. Not previously authorised, 2 million dollars, special warrants 2 million 500 thousand Further comments. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Not previously authorised 250 thousand. Any comments? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Not previously authorised 250 thousand. To the negative. 250 thousand negative. If there are no further comments, agreed? Total department, not previously authorised. Negative. Comments? Agreed? Carried.

Turning the page. Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance, directorate. Special warrants, 360 thousand. Any comments. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I brought up a question this morning and I would like to make further clarification on the point that I was going to make. What is this money going to be used for.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Minister of Finance, a response.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson this is for providing for the implementation of a labour market supplement program for nurses. The program is geared toward monetary incentives through an annual retention and a one time recruitment bonus. The department of Health is proposing to operate this program for two years, with this year being the start of it. It is similar to what the Northwest Territories has recently announced in their program. It's our Department of Health's position that we must be able to match the competition for health care professionals, providing a similar labour market supplement that they're asking to establish with this. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance. Jobie, did that answer your question.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes it did.

Chairperson (interpretation): Directorate, 362 thousand under special warrants, any further comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated that this was to be used for providing bonuses to the nurses as the Minister of Health and Social Services had announced. Does this cover off all of the nurses working throughout Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister if you would respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: From what I understand from the Minister of Health and Social Services that is the case. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, when I say nurses I guess I mean all nurses including, does it include CNAs, the certified nursing assistants as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Finance, if you would respond please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding that it is specific to nurses only. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know that there are a number of Certified Nursing Assistants that play a crucial role in some of the health facilities across Nunavut. In Iqaluit for example there are some people, some nurses, CNAs there that have had over 20 years experience. When these new nurses come into town or move into the hospital, it's these people that have been there for a long time that show them the ropes, show them what to do and train them when they get there. Is there going to be something to be able to recognise the valuable role that these people play as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister of Finance if you would respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I can't say definitively there would or there wouldn't be. It would have to be sponsored by the Minister of Health. I would say that we would have to be cautious about how we deal with this issue. The reason why this has been put forward right now is that other jurisdictions, as you know, including our neighbours in the Northwest Territories have implemented similar labour market supplement programs specific to the nursing profession because of the national and international demand on these health care professionals.

Once you start, I mean all of our civil service is valuable. Particularly the Health and Social Services area. We know that there's high stress and high demands on their positions. Once you go outside of a situation where we're trying to address national shortages, then we would have to do that to all professions and all employees and I guess that is what the collective agreement is to do is to try to address fair compensation for the civil service as a whole. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance. Mr. Tootoo, do you have any further questions.

Mr. Tootoo: I understand what you're saying. It could be a collective bargaining issue but looking at it, a number of these people live in my constituency and have contacted me about it. They do the same work that the nurses do in the hospital and yet, you know they've been there for years and these other nurses that come in, they get a nice signing bonus. They get a longevity bonus, they've been there for a year, they get another bonus.

These people have been there for years and they don't get any kind of bonus or recognition for the input and the value that they have. Are there any plans of looking at trying to rectify this. Maybe it's been something that has been overlooked in the haste of getting the whole package put together and I'm just wondering if the minister could

indicate any plans at looking to developing something to rectify this. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I don't dispute the value of those professionals. I can't speak on behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'm sponsoring the total Supplementary Appropriation Bill on behalf of the government. Maybe the Minister of Health might have some additional input or issues surrounding this that he might want to address in response to this question. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister of Finance. Minister of Health and Social Services, did you want to make a comment on this issue.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, the nursing shortage that we're presently seeing in Nunavut is not unique, as the Minister of Finance has said. Indeed we're seeing it all across Canada and in North America. The Labour Market Supplement was brought forward to address a monetary issue that we have seen other jurisdictions pay in a supplement. The market rate supplement is one of the terms of the collective agreement and is there to address nursing shortages or professional shortages.

Strict interpretation of that agreement, of the MOU, indicates to us that nurses fall within that category and therefore the market rate supplement for nurses. It does not however cover off the certified nursing assistants. I appreciate the member bringing forward this issue. I've had several discussions with the certified nursing assistants. Indeed there are three, Mr. Chairperson, working at the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Hospital in Iqaluit who should have probably been covered off because of their length of service and everything.

But the strict interpretation of the MOU does not allow for that. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I have directed my staff to look into having options that may be available to us to look into that need. I agree with the member that those people are there on the ground and in many cases actually orient the nurses that are coming in because they have been there for such a long time. So we're aware of it and there is a recognition of those services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Health and Social Services. You mentioned that you were going to respond very briefly to the question, but Mr. Tootoo do you have any other questions.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you. The Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that due to a strict interpretation of the MOU, maybe directing this to the Minister of Finance, and also the Minister of Human Resources, that this government's approach to hiring, one of the things that it has said is that it wants to incorporate one's ability to do the job and not so much whether they have the papers to do so.

I've heard it on a number of occasions in the past that that's what is wanted to be looked at. If it's just a matter of maybe incorporating a view like that based on the longevity of service that basically gives them that same qualification that would enable them to become eligible for the bonus, I'm wondering Mr. Chairman, if the minister would be willing to take a look at that type of an approach. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance would you respond to the question.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I can commit to trying to work with my colleague, the Minister of Health because as you know on a specific issue, it's a regulated profession because of the health care profession and there are some regulatory issues surrounding certification, national standards and guidelines and that type of thing. I'm sure the Minister of Health is aware of this so we can take a look and see what could possibly looked at in that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Minister in reference to this amount of 362 thousand, firstly I support this particular proposal but I can't help but, and I stand to be corrected, this was not done through a negotiated process. Have we not opened the door for other professions to come to us looking for the same benefits that somebody in another jurisdiction received whether it be teachers or other groups that work within the government system. Are you at all concerned that we have opened the door for an onslaught of additional costs that we may not have the money to cover.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The member raised a good point. Certainly we are concerned. We won't want to be setting any precedents. I don't think that we are doing so in this case given that it is a national shortage. There are other jurisdictions that have had a similar experience.

Chairperson: I just want to remind you that you are only dealing solely with this bill and Mr. O'Brien do you have any additional questions on this item.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, the amount of 362 thousand that we are now looking at is part of the supplementary appropriation. I am curious as to why this amount is not going to be covered off in the 20 million that you referred to in reference to the deficit the three health boards are going to come forward with. Is there any reason why it wasn't covered off in that as opposed to doing it through the appropriation here.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, this specific program that the Department of Health and Social Services is setting up, it doesn't impact on the Health and Social Services Board

situation because those right now are separate entities under our current structure until April 1. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you sir. Mr. O'Brien, do you have other questions.

Mr. O'Brien: I am not quite sure if that answered my question but to follow up on it, are you saying that the health boards are not directly related to this additional cost or this package that is being offered. In its present situation, the health board has basically full control over what and how health services are being delivered in the various regions, so I would think that they would be directly responsible and involved in this particular bill. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien I would like to remind you that when you are asking these questions, if you would direct your questions to the Chairperson. Mr. Minister of Finance, do you want to respond to the question.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, maybe I will defer to the Minister of Health since it is his program. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Health and Social Services do you want to respond to the question.

Mr. Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. O'Brien brings about a very interesting question and I will try to keep this response shorter for you Mr. Chairman. The original budget appropriated by this Assembly on April 1, in the last budget, did not include the Labour Market Supplement therefore it was not in the budget of the Department of Health and Social Services. Therefore Mr. Chairman, it is being brought forward in a supplementary appropriation as an unbudgeted item in our budget. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Health and Social Services for a very brief response. Total Department Special Warrants. 362 thousand. Any comments. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 9 Department of Legislative Assembly, Capital. Not previously authorized 32 thousand. Any comments or questions to this item. If there are no questions or comments, do you agree? Total Office of the Clerk 32 thousand. Not previously authorized – do you agree? Total Department not previously authorized 32 thousand. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): On page 10, Finance and Administration. Subject: Capital. Not previously authorized 250 thousand. Any comments. Do you agree? Yes.

Total comptrollership, not previously authorized 250 thousand – do you agree? Yes.
Total Department not previously authorized 250 thousand – any comments, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): If you can come back to page 2 – Schedule 1: Operations and Maintenance. Operations and Maintenance Appropriation 2 million, 580 thousand - do you agree? Yes.

Page 3 - Schedule 2: Capital. Total Appropriation 2 million, 862 thousand – do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Getting back to this item Proposed bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999/2000. Come to page 1 – definitions. In page 1, do you agree with the definitions?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 2 – This act shall be deemed to have come into force. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Part 3 – Page 3 – do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 4, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 5, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 6, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 7, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999 – 2000 – do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 8 is ready for third reading. Right now we are almost out of time. Do you want to proceed or what is the wish of the committee.

I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and also his Assistant Deputy Minister for making this presentation to the Assembly. You may go back to your chairs. Motion to report progress. Mr. Akesuk. The motion requires no seconder, so the Speaker can come back to his chair.

Speaker (interpretation): Getting back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering bill 8, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that bill 8 is ready for third reading and that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation): Motion is on the floor. Secunder Mr. Ng. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 8 is ready for third reading.

Item 21, Third reading of bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Orders of the day for Monday, February 21, at half past one.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges
 - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Boards of Management Dissolution Act
 - Bill 11, An Act to Establish Nunavut Day as a Holiday
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Divisional Councils Dissolution Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999/2000
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Before I adjourn the meeting I would like to recognize our Member of Parliament for Nunavut, Nancy Karetak-Lindell.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): This afternoon at 3 p.m. the members will be playing volleyball at the school. At this time I adjourn the meeting until Monday, February 21, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant At Arms.

>>*Assembly Adjourned at 2:00 p.m.*

